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EDUCATION

Construction at Grossmont, Cuyamaca colleges gets committee's approval



An artist's rendering of the coming Grossmont College Performing and Visual Arts Center, paid for with Proposition V funds passed by East County voters in 2012. (Courtesy art)

Annual report says Prop V funds having positive change on both campuses

By KAREN PEARLMAN

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<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/education/story/2020-02-26/construction-at-grossmont-cuyamaca-colleges-gets-committees-approval>



EL CAJON — A yearly report by an oversight committee working on behalf of voters living in the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District gives high marks to the district for several construction projects at both East County campuses.

The 2019 Annual Report by the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee, released earlier this month, says that the projects funded by a bond measure passed several years ago are transforming the schools.

The committee reviews progress on the design and construction work funded by Proposition V, the \$398 million bond measure approved by East County voters in 2012.

Some of the major projects underway include a new Visual and Performing Arts Center and a renovated Science, Math, and Career Technology complex at Grossmont College, and a revamped Student Center and renovated Ornamental Horticulture facility at Cuyamaca College.

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Lynn Neault, chancellor of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, said the district was proud that the new facilities are offering employment opportunities to hundreds of workers in East County and beyond.

The district's local hiring agreement for those working on the projects specifies goals that include an emphasis on employing residents who reside in the district's area and in San Diego County.

The report said that of the more than 2,400 workers handling the new construction, nearly one-quarter are East County residents and 82 percent live in San Diego County. Those workers have already received more than \$13.8 million in wages and benefits.

Committee chair Dave Gauthier said during the past year, the district also made it "a high priority to reach out to the local construction community, and to include women, minority and disabled veteran-owned companies to help facilitate the bidding on Proposition V projects."

Gauthier said Grossmont-Cuyamaca “has also found a new ally” in the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council. The council and its affiliated unions are heavily involved in outreach with local high schools, women in construction groups, as well as several veterans groups.

Construction on Grossmont’s Visual and Performing Arts Center is set to be finished in the next few months. It will include a 390-seat theater with a professional performance stage, orchestra pit and balcony for student performances that will be open to the community.

The first phase of the technology complex at Grossmont was finished last month. It will house the school’s Administration of Justice and Earth Science programs, a fingerprinting lab for the Forensic Technology program, computer labs and classrooms.

The student center at Cuyamaca is expected to be finished this fall. It will include an expanded veterans resource center and improved facilities for the career center, bookstore and convenience store. The updated horticulture complex at Cuyamaca will provide classrooms, new greenhouses, a retail area and outdoor instructional spaces.

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