

16 March 2018

Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Commission,
Discovering the joy of working with my hands and witnessing the fruits of your labor was my salvation as a child, and I was pleased to learn that I had a very good working relationship with tools and machines.

In Santa Barbara, I had an extensive history of cabinet/furniture construction as well as General Contracting, so that when I responded to a newspaper ad in 1993 to be a volunteer supervisor for the construction of a new playground, I knew that I had skills that would be valued for the task.

The leadership and organization that Leathers & Associates brought to the construction of Kids World created a role to play by all participants.

Housewives and children would be pre-finishing lumber with a sponge mop. Kids were cleaning up the grounds and picking up nails. Many very qualified members of Santa Barbara's excellent building community came out. All types of people of all skill levels were put to good use.

My talents were quickly recognized by the Leathers team and they were thrilled to bring me more and more challenging projects. Bob Leathers mentioned at the time that of all of their previous projects, they had never had a more capable and talented group of volunteers to work with.

Being involved in the construction of Kids World and being a part of the goodwill exhibited by the community was the most heart-felt construction project I have ever been involved in. I have spent my entire life building things, and all I do is heart-felt construction.

I was later asked to design and build the viewing teak bench in 1995 (Funding arranged by Capt. Ed Aasted SBPD)

Most recently I volunteered to rebuild the Kids World "Sound Wall" (2016) and made sure my 6-year-old granddaughter was a part of its construction. This replaced the one that I had originally built in 1993.

I have nothing but fond memories of the construction of Kids World. I am honored to have been a part of its construction and appreciate that the City of Santa Barbara recognize its value to the community.

Thanks to all,

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