



WARRIOR VILLAGE PROJECT®

501 (c)(3) Nonprofit

The Bugle: Vol 8, Issue 1, January 2026

www.WarriorVillageProject.com

PROGRESS REPORT

The class days available for working on our four moveable tiny houses were severely limited in November, December and January due to a string of holidays, finals, and administrative activities that take place at the end of a semester and the beginning of a new semester. Our San Marcos students were out of school for 27 days during this period, while our Rancho Buena Vista students were out for 25 days. When baby boomers were in school, Thanksgiving was a two-day holiday, and the Christmas/New Year holiday lasted about one week. Veterans Day was only one day. Now, the Thanksgiving Holiday lasts a week. The Christmas/New Year Holiday is now a three-week Winter Recess. The Veterans' Day holiday, which fell on Tuesday this year, was extended to include Monday, because attendance would drop significantly on Monday if the holiday had not been extended.

Chronic absenteeism has become a big problem for schools. *“Chronic absenteeism is generally defined as missing 10% or more of days during the school year (approximately 18 days) for any reason including suspensions, changing schools, and excused absences due to illness.”* Schools work hard to encourage students to attend school regularly. *“Students who are chronically absent are at risk for falling behind and dropping out of school.”* *“In San Diego County, 23.3% of all students were chronically absent in SY 2022 - 2023; that is 114,366 students chronically absent for the County.”* ([Live Well San Diego](http://LiveWellSanDiego.com)). In addition to the harm absenteeism does to student learning and academic success, absenteeism impacts school funding, because funding for schools in California is tied to attendance rates.

One of the objectives of our construction program is to engage students in an interesting and relevant education that makes them want to come to school. I have heard from many students that Mr. Geldert's class, or Mr. Cardenas' class, is their favorite class. Our students are a diverse group. Some will go to college; as a result of participating in our construction program, they may choose to study architecture, construction management, or engineering. Others will discover that there are great career opportunities for carpenters, plumbers, electricians and other building trades that do not require a college education. For some of our students, entering the trades will be their first step on the ladder to the American Dream.

“Forecasts for many job markets in the era of AI are cloudy with a chance of pink slips, but what about for electricians, technicians and builders? Will the trades be resilient to these changes? While some experts [caution](#) a much grimmer tale of AI robotics capable of replacing even manual laborers, many reports [contend](#) that hands-on work like the trades and construction will be among the most durable in the face of automation and market disruption. Some say that people will be the [beneficiaries](#) of AI advancements rather than casualties. The trades industries, they're not going to be replaced by AI. Their jobs might become simpler. (Broadband Nation)”

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EVENTS

CIEF Design Build Competition

April 22 - 23
Golden West College
Huntington Beach, CA

VIP PROFILE

Our Next Generation of Home Builders



Published
Oct 24, 2025

Is the Construction Industry Attracting Younger Workers?

According to the 2023 American Community Survey (ACS), the median age of construction labor force is 42 years old — one year older than a typical worker in the national labor force. However, the construction industry has seen an increase in younger skilled labor since the peak of the skilled labor shortage in 2021.

Geographic Differences

The median age of construction labor force varies from state to state. The states with the highest median ages are:

- Alaska (46 years old)
- Connecticut (45 years old)
- Maine (45 years old)

In the central part of the country, however, the construction labor force skews younger. For example, half of all construction workers in Utah are under 39 years old.

Generational Shifts

The age distribution of construction workers over time shows differences among the generations. According to NAHB analysis of ACS data, Gen Z (people born between 1997 and 2012) are more likely to enter the construction industry because of factors such as new innovations in modern technology, rising college tuition costs, competitive construction job wages and job security.

Other generational shifts in the construction labor force include:

- Gen Z's share more than doubled, increasing from 6.4% in 2019 to 14.1% in 2023;
- Millennials' share rose 2% over the same period;
- Gen X's share declined from 36.6% to 33.7%; and
- Baby Boomers fell sharply from 20.6% to 14.2% as workers retired.

Although there is a growing pipeline of younger construction workers, Gen Z workers only accounted for 14.1% of construction workers in 2023, while around 71% of the construction labor force were Millennials and Gen X.

With Baby Boomers constituting the last 14.2% of the construction labor force and gearing up for retirement, attracting young skilled labor remains a primary long-term goal for the construction industry.

Principal Economist Na Zhao provides more details in [this Eye on Housing post](#).

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE, SMHS

San Marcos High School: SM #1

- **Chapter 1** Trailer
- **Chapter 2** Framing
- **Chapter 3** Rough Plumbing
- **Chapter 4** Rough Electrical
- **Chapter 5** Wall Sheathing
Roofing Shear
Moisture Barrier
- **Chapter 6** Roofing
- **Chapter 7** Windows & Doors
- **Chapter 8** Exterior
Exterior Trim
Finish
- **Chapter 9** HVAC
Venting
- **Chapter 10** Insulation
- **Chapter 11** Interior Wall
Ceiling Covering
- **Chapter 12** Interior Cabinetry
Installations
Flooring
Fixtures
- **Chapter 13** Interior Trim Finish
- **Chapter 14** Finish Plumbing
Electrical
Fixtures
- **Chapter 15** Finish Hardware
Touch-ups
- **Chapter 16** Health & Safety
Final Testing
Certification
Submission

Our build days at SMHS were again limited in January due to Winter Recess and beginning-of-semester activities. Our students returned to campus on January 12. Fortunately, we dodged the torrential atmospheric rivers that blew through town over the holidays.

Our BITA 2 students have been working to complete the siding and the roof over the bathroom 'bumpout' on SM #1, working side-by-side with students building sheds. They are also working on a punch list of items to complete the rough electrical and plumbing.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE, SMHS



BITA 1 students are building sheds to learn carpentry skills. Most of them are juniors who are sharpening their framing skills before they start building houses during their senior year.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE, SMHS

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San Marcos High School: SM #2

Our BITA 2 students started installing the Drain-Waste-Vent system in SM #2. This plumbing work should go fairly quickly since our students have the experience of completing this work on SM #1. Avoiding structural members of the trailer under the floor has proven to be a challenge in positioning the toilet flange and vent lines. An [offset toilet flange](#) will be required on SM #2.

Other students worked to complete the exterior siding and started caulking the siding and trim to prepare for painting.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE, SMHS



Teacher Chirs Geldert will be taking 9 students to the Design Build Competition at Golden West College in Huntington Beach on April 22 - 23. They will be competing in the Open Competition, building a shed that the students designed. In addition to building a 'practice' shed, they have been reviewing the documentation that they must prepare and the safe working practices and building skills that they must demonstrate during the two-day competition to win. *They intend to bring home the Gold!*



Design Build Competition coach Jon Hill, teacher Chris Geldert and three Design Build students.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE, RBVHS

Rancho Buena Vista High School: RBV #1

- Chapter 1 Trailer
- Chapter 2 Framing
- Chapter 3 Rough Plumbing
- Chapter 4 Rough Electrical
- Chapter 5 Wall Sheathing
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Moisture Barrier
- Chapter 6 Roofing
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- Chapter 15 Finish Hardware
Touch-ups
- Chapter 16 Health & Safety
Final Testing
Certification
Submission

Our build days at RBV were again limited in January due to Winter Recess. Our students returned to campus on January 6. Teacher Landon Cardenas spent the first week of the semester reviewing safe working practices in the woodshop and on the tiny house build site. They started working on their tiny houses on January 15.

Landon's BITA 1 students have worked on a number of projects while learning carpentry skills using materials donated by local businesses. They have built cutting boards from hardwood cutoffs donated by Jay Edward Woodworking, bookcases from laminate sheet donated by San Juan Creek Cabinets, and are building benches using decking material donated by Weyerhaeuser.

Jeff Hollenbeck, President of Trinity Woodworks Inc., donated hardwood, laminate and plywood sheets, plexiglass, fasteners, and cabinets for Landon's woodshop. His students will be building podiums for RBV teachers from the donated material.

It took 2 trucks, 2 days, and a few strong, young students to move the materials from Jeff's Oceanside facility to RBV. Landon says he won't have to make a trip to Home Depot for quite awhile.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE, RBVHS

Rancho Buena Vista High School: SP #1

- **Chapter 1** Trailer
- **Chapter 2** Framing
- **Chapter 3** Rough Plumbing
- **Chapter 4** Rough Electrical
- **Chapter 5** Wall Sheathing
Roofing Shear
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- Chapter 7 Windows & Doors
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Our students started working on their houses on January 15. Teacher Landon Cardenas showed his students how to measure and cut sheets of 1/2" OSB (Oriented Strand Board) sheathing for the exterior walls of tiny house SP #1.



PARTNERS

Coronado High School

In September 2024, Nicolas Hacker, President of the [Coronado High School](#) Architecture and Design Club, reached out after seeing news reports about our inaugural [Tiny Houses Build Day](#). He told me that his club and students in Coronado's woodworking class "would love the opportunity to help in any way" that they could. I loved the idea of getting more students involved in the Warrior Village Project. I arranged to meet Nicolas and his classmates Salma and Maya at the first legally permitted Movable Tiny House in the City of San Diego, owned by Ellen Stone of [Tiny Home Central](#). I explained that the four houses we were building were being built to the same plans as Ellen's house, but that we had made a number of field changes to the plans that we would like to capture in accurate 'as-built' drawings. I also wanted a rendering of a completed tiny house so that we could show everyone what our houses would look like when they were completed.

Subsequently, Nicolas, Salma and Maya visited San Marcos High School to see two of our houses under construction. They saw first hand some of the changes we had made to the design vis-à-vis the plans and learned more about SMHS's construction program from teacher Chris Geldert.



L to R: Salma, Nicolas and Maya at SMHS.



Rendering by Nicolas Hacker, June 2025.

Nicolas produced a beautiful rendering of our tiny houses, with a [T.M. Cobb](#) door, [Milgard](#) windows, and [Westlake Royal Roofing Solutions](#) roofing. This rendering replaced the rendering of the cottage in the banner of our newsletter, which was a representation of the first house we built at SMHS.

Nicolas, Salma and Maya all graduated from Coronado High School in June. Maya is attending UC Berkeley this year, and Salma is headed to New York University (NYU) Dubai. Nicolas is pursuing his calling as an architecture student at Columbia University in New York City.

The rendering was almost the last task Nicolas completed before graduation. His last act was turning over the gavel as President of the Architecture and Design Club to Danny Vinegrad.



Danny and Mark, August 2025.

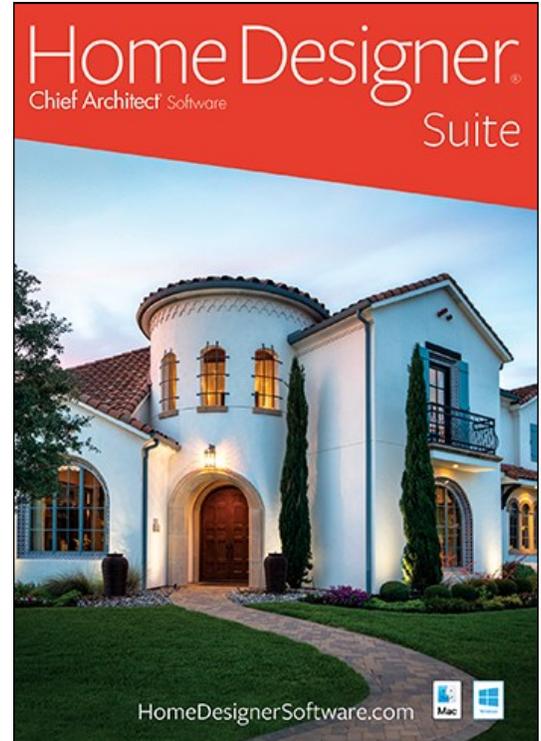
I met Danny at Ellen's tiny house in Normal Heights. Danny and his club members will be working to create 'as built' construction drawings of our tiny houses using [Home Designer Suite](#) software from Chief Architect provided by the Warrior Village Project. We are looking forward to working with Coronado High School students as they learn about computer aided design while contributing to our program.

PARTNERS Coronado High School

On Sunday, January 25, Danny and his fellow Architecture and Design Club members, Madison and Summer, journeyed from Coronado to San Marcos to tour the tiny houses being built by our SMHS students. Seeing the houses under construction will help them understand the computer-aided design (CAD) work they are doing.



L to R: Danny, Summer and Madison at SMHS



Coronado's Architecture and Design Club cultivates the technical skills of future architects and engineers through hands-on STEM experience and computer-aided design immersion. In addition to their work to support the Warrior Village Project, the students execute community philanthropy initiatives.

In December, the Club hosted a Holiday Blanket Drive for Veterans. "Our veterans sacrifice time with their friends and family to safeguard our country," said Madison Brown, vice president of the club, "and we want to give back to them this holiday season." There were drop-off boxes at the High School, Coronado Middle School, and Village Elementary School.

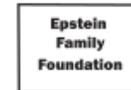
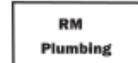
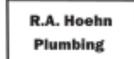
You can learn more about the club on their Instagram page [@architecture_club_chs](https://www.instagram.com/architecture_club_chs).

A festive poster for the "Architecture and Design Club's BLANKET DRIVE" from November 17 to December 15. The poster features a light blue background with colorful Christmas ornaments and string lights. A large green circle in the center contains the text "Architecture and Design Club's BLANKET DRIVE NOV. 17 - DEC. 15". To the right, a pink circle asks "WHY?" and explains: "SPREAD WARMTH THIS HOLIDAY SEASON TO HOMELESS VETERANS IN NEED". Below that, a red circle titled "DETAILS" provides the drop-off location: "DROPOFF AT CORONADO'S HIGH, MIDDLE, OR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FRONT OFFICES" and contact information: "DANNYVINEGRAD12 @GMAIL.COM".



Coronado
High School

SPONSORS



DONATE TO THE WARRIOR VILLAGE PROJECT

The Warrior Village Project has joined the San Diego Gives 2026 Campaign. It is easy to donate to the Warrior Village Project through the [San Diego Gives online platform](#). Your donation will go to the Warrior Village Project General Fund to purchase materials to build Moveable Tiny Houses in high school construction classes in San Diego County.

The trailer foundation and building materials and consumables required for one Moveable Tiny House (MTH) cost about \$44,000. The curriculum and the inspection and certification package cost about \$6,000.

The cost of installing an MTH as an Accessory Dwelling Unit would depend on the site. But, it should cost about \$20,000 per house. Hence, we can provide a permanent, fully equipped tiny house for a homeless person for about \$70,000 per unit.

According to the [Turner Center for Housing Innovation at UC Berkeley \(January 2026\)](#): "In 2023, it cost approximately \$630,000 to develop one subsidized housing unit funded with Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) equity in California, nearly 20 percent more than in 2019, after accounting for inflation."

Isn't it time to start building truly affordable housing?



Donate

You're making a donation to **Warrior Village Project, Inc.**

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Warrior Village Project, Inc.

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Add a dedication to your donation

Designation
General Fund

Help us build truly affordable housing while training the next generation of home builders.



2026 Campaign

<https://sandiegogives.mightycause.com/donate/Warrior-Village-Project>

We need to raise \$80,000 to purchase materials to complete the four Moveable Tiny Houses we are building at San Marcos High School, San Pasqual High School and Rancho Buena Vista High School.

