

# EWDD UPDATES



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News for the Week of April 9, 2018

## WATTS YOUTHSOURCE CENTER CELEBRATES HIRE LAX CONSTRUCTION GRAD



*(Left to right) EWDD Youth Operations Director Brenda Anderson, YOM Watts Case Managers Teresa Cordero and Socrates Garay celebrate HIRELAX graduate Brian Phillips, Jr. (center)*

The Youth Opportunity Movement (YOM), Watts YouthSource Center celebrated the graduation of participant Brian Phillips from the HIRELAX Apprenticeship Readiness Program (ARP), an 8-week course that prepares students for careers in construction. “Most of the people that I have seen who have graduated from high school have gone on from doing small jobs,” said Brian, 18. “I wanted to do something big, that’s gonna last, a career.” Brian grew up in Watts, recently graduated from Gardena High School and had started studying at El Camino College in Torrance when his father told him about the program. “I was going to school for business. I finished one semester. I stopped going because I ended up working because I needed money,” he said. “That’s when I heard about the HIRELAX program and I joined that.” During the two-month training program Brian earned certifications in CPR and first aid and worked on

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the physical conditioning necessary to lift cinder blocks, wood planks and sandbags. Brian is in the process of getting a badge to work at LAX and is awaiting a sponsor to join the construction trades. His hope is to get a job working in sheet metal or as a laborer, where he will be exposed to different tasks every day. "I want to be able to do a project and one day say, 'I built that,'" he said. His advice for future HIRELAX trainees? "Be dedicated, motivated, that's really all that it takes," he said. "If you're motivated or dedicated to the program you should be able to pass it or succeed. There's different people there to help." EWDD assists HIRELAX participants by providing services or covering the cost of transportation, tools, work boots or union dues that allow participants to fully concentrate on succeeding in the program, said Socrates Garay, Brian's case manager at the Watts YouthSource Center. HIRELAX "really does open up doors," Socrates said. He added that Brian dedicated himself to the training because he recognized the career possibilities available. "He realized that from the very beginning he knew what he was going to get out of this," Socrates said. "That allowed him to persevere."

## EWDD REFERRAL TO 1<sup>st</sup> HOMELESS SERVICES JOB FAIR RESULTS IN LAHSA HIRE



*A job seeker at the City's first Homeless Services Job Fair in December 2017 visits a booth manned by EWDD partner Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCDD)*

About a dozen EWDD Workforce Development Division staff, along with EWDD partners will be on hand Friday to assist at Mayor Eric Garcetti's second Homeless Services Job Fair at Los Angeles Trade Technical College (LATTC) on Friday April 13, 2018. Nearly 50 agencies offering homeless services will be in attendance with an estimated 1,000 available positions ranging from entry level, management and supervisory roles. EWDD staff assisted with the first job fair in early December 2017, which was attended by approximately 753 job seekers. One EWDD staff member informed job seeker Alexander Gonzalez about the December event. Alexander, 26, interviewed on the spot and was hired as a program monitor at the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), an EWDD partner. Alexander, started his job on January 16, 2018, and stated "I know people who are going to the job fair this Friday because I was able to find a job so quickly." In his new role, Alexander visits and evaluates agencies that receive funding to provide homeless services. "My position is to make sure they are in compliance with federal, local and state contract regulations, to make sure sub-recipients are in compliance, also health and safety compliance, to make sure participants are in a comfortable and safe environment and that they are receiving all the services that are being paid for," he said. Plans are in the works

for two additional Homeless Services job fairs, with a fair scheduled to be held each quarter. The job fairs are evidence that “The City of LA is doing its due diligence to find eligible, qualified people to combat this crisis,” he said. Alexander advised job seekers planning to attend the fair to have their resumes ready and dress professionally. He added that the fair will expose applicants to smaller agencies involved in addressing the homeless issue in the region and applicants can establish connections in person rather than online. “The job fair is important,” he said. “There’s a large need, especially in the City of LA regarding homeless programs.”

## HOLLYWOOD BSC HELPS METAL DESIGNER FEATURED AT COACHELLA GET \$35K

The Hollywood BusinessSource Center (BSC) recently helped designer Rafael Portillo secure a \$35,000 loan to expand his company Vuro Industries, a business specializing in custom designed products, including furniture, prototypes and sculptures. Born in Juarez, Mexico, Rafael left his hometown in 2008 with a truck and \$2,000 in his pocket. Within a week, Rafael had a job at a metal fabrication company in Los Angeles. The company specialized in creating pieces for the museum and art industries. Rafael quickly rose to become the foreman of a team of 13 employees, where under his leadership he modified the work flow to improve the team’s efficiency. The owner of the company recognized Rafael’s hard work and as a reward, the owner allowed Rafael to use the shop after hours for personal projects. Rafael used this time to experiment and by 2015 Vuro industries was born. Rafael posted his creations to social media and began to gain a larger audience for his innovative metal work. He began to take on small contracts and was eventually was offered a six figure contract to create pieces featured at the Coachella Music Festival. Shortly after this contract was completed, Rafael was referred to the Hollywood BSC to help him access the capital he needed to continue to grow his business. Rafael was looking to secure an equipment loan as well as an additional line of credit that would be used to complete new contracts. In early



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2018, a Hollywood BSC consultant recommended that Rafael apply for a new loan program that was a good fit for Vuro Industries. Rafael agreed and submitted a loan package, and Vuro Industries was approved for the \$35,000 loan earlier this year.

## **PARA LOS NIÑOS HOSTS COLLEGE TOUR OF CAL POLY POMONA**

The Para Los Niños YouthSource Center arranged a campus visit to California State Polytechnic University, Pomona in late March, providing participants recently accepted to the university an opportunity to make an informed decision prior to submitting their intent to register for Fall 2018. The prospective freshmen were also able to speak to PLN YouthSource alumni currently attending Cal Poly Pomona to learn about programs and campus resources. PLN participant Dawit Woldie visited the campus for the first time and decided to attend Cal Poly Pomona after attending the campus tour. Dawit was recently accepted to Cal Poly Pomona's Equal Opportunity Program (EOP) and plans to major in engineering.

**BUSINESS METRICS:**

<b>LABSCs Reporting:</b>	North Valley, West Valley, South Valley, South LA, East LA, Mid City, Central West, Hollywood and Harbor
Pre-Startups Enrolled	27
Pre-Startups Assisted	16
Start-ups/Operating Businesses Enrolled	26
Start-ups/Operating Businesses Assisted	29
Workshops: Number of Clients Attended	6

**WORKFORCE METRICS:**

*(Arrows indicate weekly trend)*

**JobsLA (online and mobile)**



89,874  
Page Views

1.1%



28%  
New Visitors

2.3%



5,419  
New Sessions

10%



524  
Registrations

12%

**WorkSource Centers**



N/A\*  
Enrollments

*\*Due to recent reporting changes made by the California Employment Development Department (EDD), EWDD is re-evaluating the data we report related to WorkSource Center enrollments. EWDD anticipates up-to-date figures will be available next week.*

*"Updates" is produced by EWDD's communications department. If you have questions, comments or wish to contribute to an upcoming "Updates," please contact Jamie Francisco at (213) 744-9048 or [Jamie.Francisco@lacity.org](mailto:Jamie.Francisco@lacity.org)*