

Local labor unions partner to renovate North Richmond play space

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Local labor unions have partnered to refurbish the basketball courts at Shields-Reid Community Center in North Richmond.

Late Wednesday morning, it was difficult to miss the large plots of bright yellow paint when driving past the Shields-Reid Community Center at 1410 Kelsey St.

That's where a band of volunteer laborers from various local unions have teamed up to renovate a play space for local kids at the Richmond center.

During his lunch break, Mike Mahoney, retired member of Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union 342, told us his union and others from the Contra Costa Building and Construction Trades Council ponied up money for labor and materials for the project.

Members of the District 16 Council, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Local 741 have been integral to the project, bringing in apprentices to assist with the job. The paint was supplied for free by Fregosi and Company Paints.

The unions are partnering with the city of Richmond and Supervisor John Gioia's Office on the project.

The play area will have new basketball courts and hoops, a small soccer court, hopscotch, four square, and at half court there will be bases set for kick ball. The project is expected to be complete in several weeks.

Tanner Carroll, who led the painting apprentices, said it was a pleasure to provide local children a space to play. Gioia's office [produced a neat video](#) about the effort and lauded the generosity of the local labor unions.

This isn't the first time the unions have partnered to create fun new play spaces for Richmond children. [Several years ago](#), they joined neighbors and the city on a 10-month project to refurbish a long-neglected park in the Sante Fe neighborhood.