



**Groundbreaking Ceremony Planned
for Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School
Renovation and Expansion
RCSD Breaks Ground on Measures H&S Funded Bond Project, and
Announces Transformative Partnerships with
the Forever Young Foundation, Ghilotti Construction and
the Magical Bridge Foundation**

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East Palo Alto – Ravenswood City School District will host a groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion and remodel of the Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School Campus. The event will take place at the school located at 2450 Ralmar Avenue in East Palo Alto on **Thursday, June 17 at 10:30am**. Work on a state-of-the-art facility has officially begun, as part of a joint collaboration between the Ravenswood City School District, the Forever Young Foundation, Ghilotti Construction, and the Magical Bridge Foundation.

The \$50m bond funded project will support the campus in building two new buildings with a combined 23,000 square feet of space, as well as a 10,000 square foot courtyard. This bond supported interior renovations are coupled with the District's exciting partnership with the Magical Bridge Foundation to develop a new Play Park in the exterior of the campus.

The District also announced a partnership with the Forever Young Foundation and Ghilotti Construction to build a brand new 6,500 square foot 8-80 Zone Esports Center. 8 to 80 Zones are a collaboration between 49ers Hall of Famers Steve Young (#8) and Jerry Rice (#80) This state-of-the-art center will be one of the first of its kind at a middle school campus in the country.

The free event will include speeches, refreshments, and a sneak peek at the innovative construction plans.

When asked about the project, Gina Sudaria, Superintendent of the Ravenswood City School District said "All of our Ravenswood students will eventually pass through our middle school.

Over the last few years, we've been improving programs at the school to make the school strong academically. Today, we're excited to break ground on this site to ensure that the physical classrooms will become as excellent as the instruction happening inside. At the same time, we're excited to not only open bond-funded new classrooms, but also to bring in tens of millions of dollars in new outside investment into the site to ensure that our students and our community has access to world class facilities such as the new 8to80 Zone and the Magical Bridge designed playpark in the back of the school."

49ers Hall of Famers Steve Young and Jerry Rice added "We are eager to partner with the Ravenswood City School District and Ghilotti Construction to build our flagship 8-80 Zone in East Palo Alto. This space will include a state-of-the-art esports arena for the middle school students. Esports has seen a massive surge of interest and participation over the past year. Over 200 of our colleges nationwide now have esports programs. Opportunities to learn coding, graphic design, robotics, and broadcasting through daily competitive esports gaming along with millions of dollars in college scholarships available, make this a must have for our Ravenswood community.

Dick Ghilotti, President and Owner of Ghilotti Construction added, "Ghilotti Construction has a tradition of supporting projects which benefit our youth in their communities. We are honored to join with the Forever Young Foundation and the Ravenswood City School District in helping the 8-80 Zone project become a reality in East Palo Alto. It's exciting to be involved with such a strong team as the Forever Young Foundation with a dedicated vision. We look forward for the center to be used to its fullest potential, which will translate into helping our youth reach theirs!" Mele K. Latu, President, Board of Trustees, Ravenswood City School District added, "We are thrilled to bring the Forever Young Foundation, Ghilotti Construction and the Magical Bridge Foundation into our robust family of partners. These exciting public-private partnerships will allow us to transform the back of Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School into a restorative, engaging, and active place that our students deserve."

Olenka Villarreal, CEO of Magical Bridge Foundation shares, "We are excited to shine a bright light on this District for creating a new kind of inclusive space and hope it will serve as the model of what can be done when the efforts to serve students, families and the community unite in a most magical way! This space will offer something for every student and every visitor, including the 1-in-every 4 who live with a visible or invisible disability, and are typically excluded in the design of schoolyards and public spaces."

About Ravenswood City School District

Ravenswood City School District (RCSD) serves nearly 2,000 K-8 students across four schools in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park. RCSD's vision is to be nationally recognized as a model of educational excellence that prepares all students to succeed and contribute to a changing world. Learn more about RCSD's facilities plans and the district on [our website](#) or enroll [here](#).

About Magical Bridge

Magical Bridge Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that advocates for, designs, and builds playgrounds and parks for children and adults of all ages, abilities, and sizes. At the core, we create outdoor spaces that welcome everyone, at every stage of life. Redefining inclusive and recreational play opportunities through truly innovative design, Magical Bridge playgrounds and parks far exceed industry standards by removing physical and social barriers still present in most traditional designs. Through our advocacy and programs both on and off the playground, we promote kindness and ignite vital intergenerational connections that build more inclusive communities. Magical Bridge Foundation is currently working on playgrounds, parks, schools, and museum projects throughout the Bay Area and worldwide. To learn more, kindly visit <https://www.magicalbridge.org>.

About Forever Young Foundation

Founded in 1993 by NFL Hall of Famer Steve Young, Forever Young Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization focused on passing on hope and resources for the development, strength, and education of children. The Foundation serves children facing significant physical, emotional, and financial challenges by providing them with academic, athletic, and therapeutic opportunities currently unavailable to them. The Forever Young Foundation development projects include *Forever Young Zones* and 8 to 80 Zones, which provide technology and multimedia labs for those living in underserved communities as well as state-of-the-art interactive play areas in children's hospitals. To learn more, kindly visit <http://foreveryoung.org>

About Ghilotti Construction Company

Family owned and operated since 1914, Ghilotti Construction Company has over 100 years of engineering experience and a family tradition of hard work and dependability. The story of Ghilotti Construction Company is the story of the American Dream. To learn more, kindly visit <https://www.ghilotti.com>

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