

News for the Week of May 22, 2017

EAST LOS ANGELES BUSINESSSOURCE CENTER PLAYS ROLE IN RESTAURANT OPENING



(Left) Casa Fina Restaurant & Cantina founders Josefina Lopez and Emmanuel Deleague at the May 5, 2017 cutting the ribbon at Casa Fina’s grand opening. A famed Chicana writer and playwright, Lopez is best known for “Real Women Have Curves.” (Right) Casa Fina’s bright purple exterior.

The East Los Angeles BusinessSource Center (BSC) played an integral role in the Cinco de Mayo grand opening of Casa Fina Restaurant & Cantina, a Boyle Heights eatery created by famed “Real Women Have Curves” Chicana writer Josefina Lopez and partners Emmanuel Deleague, Alonzo Ricardo and Executive Chef Augustin Alvarez. Since March 2016, the East LA BSC has provided key business services to assist the Casa Fina founders with the establishment of the restaurant, including providing entrepreneur training, assisting with entitlement issues, and permit and strategic planning assistance regarding the licensing of the business under a new establishment name. The East LA BSC also assisted with promotional and marketing efforts for the restaurant’s grand opening. Perhaps most importantly, Casa Fina hired 30 local full time workers based on referrals from the East LA BSC and Boyle Heights Chamber of Commerce to the Boyle Heights/East Los Angeles WorkSource Center. Located at 1842 E. First Street, Casa Fina occupies the 2000-square-foot space formerly occupied by Ms. Lopez’s favorite restaurant Serenata De Garibaldi, which closed unexpectedly in January 2017. Casa Fina offers quality, authentic Mexican Cuisine with a modern twist including ceviche, fajitas, molcajetes and desserts. The restauranteurs opened Casa Fina with the aim of filtering patrons and utilizing profits to support another endeavor, CASA 0101, a theater and art gallery located three blocks away. Established by Ms. Lopez in 2000, the theater specializes in plays and exhibits about underrepresented communities.

FUTURE LA METRO BUS DRIVERS GRADUATE FROM METRO BRIDGE ACADEMY



Fifteen students graduated from the Metro Bridge Academy at Los Angeles Valley College, paving their way to careers as bus operators at LA Metro.

discussions include key bus preparation and DMV commercial permit rules. For this cohort, a new instructional team delivered an updated curriculum, including topics such as "career persistence" and "personality inventories." All candidates were provided access to a Metro bus and Metro instructor to learn more about pre-trip inspections. Metro's Human Resource department was part of the graduation and held a round of interviews on Monday May 22, 2017. Those with successful interviews were fast tracked by Metro into Operation Central Instruction.

On May 19, 2017, 15 students graduated from the Metro Bridge Academy at Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC), a program designed to train individuals to become bus operators for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro). The program is conducted in partnership with Community Career Development, which was awarded a Sector Strategist Grant from the United States Department of Labor given to the City of Los Angeles to advance transportation training partnerships. Training includes more than 70 hours of contextualized customer service skills, training for transit careers, and lifelong learning skills such as time management, study, and test taking strategies. In addition, classroom and field

LAVC CELEBRATES BIOTECH BRIDGE TRAINING ACADEMY GRADUATES



A dozen students graduated in May from the LAVC Biotech Bridge Training Academy, where they received training for careers in the biomedical industry.

Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC) celebrated the graduation of a dozen students from its Biotech Bridge Training Academy on May 17, 2017. The academy provides a six-week pre-employment training for students to become manufacturing technicians and pursue careers in the biomedical industry. All graduates will have an opportunity to be interviewed by Los Angeles-based pharmaceutical company Grifols on May 26, 2017. Students will also have opportunities with biotechnology company Shire. Representatives from several manufacturing companies attended the ceremony, including Glendale-based custom label printer Accurate Dial & Nameplate and Western Bagel, the Van Nuys-based bagel chain.

HOLLYWOOD BUSINESS SOURCE CENTER PROVIDES CERTIFIED RENOVATOR TRAINING

The Hollywood Business Source Center provided training on May 17, 2017 on the United States Environmental Protect Agency's Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (RRP Rule), with 17 individuals emerging from the 8-hour training as Certified Renovators, a certification that is valid for five years. The RRP Rule requires all individuals who perform renovation, repair and painting projects that disturb lead-based paint in homes, child care facilities and pre-schools built before 1978 must utilize certified renovators trained to follow lead-safe work

practices. The eight-hour training, valued at \$195, was offered at no cost to participants as part of a Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant (LHRDG) that included training to individuals at the City’s WorkSource Centers.

BUSINESS METRICS:

LABSCs Reporting: North Valley, West Valley, South L.A., Mid City, Central West, Hollywood, South Valley, East LA, and Harbor	
LABSCs Not Reporting: None.	
Pre-Startups Enrolled	27
Pre-Startups Assisted	27
Start-ups/Operating Businesses Enrolled	33
Start-ups/Operating Businesses Assisted	29
Workshops: Number of Clients Attended	151

WORKFORCE METRICS:

(Arrows indicate weekly trend)

JobsLA (online and mobile)



Page Views

(Up 11.8%)



New Visitors

(Up 1.8%)



New Sessions

(Up 3%)



Registrations

(Down 3%)

WorkSource Centers



Enrollments

(Down 6%)

“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.