

MIRA MESA EPICENTRE | FAQs

GENERAL

Where is the Mira Mesa Epicentre located?

The Mira Mesa Epicentre is located at 8450 Mira Mesa Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92126 – next to Mira Mesa Community Park and Mira Mesa Senior Center.

How large is the facility?

The building is roughly 8,000 square feet.

What will the building be used for?

The vision for the Mira Mesa Epicentre is to create a central hub for the local community, offering programs, activities, classes, and events that benefit residents of all ages, interests, and abilities, with a special focus on youth and teens. Amenities will be developed based on community input, and programs will be offered to meet the needs of the community. Diverse offerings will be available and provided in multiple languages to ensure there are no barriers to attendance and participation.

How much funding is available for this project?

The project has a budget of \$8 Million for public engagement, design, environmental review, and construction.

What is the timeframe for the project?

Project planning began in 2021. A Facilities Conditions Assessment was completed in February 2022 to get a better understanding of the state of the facility and the scope of rehabilitation.

Concept designs were completed in March 2023, and presented to the community for feedback. As of Summer 2023, we are beginning the process of developing construction documents for the County's bid solicitation process, which has been earmarked for Spring 2024. Once a contractor is in place, the renovation/construction of the facility could begin as early as Summer 2024 with anticipated completion in Summer 2025.

Who will have access to the building and its programs?

The Epicentre and its programs will be available for all residents, with most of the open-hours and programs geared toward youth and teens. The facility will be available to the general public outside of those hours, and this information will be publicized. Schedules and programs will shift based on time of year and community interest.

Why is this facility being developed by the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation rather than the City of San Diego?

In May 2021, County Board of Supervisors (BOS) District 3 noted that the City of San Diego-owned Mira Mesa Epicentre was a high-priority capital project and community investment that could advance equity, inclusion, youth development, and arts and educational opportunities. The BOS directed the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to negotiate an agreement with the City of San

Diego that would activate that project to rehabilitate, operate, and run programs at the facility. During the planning and design of the facility, the County of San Diego obtained a right of entry agreement with the City. DPR intends to enter into a long-term agreement with the City of San Diego to allow the County to rehabilitate and operate all programs and events at the facility. The terms of the agreement will require County BOS and City Council approval.

What is the desired outcome of the Epicentre?

Investing in today's youth who will become tomorrow's leaders is a high priority for the County of San Diego. The rehabilitation and operation of the Mira Mesa Epicentre would activate a highly visible public space and improve public safety in the community. All DPR teen programs operate with the intention of diverting youth away from negative behaviors by bringing them into a positive environment that equips them with social, physical, and educational tools that can help them lead healthy and productive lives. Additionally, we anticipate the facility will be highly used by residents of all ages, interests, and abilities in a wider variety of events, programs, and meetings – and through collaboration with neighboring City of San Diego Parks and Libraries, local schools, San Diego Police force, and community organizations.

Is there parking available with ADA access?

Parking is available next to the facility, which includes ADA parking spaces and access.

Are there restrooms?

Restrooms, with ADA access, are inside the facility.

OUTREACH

What public outreach have you done for this facility?

A survey was distributed to Mira Mesa High School students in Winter 2022 where we received 53 responses on the desired recreational offerings at the Epicentre. A similar survey was distributed to the community surrounding the Epicentre and was released online and in-person at the 2022 Mira Mesa Street Fair from Sept. 13 to Oct. 3, 2022, with 779 responses. Over 16,000 Mira Mesa residences and businesses within one mile of the building were notified to complete that survey via multi-lingual U.S. Mail mailer.

Two public meetings have been held on Nov. 10, 2022, and Jan. 24, 2023, to inform attendees of the project and collect input from them on concept designs. The Nov. 10 meeting provided attendees with an overview of the project, goals, and work completed up until the meeting. Two interior concept plans and a site plan were presented. Participants provided feedback on the concept plans and site plan and participated in an exercise to identify their preferred interior concepts. The Jan. 24 meeting reiterated earlier information, provided project updates, and presented two exterior concept plans and a refined interior plan based on previous feedback. Once again, attendees were asked to share their thoughts and vote on options to help determine next steps in design. Both meetings were advertised via U.S. mailer to 16,905 residences and businesses in the immediate Mira Mesa Community Planning Area, as well as on the DPR website and on DPR's social media sites.

On January 12, 2023, County staff conducted a lunchtime event at the Mira Mesa High School where we discussed the proposed improvements and collected student’s feedback on the concept design and programming.

On July 6, 2023, a community event was held with DPR’s San Diego/Safe Destinations (SD) Nights program at the Mira Mesa Recreation Center where attendees could provide feedback on the updated schematic design and proposed programs that could be offered at the facility. This event was also promoted via U.S. mailer to a wider segment of the Mira Mesa Planning Area encompassing 33,961 residences and businesses.

An online survey was created and shared in addition to the July 6 event and to an Independence Day event in Mira Mesa that DPR staff attended on July 2. The survey ran from June 26 to July 14, 2023 and it received 156 responses.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Will the project comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)?

Yes, the project will comply with CEQA and all applicable environmental regulations. For more information, connect with our Resource Management Division team member, Emily Pacholski, at Emily.Pacholski@sdcounty.ca.gov.

OPERATIONS

What are the anticipated hours of operation?

Operating hours will be continuously evaluated and adjusted to meet the needs of the local community. The current proposal outlines hours for youth and the general public and is subject to change based on available resources:

Youth Programming Hours

- 3 - 7 p.m. on weekdays
- 1 - 6 p.m. on weekends

Public Hours

- Reservable outside youth programming hours, 7 days a week, 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- Personal use, private events, public meetings

What type of programs will be offered?

The Epicentre will offer programs for people of all ages, abilities, and interests, with a special focus on activities for youth ages 10 to 18. Programs may include tutoring, mentoring, career counseling, performing and visual arts, gardening, cooking, various recreational classes, and intergenerational programs with the neighboring senior center.

The facility will serve as a hub for DPR’s SD Nights program (short for San Diego/Safe Destination Nights), in which staff coordinate events for teens in urban areas, to keep them off the streets during critical hours. The facility will also be available by reservation for private events like birthdays and retirement celebrations.

What type of amenities will be offered in and outside the facility?

The final plan has not been completed. However, according to the community feedback we have received so far, preferred interior amenities include a lounge area, game tables and consoles, workstations and homework area, music room, fitness equipment, stage with audio and visual equipment, demonstration kitchen, and multi-purpose space. Preferred exterior amenities include central gathering areas, open turf areas, garden areas, and outdoor sport courts.

Will the Epicentre be reservable?

Yes. Once opened, reservations will be able to be made through staff on-site or by contacting the County Parks and Recreation Reservation Desk. Users will be able to view venue availability at <https://reservations.sdparks.org/>.

SAFETY

How will safety and security of the facility be maintained?

The City of San Diego Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP) police force currently occupies a portion of the facility. RVSP will continue to occupy the facility once the building is rehabilitated. Having a police force in the facility creates a sense of safety for the building and surrounding area. DPR is working with the City to share occupancy of the facility during facility operating hours and whenever the facility is reserved for special events. The facility will be locked during non-operating hours with exterior and interior security cameras and a security alarm system.

DPR encourages all facility users to flag issues in or around the area by contacting staff, reaching out to City of San Diego Police Department, the Sheriff's Office, or calling 911. Emergency numbers will be posted on facility signs.

NEXT STEPS

How can I stay informed?

If you would like to receive e-mail updates throughout the development process, please email Park Project Manager Alyssa Way at AlyssaP.Way@sdcounty.ca.gov to be added to the distribution list.

To learn more about the project, and other DPR development projects, visit sdparks.org > [Plans](#) > [Development Projects](#) > [Mira Mesa Epicentre](#).

For other comments or questions, please email Alyssa Way at AlyssaP.Way@sdcounty.ca.gov or by phone at 619-221-3468.