

## **Press Release: Access Youth Academy Awarded \$5.5 Million Grant to Fund New Facility in San Diego**

Hope, inspiration and a path to success for students in Southeast San Diego.

**SAN DIEGO, CA, May 13, 2019** — The non-profit Access Youth Academy has received a \$5.5 million grant from the City of San Diego's Department of Housing and Urban Development to help fund the construction of a new facility in south east San Diego.

The Access Youth Academy was created in 2006 to transform the lives of underserved youth through academic mentorship, health and wellness, community service, leadership, and the sport of squash. In partnership with the UCSD Preuss School, in seventh grade, Access students embark on a 12-year commitment that helps them reach their full potential. The organization has achieved a 100% high school graduation rate, 100% college acceptance rate, won 13 national titles, and secured more than \$6.3 million earned scholarships at leading colleges and universities including, Columbia, Dartmouth, Penn, Cornell, Amherst, UC Berkeley, UCLA, UCSD, SDSU, and more.

"Thanks to this major grant, we will be able to help hundreds more underserved youth reach their full potential and become leaders of tomorrow," said Renato Paiva, Access Youth Academy Executive Director. "We are focused on providing youth with a safe, supportive environment – the new building on Euclid Avenue will provide that and allow us to partner with many other middle schools and high schools."

The new two-story structure will feature a fresh, modern look, with a glass façade to create an open and airy space. The facility will provide state of the art class rooms, meeting spaces, and eight squash courts.

"This major grant from the City provides a powerful catalyst to help us complete the financing for our exciting new facility that will become a community resource for southeast San Diego and the entire County," said Blair Sadler, Board Chair of Access. Construction is expected to begin in September, with opening anticipated for fall of 2020.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is a flexible funding source that can be used for both housing and non-housing activities, including neighborhood revitalization, workforce and economic development, community and nonprofit facilities, and infrastructure and public services in low-moderate income communities.

Learn more about Access Youth Academy building plans by visiting [accessyouthacademy.org/about-us/facility/](https://accessyouthacademy.org/about-us/facility/).