



City of  
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## News from: Oakland Public Works

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## West Oakland Youth Center Honored: Community Project of the Year Award

**Oakland, CA** – The City of Oakland is being honored with the **2014 Community Project of the Year Award** from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) for the West Oakland Youth Center.

The project converted a 1926 church to a brand new 14,000 square foot Youth Center in an under-served area of West Oakland. The \$8 million project was funded through \$5 million in Proposition 84 Statewide Parks Grants, Oakland Redevelopment funds and other City funds.

The **Community Project of the Year Award** recognized the project for the collaborative effort that multiple community groups, participants and stakeholders put into it, including Leadership Excellence, West Oakland Youth Organization, Data Center, Attitudinal Healing Connection, Alameda County Health Department's Oakland Youth Movement, youth in the West Oakland community, design team, Oakland Parks and Recreation, Oakland Public Works Bureau of Engineering & Construction and the commitment from Oakland City Council.

The project built on meeting the youths' stated mission for a center "...to serve and protect the youth primarily in West Oakland and throughout Oakland... to help them educate themselves, and provide services to keep youth safe and learning but also to have fun".

The West Oakland Youth Center is a joint effort by the City of Oakland and residents of the West Oakland community. Through myriad community meetings, the community advocated for a teen center as a top priority to equip youth with the tools and skills to overcome social detriments, such as poverty, violence, drug abuse and low academic achievements.

The facility was built to provide spaces for various programs, ranging from culinary training, arts and performances, learning resource center, technology/ computer training, safe social gathering and entrepreneurial programs.

For more information on the projects and services of Oakland Public Works, please visit [www.oaklandpw.com](http://www.oaklandpw.com).

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