News for the week of March 7, 2016

EXPANDED TV AND FILM TAX CREDIT BRINGING JOBS, DOLLARS IN FIRST FULL YEAR

An expanded film and TV tax credit program is expected to generate $1.7 billion in direct spending in California in its first full year—with much of the new production taking place in Los Angeles. For the final reporting quarter, all nine selected television productions will be shot in Los Angeles. That equates to an estimated $313 million in direct in-state spending, including $121 million in wages for below-the-line crew members. The selected shows include American Horror Story, Westworld, Good Girls Revolt, and Scream Queens, which will be the fifth series to relocate to LA since the tax credit was implemented. Mayor Eric Garcetti, an early champion of expanded credits, called it a win for the heart and soul of the industry. “We are committed to those who swing hammers, run cable, and serve food on set so they can pay the bills and contribute to our economy,” the mayor said. “The inaugural year of this tax credit proves that production is alive and well here in Los Angeles.” EWDD’s functions include administration of the city’s film liaison office.

Revamp of Harold and Belle’s completed: Known for exquisite creole cuisine, Harold & Belle’s restaurant at the corner of Jefferson Boulevard and 10th Avenue is favored by patrons from around the world for its shrimp poor boy, gumbo, crawfish etouffee and more. With the help of a $2.6 million HUD loan obtained with EWDD assistance, the eatery’s owners updated to a more modern dining experience, reopening on Feb. 8 to much community excitement. Ryan and Jessica Legaux, the founder’s grandson and his wife, approached the City in 2013 with the intent of purchasing and rehabilitating the restaurant. First opened in 1969, this South Los Angeles icon is expected to retain and create 74 jobs.

Day Labor Resource Center RFP released: EWDD on March 3 posted the City’s Request for Proposals to provide services as a Day Labor Center operating at one of seven locations. Applicants have until 5 p.m. April 7 to submit proposals. Day Labor Centers encourage day laborers to seek employment in the City in a coordinated manner, minimizing risk of exploitation, encouraging a fair wage and humane exchange between employers and workers. To learn more about the RFP process, click here.
**EWDD GM Jan Perry addresses water summit:** EWDD’s General Manager Jan Perry addressed a panel on water conservation technologies and strategies during a California-Israeli Water Summit held March 2 in Beverly Hills. Perry outlined how city-assisted tech incubators have helped to create new sustainable technologies for water and energy, and how EWDD can help entrepreneurs starting or expanding a business.

**Making a good impression:** Boyle Heights Technology YouthSource Center in February added a “Dress for Success” program. Case managers noticed that youth participants often didn’t have proper interview attire, particularly on short notice. Through a new partnership with Dress for Success, Boyle Heights is able to outfit female participants from head to toe (including accessories) at no cost to its program. All of the young women who signed up for last month’s 100K Job Fair received a complete wardrobe makeover. “We look forward to utilizing this leveraged resource for years to come,” said Scott Lee, the center’s program director. Boyle Heights Technology YouthSource Center is one of 16 youth employment preparation programs operating under contract with EWDD.

**Tortilla factory relocated with EWDD help:** Barrio Planners, Inc., an EWDD contractor, helped the Torres brothers relocate their thriving tortilla factory, ensuring a smooth transition for the Eastside business. Consultants at the East Los Angeles BusinessSource Center helped the brothers find a correctly zoned location and obtain a $400,000 small business loan to carry out the move. Now in their new location, the tortilla manufacturer is operating without a major drop in productivity.

**Strong turnout for P3 meeting:** Over 50 participants attended a March 9 meeting to set out next steps for implementation of the federal P3 grant targeted at employing hard-to-place populations. The meeting was held in the offices of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

**Biz services:** The Harbor BusinessSource Center helped True Path Investment, LLC, owned by Rosalia Ontiveros, obtain a $50,000 small business loan, thereby retaining five full-time jobs.

**Biz workshops:** BusinessSource centers in West Valley, South Los Angeles, Central, West and East regions distributed materials, held workshop and classes and presented service overviews, providing services to a total of 436 participants. Pictured left, the Pacific American Consortium in Employment in Central West celebrates the end of five weeks of entrepreneurial training for 23 participants.
Metrics:
JobsLA website: 536 average daily users; 22% new.
WorkSource enrollments: 1,206.

“Updates” is produced by Catherine Saillant in EWDD’s communications department. If you have questions, comments or wish to contribute to an upcoming “Updates,” please contact Saillant at 213-744-9048 or at Catherine.Saillant@lacity.org.