2023 Behavioral Health Community Heroes

Agency

AACI Asian Americans for Community Involvement

Educator

Luis Rodriguez

Consumer/Client

Rachel Cucchiara

Mover and Shaker

Tamekia Johnson

Consumer/Client

Nina Zamora

Volunteer

Christine Ferry

Educator

Dr. Joan Baran

Volunteer

Ernie Yamane

Volunteer ERNIE YAMANE

A life-long resident of Santa Clara County, Ernie Yamane grew up in Mountain View on a flower nursery. He traces his interest in design and construction to his parents home being built when he was 7 years old. This led him to interests in Art and Drawing through Junior High and High School, eventually graduating with honors with a Degree in Architecture at UC Berkeley, College of Environmental Design in 1977.



He began his now 46 year career with Goodwin B Steinberg Associates, and became a partner in the firm in 1985 remaining there to this day. His architectural experience has included, Custom Homes for Silicon Valley Executives, Technology Campus', Educational facilities, Civic projects, Housing and Mixed Use development.

His experience grew with growth in Santa Clara County. Many experiences were part of the growth of the City including the San Jose Convention Center, The TECH, Market Street Garage, City Hall and the San Jose Mineta International Airport Master Plan and North Concourse. Equally important, community projects such as the YWCA Villa Nueva, Sacred Heart Nativity School, Cristo Rey High School, and various housing & commercial projects were a part of the experience in the community.

This special place also sparked involvement in local community organizations such as the San Jose Chamber, Archbishop Mitty Board Member, Police Activities League, Loaves and Fishes, Rotary Digital Bridges Committee, Rotary Club Building Committee, S4CA Construction Careers Association, and Amigos De Guadalupe.

He has enjoyed a small role in improving the community and supporting its service needs through the built environment organizations and non-profits. Some works have included pro bono design work for Sacred Heart Nativity School, JW House, VIA Rehabilitation Services, Martha's Kitchen, Cristo Rey School, Amigos de Guadalupe housing services and Alum Rock Counseling Center.

"Seeing the effects if the work that is done by these dedicated staff in these organizations, and in a small way helping them provide their services is an extremely gratifying"