

PLA/CCP



Metro's Project Labor Agreement and Construction Careers Policy

September 2024



Metro[®]



Overview

In January 2012, the Metro Board approved the Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council and the Construction Careers Policy (CCP). The primary benefit of the PLA is that it encourages construction employment and training opportunities in economically disadvantaged areas throughout the United States on federally-assisted contracts. Another benefit is that it prohibits work stoppages.

The PLA goals are:

- > **40% participation of construction workers residing in economically disadvantaged areas**
- > **20% apprentice participation**
- > **10% participation of disadvantaged workers (meeting two of nine disadvantaged criteria)**

Consistent with the Board-approved PLA/CCP, prime contractors are required to provide monthly reports detailing progress towards meeting the targeted worker hiring goals. Additionally, per Metro's Labor Compliance policy and Federal Executive Order 11246, prime contractors provide Metro with worker utilization data by ethnicity and gender. (See page 6).

Economically Disadvantaged – Area where the median household income is less than \$40K per year.

Disadvantaged – Economically disadvantaged; also satisfying at least two of the following nine categories: 1) homeless, 2) single custodial parent, 3) receiving public assistance, 4) lacking GED or high school diploma, 5) criminal record or history with criminal justice system, 6) chronically unemployed, 7) emancipated from foster care, 8) veteran from Iraq or Afghanistan war, or 9) apprentice with less than 15% hours needed to graduate to journeyworker. Criminal justice system percentages are a subset of the 10% Disadvantaged hours category.

Figures at a Glance

PLA CONTRACTS – INCEPTION TO DATE



CONTRACT AWARD VALUE



*Two projects have been awarded but has not yet started.

APPRENTICE WORKERS



CRENSHAW/LAX
TRANSIT CORRIDOR
PROJECT (PROJECT
COMPLETED 12/2023)



REGIONAL CONNECTOR
TRANSIT CORRIDOR
PROJECT (PROJECT
BEGAN 9/2014)



WESTSIDE SUBWAY
EXT. PROJECT,
SEC 1 – DESIGN
BUILD (PROJECT
BEGAN 11/2015)



WESTSIDE PURPLE
LINE EXTENSION
PROJECT, SECTION
2 (PROJECT BEGAN
4/2017)

PLA WORKER HOURS (PROGRAM-WIDE) ACTIVE AND CLOSED PROJECTS

32,513,974.74 hours

TOTAL CONSTRUCTION HOURS
THROUGH SEPT 2024

23,927,097.23 hours

TOTAL APPRENTICEABLE HOURS
THROUGH SEPT 2024

58.05% (18,873,302.75 hours)

ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED

21.77% (5,208,356.44 hours)

APPRENTICE

10.99% (3,572,889.98 hours)

DISADVANTAGED

Fast Facts on Metro's Project Labor Agreement

- > Metro is the **first** transit agency in the nation to adopt a PLA that includes a targeted hiring emphasis on apprentices, low income and previously excluded members of society into the trades.
- > The U.S. Secretary of Labor visited Metro and the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor Project in August 2014 and highlighted the PLA/CCP as a success and national model.
- > **No** work stoppages or lockouts have occurred since the start of the program.



Female Participation in Construction

Through its Project Labor Agreement and Construction Careers Policy, Metro is striving to diversify the workforce on construction projects to improve access to career opportunities and serve as a catalyst for improving socio-economic status for minorities and women. Although the national average for women in the construction trades is below 3%, Metro's goal is to exceed the Executive Order 11246 female utilization goal of 6.9%. Metro's current female participation average is 3.91%.

In November 2017, Metro's board passed a motion authorizing the agency to create and publish a score card system that reflects percentages of women hired by Metro contractors; develop an incentive program to encourage contractors to exceed the national goal; and require contractors to demonstrate how they are promoting a diverse and inclusive work environment.

Women Build Metro LA (WBMLA)






Women Build Metro LA is a culmination of community advocates, stake holders and decision makers, including private and public sectors. Together we are committed to increasing the ranks of qualified women candidates for apprenticeship and placement with all Trades. With our partners and stake holders, including our Woman Build Metro LA Committee, we are passionate about increasing female participation, given that women currently make up less than 3% of the construction trade workforce. We are proud to educate and support women in construction under Metro's Project Labor Agreement and Construction Careers Policy.

Female Participation Score Card

SEPTEMBER 2024

The Metro Board voted to create a score card system to highlight those contractors who meet and exceed the Executive Order 11246 female participation goal of 6.9% on Metro construction projects.

| ACTIVE PROJECTS | PRIME CONTRACTOR | GRADE | % |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Harbor Gateway Transit Center Electric Bus Charging | Pro-Cal Electric | A | 7.42% |
| Rail to Rail Active Transportation Corridor | Griffith Company | A | 6.96% |
| Division 20 Portal Widening Turnback | Tutor Perini Corp | B | 6.53% |
| Crenshaw/LAX K-Line Paving and Improvement Project | Griffith Company | B | 4.83% |
| Airport Metro Connector Transit Station | Tutor Perini Corp | C | 4.46% |
| Crenshaw/LAX Construction Punch-out List | Griffith Company | C | 4.34% |
| Division 20 TPSS (PWT 2) | C3M Powersystems | C | 4.14% |
| Westside Subway Extension Project, Section 1 – Design Build | Skanska, Traylor, Shea, JV | C | 4.06% |
| Regional Connector Transit Corridor Design/Build | Regional Connector Constructors, JV | C | 4.04% |
| Purple Line Extension, Section 3 – Tunnel Project D/B | Frontier Kemper/Tutor Pernin, JV | C | 3.71% |
| Purple Line Extension, Section 3 – Stations Project D/B | Tutor Perini/ O&G, JV | C | 3.28% |
| WPLE Section 3 Project VA Parking Structure | Swinerton | D | 2.87% |
| Westside Purple Line Extension Project, Section 2 – Design Build | Tutor Perini/ O&G, JV | D | 2.49% |
| I-605 South Street Off Ramp Improvements | Powell Constructors, Inc | F | 0.16% |
| Division 2 Bus Maintenance Steam Bay Facility Improvements | Simgel Co, Inc. | F | 0.00% |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
|  A 6.9% and above |  B 4.6% to 6.89% |  C 3.1% to 4.59% |
|  D 1.6% to 3.09% |  F 0% to 1.59% | |

To view the Score Card detail summary, visit metro.net/pla.

Current PLA/CCP Project Attainments

| TARGETED WORKER ACTIVITY BY ACTIVE PROJECT (CUMULATIVE) | % PROJECT COMPLETE | PLA/CCP | | | % OF DISADV WORKERS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM CATEGORY |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---|
| | | GOAL 40% ECON DISADV | GOAL 20% APPRENTICE | GOAL 10% DISADV | |
| Regional Connector Transit Corridor Design/Build | 99.88% | 62.87% | 20.21% | 10.78% | 72.70% |
| Westside Subway Extension Project, Section 1 – Design/Build | 88.19% | 63.34% | 20.14% | 11.36% | 83.05% |
| Westside Purple Line Extension Project, Section 2 – Design Build | 84.48% | 43.15% | 20.26% | 10.24% | 45.78% |
| Purple Line Extension, Section 3 – Tunnel Project D/B | 96.86% | 43.43% | 20.48% | 11.32% | 45.04% |
| Purple Line Extension, Section 3 – Stations Project D/B | 51.49% | 62.10% | 16.81% | 7.51% | 77.85% |
| Purple Line Extension, Section 3 – Project VA Parking Structure | 20.39% | 55.48% | 19.99% | 11.06% | 0.00% |
| Division 20 Portal Widening Turnback | 90.46% | 48.81% | 20.34% | 14.21% | 36.52% |
| Division 20 TPSS (PWT 2) | 80.73% | 41.38% | 33.64% | 24.99% | 75.06% |
| Rail to Rail Active Transportation Corridor | 70.33% | 62.57% | 22.05% | 11.67% | 38.89% |
| Airport Metro Connector Transit Station | 87.04% | 48.44% | 22.03% | 9.44% | 59.93% |
| Crenshaw/LAX Construction Punch Out Work | 98.72% | 41.48% | 20.37% | 12.73% | 91.06% |
| Harbor Gateway Transit Center Electric Bus Charging Station | 61.61% | 67.68% | 33.64% | 16.17% | 48.40% |
| Crenshaw/LAX K-Line Paving and Improvement Project | 5.68% | 39.73% | 6.57% | 4.83% | 0.00% |
| Division 2 Bus Maintenance Steam Bay Facility Improvements | 32.47% | 93.81% | 6.75% | 26.44% | 0.00% |
| I-605 South Street Off Ramp Improvements | 11.34% | 16.96% | 9.80% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

Project % completion is based on projected work hours as provided by the prime contractors.

Data through September 2024

Current Projects Executive Order 11246 Attainments

| ACTIVE PROJECTS SUBJECT TO METRO'S PLA/CCP | AFRICAN AMERICAN | ASIAN | CAUCASIAN | HISPANIC | NATIVE AMERICAN | OTHER/ NOT SPECIFIED | GOAL 28.30% MINORITY | GOAL 6.90% FEMALE |
|---|------------------|-------|-----------|----------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Regional Connector Transit Corridor Design/Build | 5.04% | 0.87% | 19.85% | 66.96% | 0.77% | 6.51% | 73.64% | 4.04% |
| Westside Subway Extension Project, Section 1 – D/B | 6.83% | 1.56% | 18.31% | 64.16% | 0.65% | 8.48% | 73.20% | 4.06% |
| Westside Purple Line Extension Project, Section 2 – D/B | 5.10% | 1.37% | 19.49% | 67.08% | 1.01% | 5.95% | 74.56% | 2.49% |
| Purple Line Extension Project, Section 3 – Tunnel Project D/B | 7.53% | 1.11% | 23.00% | 60.30% | 0.68% | 7.38% | 69.62% | 3.71% |
| Purple Line Extension Project, Section 3 – Stations Project D/B | 6.11% | 1.73% | 19.05% | 70.10% | 0.24% | 2.78% | 78.18% | 3.28% |
| Purple Line Extension Project, Section 3 – VA Parking Structure | 0.67% | 4.82% | 3.11% | 52.42% | 0.09% | 38.88% | 58.00% | 2.87% |
| Division 20 Portal Widening Turnback | 4.52% | 2.45% | 17.20% | 66.16% | 1.33% | 8.34% | 74.46% | 6.53% |
| Division 20 TPSS (PWT 2) | 17.93% | 0.09% | 26.81% | 50.43% | 0.00% | 4.75% | 68.45% | 4.14% |
| Rail to Rail Active Transportation Corridor | 1.47% | 2.01% | 9.84% | 44.47% | 0.31% | 41.90% | 48.26% | 6.96% |
| Airport Metro Connector Transit Station | 2.89% | 1.16% | 14.05% | 69.57% | 0.92% | 11.41% | 74.54% | 4.46% |
| Crenshaw/LAX Construction Punch Out Work | 0.84% | 0.31% | 11.14% | 49.64% | 0.00% | 38.07% | 50.79% | 4.34% |
| Harbor Gateway Transit Center Electric Bus Charging Station | 17.28% | 0.28% | 2.48% | 71.04% | 1.46% | 7.45% | 90.06% | 7.42% |
| Crenshaw/LAX K-Line Paving and Improvement Project | 0.00% | 0.00% | 3.02% | 14.10% | 0.00% | 82.88% | 14.10% | 4.83% |
| Division 2 Bus Maintenance Steam Bay Facility Improvements | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 100.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 100.00% | 0.00% |
| I-605 South Street Off Ramp Improvements | 3.14% | 0.94% | 11.05% | 75.98% | 0.00% | 8.88% | 80.06% | 0.16% |

Closed project attainments may be found by visiting Metro's PLA/CCP website at metro.net/pla.

Based on contractors reported data as of September 2024

Metro is building the workforce of tomorrow.

Metro's PLA/CCP facilitates new training and apprenticeship opportunities for workers across the region. These programs also help those who reside in economically disadvantaged areas to find jobs and training opportunities on Metro projects.

Here's a look at just a few of the workers who have found success working on PLA and Measure R projects:



Frances Macias Aguilar

Frances Macias Aguilar is a mother of eight who has a passion for the construction trades. As a member of Laborers Local 300, Frances is certified in lane closures and works on the team that handles traffic control for the Regional Connector Transit Corridor Project in the heavily congested streets of downtown Los Angeles. Frances' job is to close street lanes to traffic throughout the various active construction sites in the city. Francis says joining the laborers has changed her life dramatically, she looks forward to moving up the ladder and bringing more females into this male-dominated field.



Anna Aguirre

Anna Aguirre was born and raised in Downey, CA. She attended Downey High School and worked toward her higher education degree at Rio Hondo College in the field of Merchandising and Marketing. She continued to work in the retail industry for the next 10 years, until she decided to change her career path. Following this decision she attended an outreach event for women in the trades, where she was able to meet staff from Laborers Local 1309. Anna was so fascinated by the opportunities in trades, that she quit her job in retail and started to seek sponsorship opportunities into the Local 1309. With the sponsorship of the Local 1309 she was dispatched to The Griffith Company as a General Laborer, working on the Rail-to-Rail project. For the past two years, she has been working hard on this project and has rose to the level of a 3rd period apprentice. Besides being a General Laborer at The Griffith Company, Anna is a proud mother of one son, age 6. She credits the Local 1309 and Griffith Company for being able to provide a quality life for herself and her son.



Patricia Allen

As a child, Patricia was determined to be different and reject the gender roles that were expected of her. After making some mistakes within the justice system, Patricia decided that she needed to make a positive change in her life. Fourteen years ago, Patricia found the change she was looking for when a friend suggested that she look into a career in construction and encouraged her to register for the Laborers Union Bootcamp, and that's just what she did. While in training, Patricia earned the respect of her female peers and motivated them to push themselves as she had, to overcome the fear of entering a male dominated field and constantly reminded them to work hard because, "You are only as good as your training." Throughout her career in construction, Patricia has been able to provide a comfortable life for herself and her son. Patricia also has the distinction of being the only female miner on the Westside Purple Line Extension Project and hopes that her work will inspire other women to follow in her footsteps.



Sophia Burruel

Sophia Burruel was born and raised in San Pedro, CA. and is dedicated single mother of four, with two sons and two daughters. Sophia's career began working in the medical field at Torrance Memorial, and then moved on to working at a refinery. After giving birth to her fourth child, Sophia realized that she needed a new career path to support her family. Introduced to the building trades by her siblings, she joined Local Union 1309 in 2016, and is now a Journeyman working on Metro's Eastside Access Improvement Project in the Crenshaw District of South Los Angeles. Sophia shared that she has enjoyed working with her sisters and brothers in the Union, while creating a special bond with those around her. More importantly, the working in construction has allowed her to earn a more desirable wage, learn new skills, and provide a good life for her family.



Natalie Cervantes

Natalie Cervantes is a 29-year-old Electrical Inside Wireman who represents Local Union IBEW 11. Natalie has been working on the Purple Line Extension 1 project for the past year and a half. Prior to her career in construction, Natalie was self-employed and struggling to make ends meet. She decided that she wanted to go into the construction industry to have a more stable, well-paying job. Compared to her old career path, she finds that a career in construction is more fulfilling, since she can learn something new every day to keep the job interesting. The need for Natalie to find another career path was also necessary to support her family, since she is a single mother of 4. A career in construction provided her with great benefit that she can take advantage of. There are better working hours, which has allowed her to finish work and still have time to take care of her kids. With better pay, she has been able to consistently provide for her family and make ends meet.



Katherine Cruz

Katherine Cruz wanted a career that didn't keep her behind the desk. She wanted to be challenged, so she "traded in her high heels for steel toed boots". Starting off her construction career as a single mother of four, Katherine joined the Local 300 Laborer's Union and began to work on the Purple Line Extension 1 project as an Apprentice. She then worked her way up to Journeyman to help construct the Regional Connector project. Throughout Katherine's career she has been honored by local, state, and federal officials as she has been groundbreaking in her own right as one of the few women who first began working on these Mega projects. With her determination she was hired as the first female Instructor for Local 300's Laborer's Training School. Today, Katherine is not just a role model to her peers and students, but also to her daughter, Genesis who followed in her footsteps and joined Local 300 Laborer's Union.



Guy Denuccio

Guy is a 1st Period Laborers Apprentice on Metro's Purple Line Extension, Section 1 project. A native of Southern California, Guy enjoys baseball and was a standout athlete in his youth. Before working for Skanska on PLE Section 1, Guy made some regrettable decisions and was incarcerated for nine years. While incarcerated, he vowed to never repeat the same mistakes and promised himself he would get out and begin a life and career his family would be proud of. After being paroled, Guy enrolled in an MC3 training program. After completion, he was given the opportunity to begin working right away. Guy thinks back to his time in the criminal justice system and says, "I'm never going back; this opportunity has given me a chance to change my life and I am proud to be part of building the future of Los Angeles."



Catherine Dillon

Catherine Ann Dillon was born in Lancaster, CA, and was educated through the Saddleback Academy homeschool program. After high school, she worked at a Scout Camp for young adults. While working at the camp, Catherine watched her father welding, and she showed interest. He began to teach her basic welds. From that point, Catherine decided to reach out to Ironworkers Local 433 and register with their Union. Shortly after registering with Local 433, Catherine contacted Skanska, and seeing her potential, they sponsored her into the union. Catherine is now an Eighth Period Apprentice and loves being a part of the team working on Metro's Westside Purple Line Extension Project.



Jenna Dorrough

In 2017, Jenna Dorrough graduated from Women in Non-Traditional Employment Roles' (WINTER) pre-apprenticeship training program as a Carpenter. Since then, Jenna has become certified in OSHA 30, CPR and HAZPOWER training and recounts her story on how she became interested in the building trades. Originally a security guard on a construction project, she was inspired by women on the job site, considering construction is traditionally a male-dominated field. Currently, Jenna is working on Metro's Regional Connector project as a Carpenter where she works every day to gain as much knowledge as possible and ultimately achieve her goal of becoming a crane operator and welder. With her success, Jenna was honored by WINTER this past November 2018 as the Female Craft Worker of the Year.



Darius Douglass

Darius Douglass, a 37-year-old Compton, CA native, began his career in construction after serving in the United States Airforce for 3 years and retiring in rank as an Airman First Class. Through his friends, Darius was introduced to the Helmets to Hardhats Construction Apprentice Readiness Training Program. Due to his training, he was convinced that a career in the building trades would be interesting and exciting, while allowing him to support himself and his family. Five years ago, Darius entered the Pipefitters Local 250 and in 2022, he began to work on Metro's SEED LA School construction project. He shares his love for his work by stating that he built friendships and lifelong connections within his field.



Jermaine Edwards

Jermaine Edwards was born and raised in Southeast Los Angeles. After time in prison, he decided he wanted to turn his life around and begin a career in construction, and found an opportunity to work as a Skill Craft Laborer on the Crenshaw/LAX Transit project. Jermaine remains humble about his current success, and even mentors some of his fellow coworkers who have recently transitioned from the prison system into the workplace.



Eric Falcon

After spending 15 years of incarceration, Eric Falcon vowed to never return to prison. Eric wanted a better life for himself and his family, which led him to attend a pre-apprenticeship training sponsored by Southwest Carpenters Training through the "My Brother's Keeper" program. Upon completion of the program, Eric was hired as a Carpenter (Local 409) on the Westside Purple Line Subway Extension Project, Section 1. A husband and father of three, Eric grew up in the South Los Angeles area, where he continues to reside and raise his family. Eric is grateful for the opportunity that Westside Purple Line team has provided him.



Jessica Flores

Born in East Los Angeles, Jessica attended Eagle Rock High School. Later, Jessica obtained her Welding certificate from Pasadena City College. While working at the Broad Art Museum, Jessica observed the construction work taking place across the street at Metro's Regional Connector project site. Through this interest, Jessica made the courageous decision to begin a career in construction. Jessica registered and completed the Laborers Union Bootcamp construction training program. Upon completion of her rigorous training, she immediately applied for work at the Regional Connector project and was hired by Skanska. Proudly, Jessica is now a Sixth Period Apprentice and loves her new career.



Yurvina Hernandez

Before becoming a Laborer Apprentice, Yurvina Hernandez had never considered going into the field, even though her family owns a construction business and she grew up around the industry. Yurvina's sister-in-law encouraged her to join a construction training program along with her, and Yurvina quickly discovered that she enjoyed the job. She went on to graduate from the boot camp and joined her union, Local 300. Now, Yurvina is a Level 4 Apprentice on the Purple Line Extension Section 3 Tunnels project. Working at the ground level, she inspects segments of the massive tunnel boring machines, and guides crane operators as they lower equipment into the tail track exit shaft, which is the staging area that leads into the underground tunnels. Yurvina would tell anyone considering a career in construction, especially women, "Never be afraid to try something new." After all, that's exactly what she did.



Christina Lara

Christina Lara comes from a construction family; both of her parents retired from Laborers Local 300. Prior to this project, Christina installed industrial water pipelines in Pasadena. In the beginning of 2022, Christina followed in her parents' footsteps and became a Journeyman for Local 300. Shortly afterwards, Christina began to work on her first tunnels project, Metro's Purple Line Extension 3. At this project Christina has learned a lot from her colleagues and was recently promoted to a Miner position, which is an opportunity that few women have. In her position, Christina spends the entirety of her shift working underground as a bottom lander, where it is her responsibility to support the ongoing work in the tunnels by coordinating equipment going back and forth to the surface. So, while her work can be exhausting, it is also rewarding. "At the end of the day, you feel like you've had a purpose" she explains, "You've been successful in achieving something."



Dezdon Lewis

Dezdon Lewis was recently awarded the prestigious "Participant of the Year" award from Playa Vista Jobs (PV Jobs) and a Certificate of Recognition from Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard. After being incarcerated for a number of years, Dezdon knew it was time to make a change and teamed up with PV Jobs, who helped him get a job placement within the building trades on Metro's Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor project. For Dezdon, what began as an entry-level ditch digging position has transitioned into a role of leadership and responsibility, where he is now an Inspector in Charge of Segment Eight Health, Safety and Environment on the project. Dezdon recounts his journey from his time in the criminal justice system to his new leadership role, and actively encourages former inmates to "look above" their situations, create life goals and stick to them.



Belia Lopez

Belia has always taken a nontraditional approach to life. Since her youth, she has always enjoyed working with her hands and was always fascinated with figuring out how things work. After working in autobody shops for over five years, Belia decided it was time to make a change. The construction industry seemed like a natural transition and she enrolled in an MC3 training program. Belia is currently a 1st Period Apprentice with IBEW Local 11 and is working as an electrician on Metro's Purple Line Extension, Section 1 project. Belia states that she has enjoyed every aspect of the challenges she has faced in the construction industry and looks forward to continuing her personal growth and development in the trades.



John Mackey

John Mackey works on the Regional Connector project in downtown Los Angeles. Although he struggled with finding a job, he says his new position changed his life dramatically and has allowed him to successfully save money, and he plans to start his own business. Due to this job, he is no longer living at the LA Mission on Skid Row and has moved to a transitional living home. John compared his new job on the Regional Connector project to "winning the lottery."



Marelly Mendoza

Marelly Mendoza is a single mother of four and native of Los Angeles, California. A few years ago, she was introduced to construction by family and found her calling in the building trades. Since then, she has completed the Laborer's Training Academy and began her career in the trades as Laborer with Local 300. Marelly's journey in the trades has led her to work on mega projects, including Metro's Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor and most recently, Metro's Purple Line Extension, Section 2.



Samantha Miramontes

Samantha Miramontes started as a "top lander" on the project. That means she helped to organize all of the supplies that needed to be sent to the miners underground. Over the past year-and-a-half, she has been promoted to Lead and now Surface Foreman, overseeing all of the heavy equipment and materials going down to the tunnels. Samantha has been a member of Laborers' Local 300 since 2015 and worked on major infrastructure projects throughout Los Angeles. She credits the strong leadership and communication on her teams for supporting her career. The job requires her to constantly grow and continue asking questions. Working in construction, Samantha believes, has helped to build her character and instill self-respect. She may work on the surface, but the job is much deeper than that.



Ricshawn Moore

Growing up, Ricshawn Moore faced all of the challenges many of our young men face in today's communities. Raised by a hardworking mother in Compton after his father passed away when Ricshawn was just two, he spent too much time on the streets as a teen and ended up struggling with gangs. Ricshawn kept an open mind, worked hard and today is earning a living as a union-scale laborer on the much-anticipated Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor Project.



Cynthia Piña

Cynthia Piña grew up in Rosemead, CA, and moved to Watts 10 years ago. During her time in Watts, she became involved with the wrong crowd and moved in and out of the justice system. As a mother of two, she was determined to turn her life around. She enrolled herself in a pre-apprenticeship program and upon completion was hired as a Laborer (Local 300) on the Westside Purple Line Subway Extension Project, Section 1. Through hard work and dedication, Cynthia now is a 4th Period Apprentice, continually learning new skills and progressing in her trade.



Lance Reed

Raised in Whittier, California, Lance Reed began his career in construction when a representative from the Laborers' Union visited the prison where he was incarcerated. The union offered a training program to help prepare individuals to apply for jobs in the industry, and Lance saw this as a chance to set himself up for success after his release. Lance was eventually hired by Valverde Construction, and today he is a General Superintendent. He manages field operations for Valverde Construction on Sections 2 and 3, where he mostly works underground, relocating and installing utility lines. Lance is proud of the work he does and looks forward to the project's completion, when he can visit the finished stations with his children and grandchildren to show them what he helped build. "If you never give up and continue working hard," Lance says, "anything can be done."



Rhonda Rodriguez

When asked why Rhonda Rodriguez chose to being her career in construction, she responded, "well, I had some challenges in my past that did not afford me to find a career that would allow me to feel fulfilled and sustained, so I decided to make a bad situation into a positive one". Now, the only female Foreman on Metro's SEED LA School project, Rhonda is calling the shots. Reigning from the San Gabriel Valley and standing a whopping 4' 11³/₄", Rhonda attended the construction pre-apprentice training school offered at Cerritos college and then joined the Iron Workers Union Local 433. Completing her apprenticeship, and graduating to Journey level, Rhonda had proven to her superintendent that she may be "small in stature, but big in performance and personality", and was promoted to foreman on the SEED LA School project. At her project site she is a well-respected team member and continues to enjoy and excel in her knowledge of her craft and promotes other women to enter the building trades as their next career path.



Petra Sanchez

Petra Sanchez is a single mother of two and a former Jobs Coordinator for Women in Non-Traditional Employment Roles, (WINTER). When her role with WINTER came to an end, Petra decided that she would pursue the very same path she had been leading other women to pursue in WINTER's pre-apprenticeship training program. Since completing her training, Petra has been working on Metro's Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor project as an Operating Engineer. Petra states that this new opportunity has provided the stability and flexibility that she was looking for and she is thrilled to be part of the city's transportation future.



Kimberly Taylor

Kimberly Taylor is a veteran of the construction industry. Seven years ago she decided that she wanted to be part of something more challenging, both mentally and physically; and she decided that construction was the career for her. Today, Kimberly is working on Metro's Westside Purple Line Extension Project as a Gas Detection Technician. Kimberly plays a vital role not only ensuring the safety of her fellow workers on this project but also keeping the project on schedule. She is proud of the work she does and the impact that women like her have made in this industry.



Jason Thomas

After spending some time in prison, Jason Thomas attended a pre-apprenticeship boot camp sponsored by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor/LAOC Building Trades, Los Angeles Trade Technical College and ARC. The day after his graduation, Jason interviewed with Walsh Shea Corridor Constructors, and now is working on the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor project, as an Operating Engineer (Local 12).



Melinda Thomas

Melinda Thomas is from Los Angeles, California and started her career in construction with the Local 300 Laborers' Union. She is currently a General Laborer for the Purple Line Extension Section 1 Project. For the past 7 years she has worked on the PLE1 construction site, to improve Los Angeles' public transportation infrastructure. Melinda manages a variety of duties, mainly at the entrance of the PLE1 site. There, she works as a traffic control flagger that allows worksite vehicles to enter/exit the construction site in a manner that doesn't create a traffic hazard. In addition, it is her responsibility to keep the construction site secure by monitoring and verifying that only authorized individuals are accessing the construction site. Lastly, she directs where the supplies go within the construction site, to keep the project area safe, and organized for all her fellow laborers.



Angel Valles

Angel Valles is relatively new to the construction industry having only entered the "My Brother's Keeper" program for construction pre-apprentice training last year. Since then, Angel has relished the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to have an impactful and lasting career in the industry as a Carpenter. For the past seven months, she has been working as a 1st Period Apprentice on Metro's Regional Connector Transit Corridor project. When asked what triggered her interest in the trades, Angel responded, "I wanted a physically demanding career that would allow me to use my hands and teach me the skills I need to become a better carpenter."



Lorrie Williams

Lorrie is a 3rd Period Apprentice from the Pile Drivers/Carpenters Union working on the Regional Connector project. Lorrie started her career in the trades later than most, having spent many years working in refineries as fire-watch and performing other related tasks. Lorrie decided that she wanted to know more about the construction industry and work in something more hands on, which led her to join the trades. After completing the Maxine Waters MC3 program, Lorrie attended an event where she met representatives from Skanska, the prime contractor for the Regional Connector project. Lorrie found that safety is a big area of interest for her and hopes to work in safety coordination one day. Currently, she holds eight OSHA certificates and is working on obtaining the Construction Health and Safety Technician (CHST) certificate. Lorrie wakes up happy to go to work and loves that she can be a part of history by shaping the LA landscape for future generations.



Whitney Winans

Whitney Winans, a determined 25-year-old from Compton, CA, who now resides in South Los Angeles, does not let anything stand in the way of her success. As a participant of the Southwest Carpenters Training through the “My Brother’s Keeper” program, Whitney is now a 1st Period Apprentice working on the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor Project. Whitney encourages other young women to consider a career in construction.



Marvin Wong

Marvin Wong started his career in construction in 2016, after serving as a United States Marine from 2003 to 2007. Once Marvin left the service and returned home, he fell into trouble and faced some legal issues, resulting in him serving time in prison. After his release, Marvin resided at the VA transitional housing, and wanted to change his life and get back on track. At the VA, Marvin was referred to a construction pre-apprenticeship program with Career Expansions, Inc. After graduating from the program, he was later sent to the Westside Purple Line Project 1 project and was hired as a First Period Apprentice. Through his newfound employment, Marvin has risen through the ranks quickly and will soon be at a Journey level. Marvin’s success has afforded him to gain a stable lifestyle and the opportunity to purchase his first home. Today, Marvin speaks to other veterans about the construction industry and how the benefits can change their lives as it has done for him.

Pilot Local Hire Initiatives

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has announced an initiative to permit FTA recipients and subrecipients to utilize geographic, economic, or other hiring preferences on FTA-Funded construction projects. This initiative will be carried out as a pilot program for a period of four years (unless extended) under authority provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, the Federal grants management regulation, and a recent Office of Management and Budget Memorandum (March 19, 2021).

The new Pilot Local Hire Initiative enables Metro to implement local hiring requirements on United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) contract opportunities advertised during the four-year pilot period of May 21, 2021 through May 21, 2025.

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