

ON SITE

Volume 2 Number 1

Playa Vista Job Opportunities and Business Services

Spring 2001

Message from the Executive Director



Ernest Roberts
Executive Director,
PVJOBS

Construction activities at Playa Vista are rapidly increasing. As a result, we expect significant increases in job placements at Playa Vista during the spring quarter.

Through our recent launch of PVJOBS+, we are adding even more opportunities for our job candidates.

Thanks to this new expanded job program, there have been many positive results from our outreach to local businesses and agencies.

What's more, the Workforce Investment Board recently recommended that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approve our proposal to become a new mini one-stop center, enabling us to provide supportive services and additional job placement opportunities for the local at-risk community.

We also recently completed our annual report, which assesses results from our work during the year 2000. Our assessment reveals that we accomplished a 10.3% overall compliance rate from Playa Vista contractors, which are required to maintain a minimum 10% hiring commitment through PVJOBS. We also secured a 95% candidate retention rate (for all candidates referred to work), and an 89.7% success rate (candidates who have completed 500 work hours). Our job program's first graduate is Allah Watkins, who completed 3,000 work hours. Congratulations, Allah!

PVJOBS Employment Update

These are exciting times for PVJOBS, as Playa Vista prepares for a significant surge in building activities. Already under construction are the first 409 units of the Fountain Park Apartments. The second level of underground parking is nearing completion, with vertical construction expected to begin by April. Phase Two of the Fountain Park Apartments, which comprises an additional 300 units, also has begun construction, and excavation for underground parking for residential units south of Jefferson should begin shortly. Grading and surcharging activities continue in the campus area for commercial builders, who anticipate that construction will start soon. The construction of the freshwater marsh also has begun, and roadway improvements are currently underway.

Employment opportunities for PVJOBS candidates will increase as construction activities continue to intensify at Playa Vista. We have estimated that 65 to 75 positions at Playa Vista will be available through PVJOBS during the second quarter of 2001, while an additional 20 to 40 jobs will be offered through PVJOBS+, our new expanded job program. As of early March, 757 candidates were in our database waiting for an initial referral. However, we still need more job candidates who specialize in specific trade areas. The chart to the right lists can-

Construction Trade	Number in Database
Carpenters	386
Flooring/Carpet Layers	24
Concrete Masons/Finishers	34
Electricians*	20
Iron Workers	52
Laborers	366
Tile/Marble/Brick Masons	171
Operating Engineers*	6
Painters	145
Plasterers	37
Plumbers	137
Roofers	75
Sheet Metal Workers*	10

*Trades Specifically Needed

didate numbers by general construction trades. The asterisks signify trades that are especially needed. We encourage candidates to consider these trades for possible careers.

The PVJOBS selection criteria are based on the candidate's geographical area of residence and the number of at-risk factors present at the time of application. For more information, please call us at (310) 448-4684.

PVJOBS Board Tours New Playa Vista Visitor Center

PVJOBS board members recently participated in a walking tour of Playa Vista's Visitor Center, which will open to the public this fall. Pictured are (left to right): Richard Tamura, marketing director for Playa Vista; and PVJOBS board members Brad Carson, Timothy Shannon, Ernest Roberts and Challis MacPherson.



Playa Vista Job Opportunities and Business Services

Page 2
Employee Profiles

Page 3
CBO Partner Profile

Page 4
Community Partners

PVJOBS at Work

Ralph Garcia Life's Been Good Lately

Since landing a job as a laborer at the Playa Vista construction site last January, life has been going pretty well for Ralph Garcia, 45. "Actually, life has been going almost too well," said Garcia. "Things haven't been going this good for me in a long time."

One of the main reasons why things hadn't gone so well earlier in Garcia's life was because of his longtime struggle with alcoholism. While he spent most of his career working in a number of construction jobs, Garcia always found it difficult keeping work because of his drinking problem. "As soon as I'd get a construction job that I really liked, I'd end up losing it after I'd start drinking again," he said.

Garcia, who grew up in a tight-knit family in Los Angeles, learned at an early age that he wanted to work in construction by watching his father, a veteran construction worker. Although Garcia didn't finish high school, he easily found construction work through his father's connections.



Ralph Garcia

At 27, Garcia's life turned upside down when his twin sister, Josie, suddenly died from complications associated with childbirth. Devastated by her death, Garcia turned to alcohol to numb his pain. As his drinking grew out of control, so did his career. "I tried to find the easy way out by drinking," said Garcia. "There were many days that I couldn't go to work because I was drinking so much."

His drinking also led to problems with the law. Garcia was sentenced to jail several times for a wide range of drinking-related offenses – from driving with open containers to DUIs. In addition to serving jail time, Garcia was ordered to check into nearly a dozen detoxification centers over the past 15 years.

During his stay at a treatment center last year, Garcia spotted an issue of the On Site Newsletter that was posted on the center's bulletin board. After reading about PVJOBS, he contacted the **Marina del Rey One Stop Center**, a construction-training partner listed in the newsletter.

After enrolling in the one-stop center, Garcia made a personal commitment to stop drinking "because I was tired of not getting anywhere in life," he said. "This is the first time in almost 20 years that I've been sober for a whole year." PVJOBS is working closely with Garcia to ensure that he continues his successful recovery from alcoholism. "Through our network of 40 community-based organizations, we're making sure that Ralph receives all the supportive services he needs to succeed this time," said PVJOBS Executive Director Ernest Roberts.

Last month, **Morley Construction** hired Garcia to work at the Playa Vista construction site, and he couldn't be happier. "I'm so enthusiastic about my job that I show up at the construction site every morning one hour before work starts," admits Garcia.

Robert Kishlansky Finding A Real Future

Robert Kishlansky seemed like the last guy you'd expect to have a hard time finding a good job. A UCLA graduate with a degree in electrical engineering, Kishlansky, 42, possesses a resume that boasts employment by some of the strongest companies in the aerospace industry. But since the early '90s, Kishlansky found himself in and out of jobs due to lay offs and an ever-changing job market.

His fortune changed last year after the unemployed Kishlansky signed up with PVJOBS in hopes of venturing into an electrical career at the Playa Vista construction site. Today, as an apprentice electrician at Playa Vista, Kishlansky has found a real future in his new career, making his frustrating years with the job market seem like a distant memory. "Life is much more satisfying when you're working because your mind is focused," he said.



Robert Kishlansky

Reared in a close family in Los Angeles, Kishlansky began having dreams of becoming an engineer while attending Westchester High School. Soon after graduating from college, Kishlansky's career dreams materialized when he was hired to work as an electrical engineer at aerospace company giant Rockwell International. His hard work eventually led to better positions at Douglas Aircraft Company and McDonnell Douglas Space Company. However, in 1992, the aerospace industry began experiencing financial troubles due to significant cuts in federal government defense spending. A casualty of the aerospace industry's subsequent downsizing phenomenon, Kishlansky unexpectedly found himself unemployed for the first time in his career.

Hoping to take advantage of the booming computer industry, Kishlansky enrolled in UCLA Extension to study computers, and within a year, he earned a certificate in computer networks. "But I felt like I had no future in the computer business because I didn't have enough expertise to get me to the next level."

Shortly after leaving the computer industry, he attended a business expo at Loyola Marymount University, where he met representatives from Playa Vista. "Since I was unemployed, they encouraged me to enroll in the PVJOBS program," he said. Once he met with PVJOBS and learned about Playa Vista's need for electricians, Kishlansky decided to capitalize on his experience as an electrical engineer by pursuing a new career as an electrician. While enrolled in a job placement program offered by **Community Centers Inc.**, he passed the electrician's exam, and was soon hired by **Apollo Electric**, a Playa Vista contractor.

"Playa Vista has provided me with a good opportunity for future growth," said Kishlansky. "It feels much better working in a job where you're doing what you really want to do."

A Talk with Save Our Future's Charlotte Austin-Jordan

Community activist Charlotte Austin-Jordan is the founder of **Save Our Future**, a South Central Los Angeles nonprofit organization aimed at curbing crime and gang violence by providing job training and employment opportunities to the local at-risk community. Austin-Jordan created the organization after two of her children were mistakenly killed by gang violence on the streets of Los Angeles. In response to a sharp increase in crime in the local community, Austin-Jordan has dedicated her life to the reduction and prevention of youth violence in Los Angeles.

Austin-Jordan's courageous story has caught the attention of the nation. She was recently selected as a recipient of the prestigious Essence Award.

Save Our Future has launched two new projects – Ja'Mee's House and Corey's Youth Services – each named in honor of Austin-Jordan's lost children. Incorporating well-established programs and workshops, both projects focus on the rehabilitation of youth offenders and giving young people alternative choices to a life of crime.

In 1998, Save Our Future became a community partner of PVJOBS to provide job opportunities for those in need. Inspired by her unshakable commitment to her community, PVJOBS recently sat down with Austin-Jordan to learn about her organization and the people that she so passionately serves.



Charlotte Austin-Jordan

PVJOBS: What specific services does Save Our Future provide the at-risk community?

Austin-Jordan: Save Our Future is a full-service center that reaches all corners of the community. One of our main services is providing job opportunities and training for those who desperately need work. We have an ex-offender program to train them for employment, and we offer self-esteem and



Save Our Future's Charlotte Austin-Jordan discusses her current projects with PVJOBS Executive Director Ernest Roberts.

life skills management workshops to mentally prepare people before they enter the job market. We also provide childcare services for welfare-to-work parents, computer-training classes for families, and after-school and tutorial programs for youth.

PVJOBS: It sounds like Save Our Future has provided the community with a tremendous level of services in such a short time.

Austin-Jordan: To provide the programs to the level that we have since we opened our doors is incredible! We're also proud that we were recently approved to become an accredited charter high school.

PVJOBS: Since you do so much for the community, what kind of responses have you received?

Austin-Jordan: Everyone in the community trusts us. They know we're here because we want to be here. My husband and I gave up the comfort of a paycheck to have the courage of following our dreams to impact the community.

PVJOBS: Are you seeing concrete results from your efforts?

Austin-Jordan: Many people have gotten jobs because we've helped them get the skills they needed. We've been able to do this because we've found wonderful resources to provide the best services for our community.

PVJOBS: What principles do you try to instill in the people who come to Save Our Future?

Austin-Jordan: Many people who come here have been influenced to be criminally minded. So we teach them how not to take things without giving back. We help them learn about the importance of a fair exchange – giving, and then taking. This mindset leads people to start supporting themselves instead of looking for others to support them.

PVJOBS: What do you think are the major challenges facing the at-risk community?

Austin-Jordan: Some of the problems are obvious, such as the prevalent use of drugs and the high crime rate. But if you look deeper, the real problem is that many of these people lack self-respect and have lost human compassion. One of the major reasons why this happens is because of the lack of jobs in our community. Our men have pride, but if they can't earn money through jobs, they'll create negative ways of getting it, like turning to crime. We can decide to become their victims or friends.

PVJOBS: How has PVJOBS contributed to Save Our Future?

Austin-Jordan: PVJOBS has given our community a lot of hope. People come here because they heard about Playa Vista and they know that the jobs there are real. PVJOBS has let them see that there is a real alternative and solution to their problems, so they're willing to help themselves.

PVJOBS COMMUNITY PARTNERS

LAUSD APPRENTICE PREPARATION PROGRAMS *(open to all)*

African American Unity Center (Mr. Hammond) (323) 789-5656
 Los Angeles Technology Center (Mr. Wilcox, x236) (323) 732-0153

ONE STOP CENTERS

(adults, geographical or other restrictions may apply)

Beach Cities One Stop (Ms. Fisher, x3549) (310) 318-0645
 Community Centers One Stop (Mr. Ruvalcaba) (323) 752-2115
 Marina Del Rey One Stop (Ms. Waters, x212) (310)-309-6000
 Urban League One Stop (Mr. Parham) (323) 732-7867
 Wilshire-Koreatown One Stop (Mr. Richard) (213) 736-8567
 WLCAC One Stop (Mr. Williams) (323) 732-7867

YOUTH AND ADULT PROGRAMS

(geographical or other restrictions may apply)

CCTP (Ms. Aguilar) (310) 673-3941
 Community Build (Mr. Bektamba) (323) 789-9950
 Chrysalis, Santa Monica (Ms. Zepeda) (310) 392-4117
 Chrysalis/New Directions (Vets, Ms. Slayton) (310) 914-4045
 Communities in Schools (Mr. Leija) (818) 891-9399
 Jobs for a Future/Homeboy Inds. (Mr. Prieto) (323) 526-1254
 Joint Efforts Inc. (Mr. Brookes, x116) (310) 831-2358
 Housing Authority of L.A. (Mr. Smith) (213) 252-1810
 IAM Cares, Compton (Disabled, Ms. Mitchell) (310) 631-9606
 IAM Cares, L.A. (Disabled, Ms. Gray) (323) 584-9453
 LA Vets (Vets only, Ms. Harris) (310) 348-7600

YOUTH AND ADULT PROGRAMS (continued)

Mar Vista Family Center (Ms. Diaz) (310) 390-9607
 NO GUNS (Ex-gang affiliated, Mr. Marroquin) (310) 672-9348
 Radio Sin Fronteras (Mr. Sarabia) (213) 250-3319
 S.M. Barrios Unidos (Mr. Lares) (310) 453-9492
 Save Our Future (Mr. & Mrs. Jordan) (323) 291-6623
 SC PWI/SCRS (Ms. Ziegler) (310) 345-5713
 Union Rescue Mission (Mr. Hopkins) (213) 347-6300
 Unity One (Ex-gang affiliated, Mr. Taylor) (213) 963-5843
 The WorkPlace (Parolees, Mr. Portillo) (213) 386-3055

YOUTH PROGRAMS *(restrictions may apply)*

Boyle Heights Y.O.M. (Mr. Burks) (323) 260-4796
 CCEO YouthBuild (Mr. Delgado) (310) 225-3060
 Covenant House of California (Mr. Aranda) (323) 957-7455
 Goals for Life (Mr. Berry) (562) 698-1501
 Kulick Youth Opportunities (Ms. Minor) (323) 789-2773
 LA Youth at Work (Ms. Chaipen) (213) 847-1584
 PACE/SIPA YouthBuild (Mr. Leonares) (213) 580-0020
 Peacekeeper ARK (Ms. Adams) (310) 276-9046
 United Friends of the Children (Mr. Ruge) (310) 410-2565
 VCHC YouthBuild (Ms. Murphy, x117) (310) 399-4100
 Walden House Inc. (Mr. Medina) (213) 763-6238
 YES YouthBuild (Mr. Drew) (323) 567-0091

For more information, call PVJOBS at (310) 448-4684.



Playa Vista Job Opportunities and Business Services

12555 W. Jefferson Boulevard
 Suite 300
 Los Angeles, CA 90066

BULK RATE
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 KES MAIL

