

Bond Program Biweekly Report

ending September 11, 2026

Sea-side Colleges

Los Angeles Southwest College Celebrates Grand Opening of New Cougar Den



Los Angeles Southwest College (LASC), the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD), students, faculty, staff, elected officials, and community partners gathered on September 10, 2026, to celebrate the ribbon cutting of the new **Cougar Den**, a transformational project that creates a vibrant hub for student life and engagement on campus.

The new two-story, 31,000-square-foot facility serves as the heart of student life at LASC, providing contemporary spaces designed to foster collaboration, wellness, learning, and a strong sense of belonging. The building features a student lounge, gaming room, podcast rooms, conference and meeting spaces, offices for the Associated Student Organization, a food pantry, a Mother's Room, and a variety of dining options tailored to meet student needs.

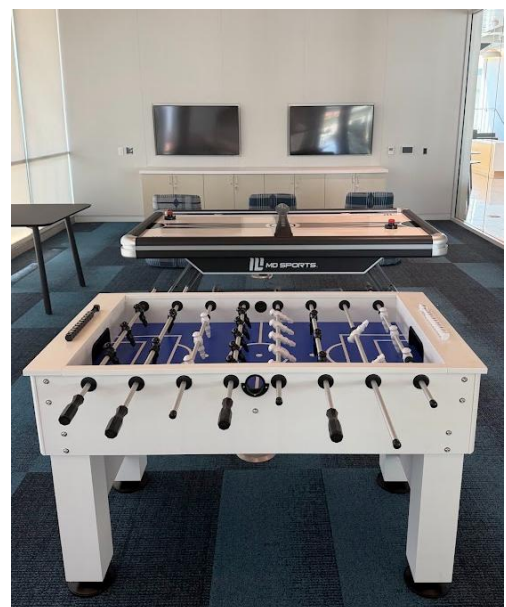


The celebration featured remarks from **California State Assemblymember Tina McKinnor**, **LACCD Board First Vice President Andra Hoffman**, **LACCD Chancellor Alberto Román**, **LASC President Dr. Anthony Culpepper**, **LASC Dean of Student Services Nedra**

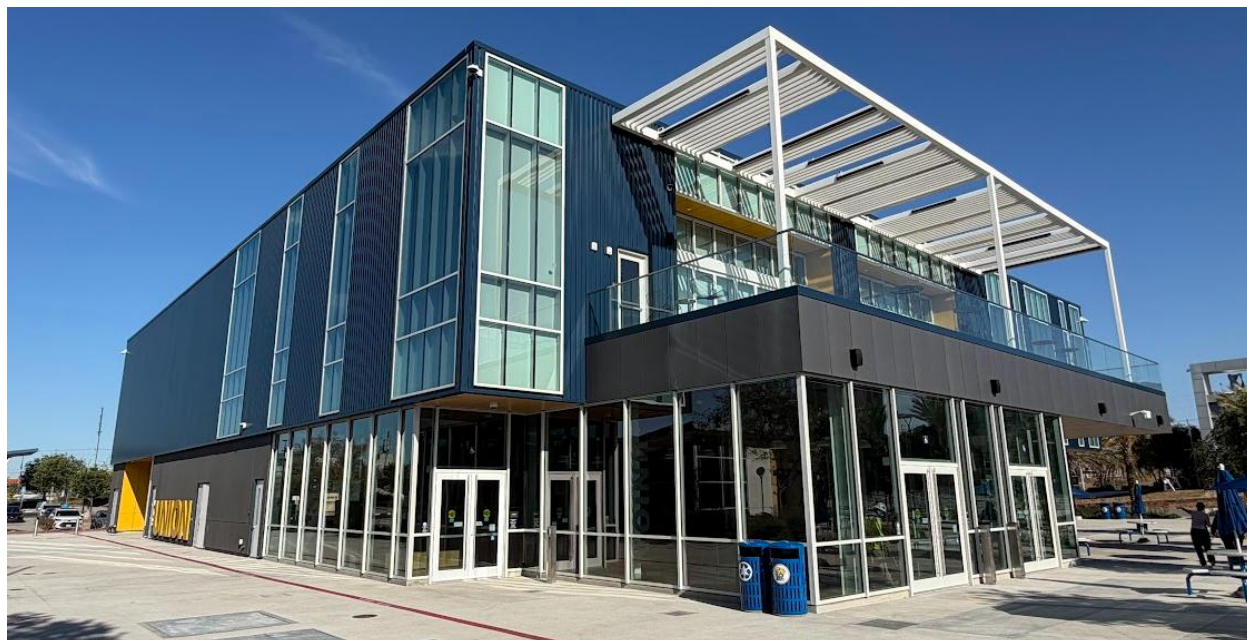
Brown, and student leaders. Speakers highlighted the importance of investing in facilities that support student success, expand access to resources, and strengthen community connections.

Designed by **HGA Architects** and constructed by **W.E. O'Neil Construction**, the Cougar Den was developed with support from **Measure CC Bond funds** and reflects LACCD's continued commitment to providing modern, student-centered learning environments. The facility's indoor and outdoor dining areas can accommodate more than 200 students, faculty, and staff and include innovative food service amenities such as mobile-order pickup lockers and multiple dining stations.

In addition to enhancing campus life, the project advances the District's sustainability goals. The Cougar Den incorporates drought-tolerant landscaping, increased natural daylighting, renewable and recyclable materials, and a rooftop solar photovoltaic system capable of generating approximately **240 kWh annually**, reducing carbon emissions by an estimated **57.25 metric tons each year**. The project is pursuing **LEED Silver Certification**.



The ribbon-cutting ceremony concluded with a ceremonial unveiling, tours of the new building, and an opportunity for attendees to experience firsthand the many spaces that will support current and future Southwest Cougars. As students begin utilizing the facility, Cougar Den stands as a lasting investment in student success, campus community, and the future of Los Angeles Southwest College.



The project was delivered through the leadership of **Yang Management, Inc.**, including **College Project Director Eloy Retamal**, **Design Manager Gang Chen**, **Project Engineer Tom Obed**, **Relocation Project Manager Aundria Armstrong**, and **Regional Program Director Natalie Mason**.

Los Angeles Southwest College Outdoor Projection Wayfinding Project Reaches Substantial Completion



Los Angeles Southwest College has achieved a major milestone with the substantial completion of its innovative **Outdoor Projection Wayfinding Project** on **August 28, 2026**. Designed to combine **digital communication**, **campus identity**, and **wayfinding technology**, the project introduces a dynamic projection system capable of transforming a campus building into a highly visible information and engagement platform.

Utilizing **advanced projection technology**, **custom programming**, and **specialized reflective window treatments**, the system creates large-scale visual displays on the building façade that can be viewed from near and far. The visuals will be programmed to support campus wayfinding, event promotion, student engagement, and institutional messaging while establishing the College's distinctive branding.

The project represents a unique collaboration between **technology**, **facilities**, **design**, and **construction professionals**. The installation required extensive coordination and innovative problem-solving to successfully integrate projection

equipment, programming systems, and building enhancements within an accelerated schedule.

BuildLACCD's Technology Strike Team described the project as being at the cutting edge of technology and a potential showcase for Southern California. **Early evening test projections demonstrated the system's capabilities, producing striking visual displays that project stakeholders described as spectacular.** Team members further noted that the installation has the potential to become a recognizable landmark visible from miles away, strengthening both campus identity and community awareness of Los Angeles Southwest College.

 **See the projection system in action:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gOndvnwHdc>

This project was made possible by **Measures J and CC Bond funds**. The Outdoor Projection Wayfinding Project reached substantial completion through the coordinated efforts of **Campus Project Director Eloy Retamal, Design Manager Gang Chen, Project Engineer Thomas Obed, Technology Strike Team Lead Sunil Shah, Technology Project Manager, Collin Reyes, PMO Regional Program Manager Ken Murai.**

City-side Colleges

LATTC Design & Media Arts Building Reaches 50% Construction Milestone



Construction crosses the 50% mark on the new **Design & Media Arts (DMA) Building** at **Los Angeles Trade-Technical College**. This transformative project that will provide students with a modern, collaborative learning environment designed to support creativity, innovation, and career preparation. Upon completion, the approximately 89,445-square-foot, three-story facility will serve programs including Digital Media, Fashion Design, Fashion Merchandising, Visual Communications, Tailoring, Costume Technology, and Sign Graphics.

Recent construction activities focused on **installing main HVAC ducts in corridors and connecting to classroom branch lines, window framing and windows, drywall, mud and tape throughout 2nd and 3rd floors, pulling electrical wire to panel boards,**

switchgear and solar panel arrays and completion of elevator lifts. Crews continued advancing **on low voltage and main power trenching and conduit installation, exterior stucco application and scaffolding installation,** while coordinating closely with campus stakeholders to maintain a safe construction environment and minimize impacts to ongoing college operations. Additional work included **first floor metal wall framing and preparing temporary steel column supports in preparation for exterior metal screen installation,** helping advance the project toward upcoming construction milestones.



In August 2026, 288 rooftop photovoltaic panels were installed. When operational, the PV system will generate approximately 180 kWh, offsetting 15% of the building's average electricity use.

Looking ahead, the project team will continue work on **framing, utility installation, exterior stucco color coat, setting HVAC, solar and telecommunication rooftop equipment, hardscape and landscaping,** with a focus on maintaining schedule, quality, and safety objectives as the project advances toward its anticipated 2027 completion.

The Design & Media Arts Building represents a significant investment in career and technical education and will provide students with access to industry-focused learning

spaces designed to support emerging technologies and evolving workforce needs. The facility's exhibition and gallery spaces will create opportunities to showcase student achievement and creative work while reinforcing LATTC's long-standing legacy of preparing students for careers in design, media, fashion, and related industries. The project also incorporates sustainable design features that support the District's commitment to energy efficiency and environmental stewardship.



This project is made possible by Measures J and CC, and State Capital Overly funds. Progress on the Design & Media Arts Building continues through the coordinated efforts of **College Project Director Robin Byrd, Project Manager Clark Gonzalez, Project Engineer Joseph Andrada, and PMO Regional Program Director Edwin Silva.**

Program-wide Initiatives

From Classroom to Career: BuildLACCD Seeks Next Generation of Engineering and Technology Talent



The **BuildLACCD Internship Program** continues to create meaningful career pathways for students across the Los Angeles Community College District while supporting the delivery of capital improvement projects throughout the District. Students pursuing degrees in **engineering, computer science, architecture, construction, and related technical fields** gain valuable exposure to real-world projects while working alongside industry professionals, consultants, contractors, and BuildLACCD staff. Through these experiences, interns develop practical skills, professional networks, and a deeper understanding of career opportunities available within the architecture, engineering, construction, and technology sectors.

Since the start of 2026, the program engaged **139 student interns representing all nine LACCD colleges and eight academic disciplines**. The Internship Program Coordinator, **Mareta Zuniga**, has participated in **16 career fairs and workforce development events**, conducting **five student presentations and information sessions**, and supporting **four college advisory board meetings**. These outreach efforts connected students with internship opportunities while maintaining a strong connection with the LACCD community.



For the Fall 2026 semester, the BuildLACCD Internship Program welcomed a new group of students interested in gaining professional experience.

As the program continues to grow, **BuildLACCD** is continues to seek students pursuing engineering, computer science, information technology, architecture, construction, and related technical fields to join the program. Students interested in learning more about eligibility requirements and available opportunities can visit build-laccd.org/work-with-build-laccd/internship/.

For more information on all **BuildLACCD** active projects, please see the following:

- [Active Design Projects Status Report \(as of July 31, 2026\)](#)
- [Active Construction Projects Status report \(as of July 31, 2026\)](#)