



**Economic & Workforce
Development Department (EWDD) Weekly Updates
NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2021**

Success Stories



SOUTH VALLEY BSC HELPS GAMERS LEVEL UP, LAUNCH STORE

The South Valley BusinessSource Center (BSC) offered extensive business consulting services to Romeo Blackburn and Abel Ambriz, helping them level up their passion for video games into a storefront business - LA Video Games, LLC. President and CEO Romeo Blackburn spent the past five years actively buying, selling and trading video games. After noticing an increased demand for video games during COVID-19, Romeo decided to turn his hobby into a video game store. It was then that Romeo's long-time friend and now COO Abel Ambriz, motivated him to partner up and open up their own business. In the weeks leading up to the store's grand opening, Abel met with South Valley BusinessSource Coach Guadalupe Luviano, who introduced him to the services available at the BSCs and agreed to assist them with the grand opening of their new store. South Valley BSC Coach Alma Torres, a Certified Senior Tax professional, helped Romeo and Abel establish financial best practices by introducing them to bookkeeping tips for managing a small business. She also advised them on the importance of having liability insurance.

With assistance from the South Valley BSC, LA Video Games recently celebrated the grand opening of their Sherman Oaks store. "The South Valley BusinessSource Center was helpful with my grand opening ceremony," Romeo said. "The whole team has been amazing during my process!"

Besides selling and trading video games, Romeo and Abel are also leasing cabinet space to give the community an opportunity to sell their own video games. Their long term goal is to open 15 additional locations across the United States. Romeo added, "The biggest accomplishment is knowing that I am helping my community and growing up poor that you can do it too, if you believe in yourself."

To check out their video game selection, follow them on Instagram [@lavideogames_ca](https://www.instagram.com/lavideogames_ca) or visit their store at 14836 W Magnolia Blvd, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403 in LA City Council District 4.



WEST LA WSC HELPS TARGETED LOCAL HIRE FIND HEALTHCARE JOB

When Cristiano Teixeira (above) first came to the Pico Union, Downtown Los Angeles [WorkSource Center \(WSC\)](#) to apply to the City's [Targeted Local Hire program](#), he wasn't entirely sure what career path he wanted to pursue. However, after meeting with Workforce Development Specialist Edmund Soohoo, Cristiano decided that he wanted to work in the healthcare sector. Cristiano was particularly interested in completing the Healthcare Revenue Cycle Administration certificate program through Cal State LA. However, the cost of the program was a barrier for Cristiano. The WSC team removed this barrier by funding Cristiano's training. Cristiano excelled in the training and because he was a top performing student, he was offered a paid internship with Cedars-Sinai. Before his internship was complete, Cristiano was offered a full-time position with Cedars-Sinai as a Revenue Cycle Specialist, working in Medi-Cal/Government billing.

Cristiano is extremely grateful to the Downtown/Pico Union WSC for helping guide and support him on his pathway to a new career. The WSC is overseen by EWDD partner Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE).

EWDD's WorkSource Centers, in partnership with the City of Los Angeles Personnel Department, have served as referral agencies and application centers for the Targeted Local Hire Program, which seeks to connect underserved and underemployed populations with alternative pathways to civil service careers at the City of LA.

LINKS to COVID-19 RESOURCES

JOB RESOURCES

LA JOBS PORTAL: jobs.lajobsportal.org

VIRTUAL ORIENTATIONS: bit.ly/LAjoblosshelp

BUSINESS RESOURCES

LA REGIONAL COVID FUND: lacovidfund.org

SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM: ewddlacity.com/index.php/small-business-loans

LA CARES Corps: coronavirus.lacity.org/CARESCorps

BusinessSource Centers: bit.ly/LABusinessSource

WorkSource Centers: bit.ly/EWDDWorkSource

YouthSource Centers: bit.ly/EWDDYouthSource

EWDD Metrics

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

WORKSOURCE CENTER CONTACT PERFORMANCE (COVID-19) September 20, 2021 to September 24, 2021	
Number of walk-ins	1,294
Number of walk-ins by appointment	688
Number of call/emails	2,720
Number of calls regarding Unemployment Insurance (UI)	422

YOUTH WORKFORCE DATA FY 20-21 (HIRE LA'S YOUTH) Week ending September 24, 2021	
Number of applications	4,850
Number of youth in lottery pool	1,151
Number of youth enrolled	1,531
YouthSource Center (YSC) enrollments	373
YSC enrollment goal	2,100
Percent complete	17.8%

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

LOS ANGELES BUSINESSSOURCE CENTERS (LABSCs) METRICS September 20, 2021 to September 24, 2021

LABSCs Reporting: North Valley, West Valley, South Valley, South LA, East LA, Mid City, Central West, Hollywood and Harbor

Microenterprises assisted	122
Microenterprises enrolled	11
Small businesses assisted	22
Small businesses enrolled	2
Number of BSC Clients who attended virtual workshops	108
Sidewalk vendors assisted	40
Sidewalk vendors enrolled	5



The Economic & Workforce Development Department is headquartered in the Garland Building located at 7th street and Garland Ave in downtown Los Angeles.

1200 West 7th Street
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213-744-7300
711 for TRS (TTY)

If TTY/TTD is needed to contact us, please use 711 for Telecommunication Relay Services (TRS)

If you have any questions, comments, or wish to have a contribution considered for inclusion in an upcoming "Updates," please feel free to contact Jamie Francisco at (213) 744-9048 or Jamie.Francisco@lacity.org