



NEWS

From the First Council District

ED P. REYES, COUNCILMEMBER

200 N. Spring Street, Room 410, Los Angeles, CA 90012

PRESS RELEASE

May 4, 2005
For Immediate Release

Contact: Tony Perez
Monica Valencia
(213) 485-3451

REYES JOINS COMMUNITY TODAY TO KICK OFF PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION— *More than 150 volunteers build playground in one day for Pico-Union school children*

Councilmember Ed P. Reyes joined more than 150 volunteers Wednesday morning at Downtown Value School, 950 W. Washington Blvd., to kick off the construction of a playground in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Pico Union.

“Downtown Value students come from some of the City’s densest neighborhoods,” said Reyes. “They have limited park space and, at school, only have an asphalt lot for outdoor play. By the end of the school day, they will have their own playground.”

The playground project is a partnership between the school, Stride Rite, the Lexington, Mass.-based children’s shoe company, and KaBOOM!, a nonprofit organization in Washington D.C. that raises money for community playgrounds.

The project’s first step was “Design Day” in which Downtown Value parents, students and teachers met with sponsors to brainstorm and design their own playground. They considered safety, age range, functionality and fun factors when creating the playground which features a triple slide, bridge, bells and a big tic tac toe game.

On Wednesday, parents, teachers, project sponsors and other volunteers from the community built the playground in a single day. During the playground construction, volunteers from the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandise painted a mural near the playground site.

“This partnership not only sets a good example to the children about teamwork,” said Reyes. “It also sends a message that people care enough to build a playground just for them.”

Downtown Value School, which opened in 2002, is a charter school that serves 250 students in grades K-6.

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