

Public-private partnerships shape next-gen Corté Madera

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The most successful organizations are those that evolve ahead of the times. Recent collaboration between Corté Madera's public and private citizens has led to several successful projects.

"What sets Corté Madera apart is the cohesive relationship between business, local government and civic groups," says Jana Haehl of the Corté Madera Community Foundation.

Architect Richard Perlstein is no stranger to long construction projects. The longtime Corté Madera resident provided his services on a pro-bono basis to design the plaza outside Cafe Verde back in 2012 when the town developed the property. While the plaza was finished in 2012 and the Corté Madera Community Foundation had raised the \$32,000 to add the final shade structure, the town of Corté Madera did not have matching funds to build it at the time.

Fast forward six years, Perlstein joined Corté Madera Community Foundation's Haehl, Mayor Bob Ravasio, Public Works Director Peter Brown and Senior Civil Engineer Jared Barrilleaux for the shade structure's ribbon cutting on Aug. 31.

"I liken these projects to the birthing process," says Perlstein, partner at Larkspur's Polsky-Perlstein Architects. "It was fun to drive by every day and watch it be created."

Trumpet flower vines will grow to cover the redwood-covered steel trellis and provide much-needed shade to patrons of Cafe Verde, Town Park patrons and families heading to and from Neil Cummins School.