



News for the week of April 25, 2016

WESTWOOD SPA OWNER EXPANDS BUSINESS WITH HELP FROM EWDD PARTNER

Aksarapak Bondu and her three children immigrated to the U.S. in 2007 with just some luggage and the cash in her pocket. However, through hard work and dedication, by early 2011 she successfully opened a Thai Spa in Westwood, and by early 2013, she also opened a traditional Thai clothing store in Hollywood. Both of her businesses bring in a combined \$300,000 in annual revenue and have created 13 jobs. Ms. Bondu recently came to the Central/West BusinessSource Center with an ambitious plan to open five additional spa locations in five years. Loan Counselor Phoung Le provided her with technical assistance and information regarding employment and also helped her to secure \$61,000 for her business expansion plans. With the assistance she received from the Central/West BusinessSource Center, Ms. Bondu looks forward to beginning renovation on her next location this year and recruiting 10 more employees to join her team. Central/West BusinessSource Center is operated by PACE and contracted by EWDD to provide business services.

Hollywood heads back to LA: TV and film production is flocking back to Los Angeles, with shoot days jumping 11% in Los Angeles County in the first quarter of this year, numbers from Film L.A. show. Producers logged 9,703 shoot days in the first three months of 2016, up from 8,707 in the previous year. Film L.A. officials credited the jump to increasing demand for premium content and a tripling of tax credits available to productions. Mayor Eric Garcetti was a vocal supporter of the 2014 legislation that made \$330 million in tax credits available statewide, luring productions back from Maryland, Georgia and Louisiana. EWDD administers the city's contract with Film L.A. to issue production permits.

LA City government goes green: General Manager Jan Perry was invited to present the Best Public Advocate award given to Mayor Eric Garcetti on April 19 by the Sustainable Business Council of Los Angeles. Matt Peterson, the mayor's Chief Sustainability Officer, accepted the honor on behalf of Mayor Garcetti. The mayor's office just released its Sustainable City pLAN First Annual Report 2015-2016 outlining ways in which the City of Los Angeles is adopting green standards for governing. In the pLAN's first year, the city reduced water usage by 19%, cut greenhouse emissions by 20% (since 1990), and exceeded the



goal of 1,000 publicly available EV charging stations.

WEEKLY METRICS:

JobsLA.org:

Page Views - 89,388

Sessions - 3,869

% New visitors - 25%

“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.