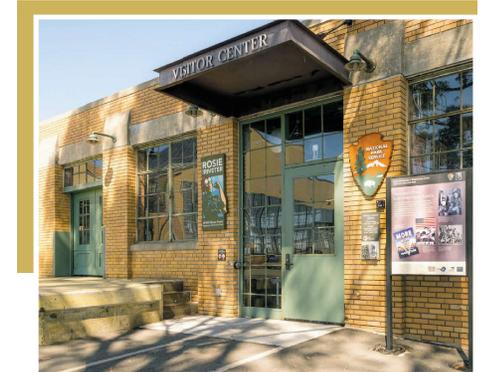


# PAST MEETS FUTURE: THE FORD BUILDING



Richmond has a long and storied manufacturing legacy that is alive and well today on Harbour Way South. The opening of the 500,000 square foot Ford Motor Plant by Henry Ford in 1931 during the Great Depression created enthusiasm and jobs for the residents and businesses of Richmond as 400 cars and trucks came off the assembly line each day. During WWII, the Ford plant produced jeeps and tanks to be transported out to war zones.

When the plant closed in February 1955, there were still a variety of uses for the huge building, from dinosaur skeleton storage to movie sets. Eventually, the City of Richmond purchased the building. Listed on the National Register of Historic

Places in 1988, the Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park was established in 2000, which created renewed interest in the Ford Building. In 2004, Orton Development (ODI) purchased the Ford Building from the Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency for \$5.4 million and began rehab of the building.

After their massive \$50 million renovation, which included rooftop solar and electric charging stations, ODI began leasing industrial and office space in the summer of 2006, and completed the Craneway Pavilion and Boilerhouse, a venue and restaurant in 2009. The Ford Point development won the American Institute of Architects National Honor

Award in 2011. In 2022, the building was sold to a partnership involving New York-based Madison Capital and Meadow Partners, who plan to keep the existing tenants. Orton Developers continues to operate the Craneway Pavilion.

"As the home to a popular event space along with multiple long-term leases to private businesses and the crown jewel, the National Park Service Visitor Center, the Ford Building is a destination for thousands of people looking to attend a special event, visit the Rosie the Riveter Visitor Education Center, or catch the ferry to San Francisco. The importance of this location for Richmond has increased steadily over the past 20 years, as evidenced by

Orton Development recent sale of the Ford Building for \$104 million."

**- John W. Ziesenhenn, M.A. Hays Co., Richmond City Councilman 1981-1993**

Along with the Rosie the Riveter Visitor Education Center and the Craneway Pavilion, the Ford Building is currently home to such businesses as Moxion Power, SunPower, Mountain Hardwear and California Closets. With this combination of retail, manufacturing, and green businesses, as well as a spectacular event venue set against the backdrop of stunning waterfront views, the Ford Building is not only a Bay Area landmark but also a desirable location for today's most dynamic and innovative companies.

Clockwise from top left:

The Ford Point building & Craneway Pavilion. (Photo Credit: KCRT)

Rosie the Riveter Visitor Education Center. (Photo Credit: KCRT)

Ford Motor Plant by Henry Ford historical photo.

Visitor Center signage. (Photo Credit: KCRT)