



Project Pulse

Quarterly Updates from the Garden Grove Civic Center Revitalization Project

Winter/Spring 2025



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Built for the Badge: How Human-Centered Design is Shaping the Garden Grove Public Safety Facility



Brian Berryhill

For Brian Berryhill, Partner at Roth Sheppard Architects, designing law enforcement facilities isn't just about creating secure buildings—it's about the people who occupy them. He focuses on creating tailored, comfortable spaces that officers can return to after serving their communities. Brian calls it a happy accident that he works in this specialized field. When he joined Roth Sheppard a decade ago, he discovered not only that he was passionate about the challenge of designing these types of secure spaces, but also that he has a natural rapport with police officers, a connection that helps him design with empathy and purpose.

Roth Sheppard's philosophy when designing these facilities is to keep the well-being of the officers at the forefront at all times. The most important function of law enforcement facility design is to keep the officers safe, but other considerations include physical and mental health, recruitment and retention, training, and building camaraderie among officers.

We spoke with Brian about three key innovations in law enforcement facility design, and how each one is shaping Garden Grove's new Public Safety Facility.

 **Click the images to the right to learn more about each innovation!**

Spotlight on Mental Health

Supporting officer mental health is central to the Garden Grove station's design. Recognizing the high-stress nature of police work, the station features four private, comfortable, and acoustically isolated wellness rooms. Officers can book these spaces if they need time to decompress, reflect, or relax. Furthermore, the design team recognized the department has uniquely close, familial relationships, so key leadership offices are open and centrally located, fostering supportive interactions that are crucial for well-being in a demanding profession. Through these approaches, the design intentionally provides environments to support officer well-being.



A wellness room designed by Roth Sheppard for a previous project, similar to the ones the Garden Grove Public Safety Facility will include.

Behind the Building

Topping Out on a High Note



On April 8, the City and the Edgemoor team held a topping out ceremony to commemorate the pouring of the top roof deck for the new Public Safety Facility, a huge project milestone that took place on March 26, just 18 months after the project began. Mayor Stephanie Klopfenstein, City Manager Lisa Kim, Police Chief Amir El-Farra, Edgemoor Managing Director Brian Dugan, and Clark Senior Vice President Marc Kersey acknowledged the strong collaboration to date, and members of Council, City employees, and project team members got to add their names to a shear wall to commemorate the occasion. The on-site team also held a luncheon to celebrate the trades and the construction crew who worked so hard to make this milestone happen.



City Manager Lisa Kim speaking at the City's ceremony; Chief Amir El-Farra adding his name to the wall; Mayor Stephanie Klopfenstein at the on-site team's celebration.

Photo credit: alexander laurent rubalcava



Meet Marc Kersey

This quarter, meet Marc Kersey, Senior Vice President at Clark Construction, who is overseeing the project's design-build team. Marc has been a resident of Garden Grove for the last 22 years and raised his family here, and he takes immense pride in building a project here in his own community. He shared some more about his role on the project and what he loves about the City:

Tell us more about your role on the project.

I see myself as the team's chief encourager. Bringing people together is my passion and key to leading projects successfully. I've been able to leverage both new and decades old relationships with City leaders and team members from Clark, Edgemoor, AC Martin, Southland, and other firms to help align all of our efforts to meet the common vision for the new Public Safety Facility and park.

It must be so rewarding to lead a project in your own community! What's most exciting to you about working on this and what it means for the future of Garden Grove?

Working so closely with the City and its leaders, who listen to their constituents and develop practical, efficient solutions, has left me with renewed pride in being a Garden Grove resident. I've worked with government agencies at all levels throughout my 36-year career, and Garden Grove is best-in-class at administering a large civic center development. Going from concept design to construction in just a year is a rare accomplishment. And I'm thrilled to give back to the community in which my family has thrived for so many decades. As I enter the last handful of years of my career, I can't think of a better way to spend a few of them than on this gem of a project in my own community. Work/life balance doesn't get any better!



The family of Marc's wife, Kristina, has been in Garden Grove for over 60 years and has seen the area grow from fields and orange groves to the diverse suburban community it is today. Every Thanksgiving, four generations of the family get together for a soccer game in West Grove Park before walking a few blocks back to Marc and Kristina's house for pizza and a white elephant gift exchange.



Marc has firsthand experience with GGPD's tireless work in the Garden Grove community, so this project is especially meaningful to him—during COVID lockdowns, Marc's son Kellen, who is on the autism spectrum, left the house through a window in the middle of the night to try to walk to his day program. Within an hour of Marc and his wife calling GGPD, they located Kellen. The responding officers took the time to understand Kellen's circumstances and were kind and calm, quickly earning his trust and bringing him home safely. Marc is honored to help deliver a state-of-the-art new headquarters to these officers and their colleagues.

What are some of your favorite things about living in Garden Grove?

My family enjoys Garden Grove's many parks, including the Chapman Sports Park, where I coached my son Keaton's flag football team and watched his soccer games during his youth. Since working on the project, we've enjoyed more of the Civic Center area, especially Steelcraft and the restaurants along Main Street.

We Are Garden Grove



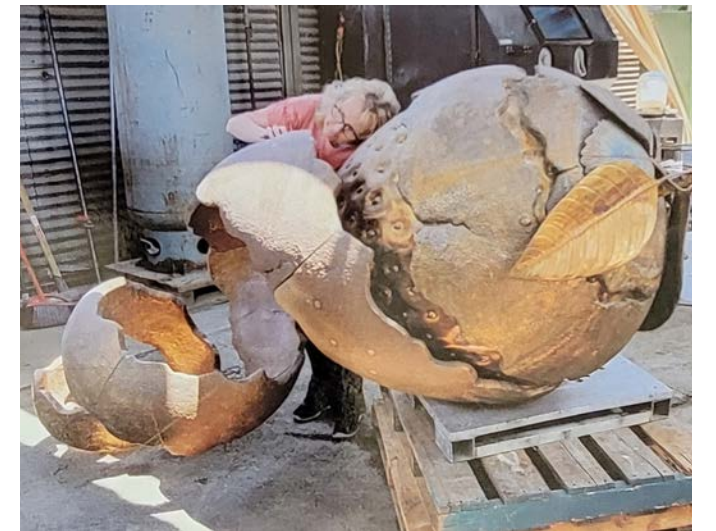
Welcome to Garden Grove, Strawberry Zest!

In November, a striking eight-foot sculpture of a strawberry with a layer of zest peeling off it was unveiled in front of West Garden Grove's fire station. The strawberry's story began in 2019, when Councilmember George Brietigam asked professional local sculptor and business owner Jennifer Stewart to design and sculpt a defining piece of art for his district. Jennifer had recently completed a life-sized memorial portrait bust of Garden Grove philanthropist Jack Wallen, which is on permanent display at the Atlantis Play Center, and she was enthusiastic about designing something new for the West Garden Grove community. The resulting concept perfectly conveys Garden Grove's agricultural heritage and whimsical spirit.

Work on the sculpture was delayed during COVID, but once it got off the ground again, Jennifer dove in headfirst. She became the City's artist in residence, and for nine months, she hand-sculpted the prototype for the monument in her studio. Jennifer worked closely with American Fine Arts Foundry in Burbank to get the piece cast into 22 bronze pieces, assembled, welded, and finished in brightly colored patinas. And there may soon be a version of the sculpture closer in East Garden Grove, too—Jennifer's original four-foot model may be installed in the lobby of City Hall.

Creating this sculpture was also very personally rewarding for Jennifer, who fell in love with the downtown Garden Grove community. She's been living in Southern California for 40 years, and she has a special affection for Garden Grove's retro Main Street and robust local theater community. So when she found out Main Street's delightfully quirky Elvis-themed Mexican restaurant, Azteca Restaurant & Lounge, was for sale 11 years ago, she jumped at the chance to purchase it. Since then, Jennifer has become even more solidified in Main Street's tight-knit business community. She is the president of the Downtown Business Association and chair of the Downtown Commission, and she and her partner Larry have continued to make Azteca one of Garden Grove's most iconic destinations.

Azteca is also a favorite haunt for the Garden Grove Civic Center Revitalization Project team—located only a few blocks from the project site, it's the site of team lunches and happy hours, and Jennifer and Larry have warmly welcomed the team. Jennifer is also looking forward to the completion of the new Public Safety Facility and Civic Center Park. She commented, "Having the more modern building a couple blocks from Main Street will make the overall neighborhood more appealing to visit." And of course, she can't wait to see what public art might be included!



Jennifer working on the details of Strawberry Zest.

Cheers to the Women Behind the Project

The project team took time during the first week of March to acknowledge the many women working on the project for Women in Construction Week. We highlighted several team members on our Instagram account, and the week culminated with a happy hour at new local brewery Dzo Brewing Company to celebrate these talented team members!



Spreading Holiday Cheer with GGPD



▶ Check out GGTV3's video highlighting Garden Grove's holiday happenings—including Winter in the Grove and the toy drive!

Every year, the Garden Grove Police Department participates in the Shop With a Cop initiative. GGPD, in collaboration with Target, pairs officers with kids in the community to go shopping for holiday gifts—but the event is time-limited, and every year there are kids who can't participate in the event itself. GGPD wanted to find some way to bring the joy to these children as well, and the Edgemoor team held a toy drive in the project office. Edgemoor and Clark collected toys for the kids who couldn't participate and delivered them to GGPD on December 9. GGPD distributed them to children throughout the rest of the week. To thank the team members who generously donated gifts, Edgemoor bought lunch for the office during the team's holiday gathering.



The project team enjoying their holiday lunch!



Did you hear we have an Instagram account? For more updates on what the team is up to every quarter, follow us today!
[@ggrevitalizationproject](#)

A Berry Fulfilling Morning at the Giving Farm

To honor Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and legacy of service, Garden Grove Civic Center project team members participated in Clark's Week of Service on January 24. The team spent a morning at the Giving Farm, a farm-to-food-bank program in Orange County.

The eight-acre farm is located on the grounds of Westminster High, and relies on both students and volunteers like us to help harvest over 200,000 pounds of produce yearly, all of which is distributed to food banks like the OC Food Bank, which is located just down the street from the Garden Grove Civic Center project site.

The team helped harvest and package strawberries so they can be distributed to the families in Orange County who are served by the food bank. We also taste tested a few—they're delicious!



Project Update

Recent Highlights:

- December: Foundations Complete
- January: Off-Site Wet Utilities Complete; Slab-on-Grade Concrete Complete
- February: Start Parking Garage Construction
- March: Site Utilities Complete; Receipt of Building Permit
- April: Public Safety Facility Topping Out

Upcoming Milestones:

- May: Start Parking Garage Concrete, Complete Masonry
- June: Complete Sallyport Roof
- July: Complete Stair Installation

May 2024
Groundbreaking

May 2025
We Are Here

Fall 2026: Public Safety Facility + Parking Structure Completion

Fall 2027: Park Completion



For more information:

www.ggc.org/civic-center

www.edgemoor.com

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