

# On Site

Playa Vista Job Opportunities and Business Services

Volume 8 Number 3 ■ Fall 2007

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ernest Roberts  
Executive Director, PVJOBS

The United Way of Greater Los Angeles recently awarded a grant to PVJOBS. We are most grateful for their generous support. However, the more important aspect of the relationship between the United Way and PVJOBS is our shared concern for issues of poverty in our communities.

It may be difficult to draw a causal relationship between poverty and crime, but their correlation is unmistakable. Virtually all statistical research clearly demonstrates a very high correlation between poverty and crime. If we want our communities safer, we must reduce the incidence of illegal activity in our communities. And, because poverty is so highly correlated with crime, it seems that reducing poverty is an excellent starting point to creating safer neighborhoods for all of us.

Our partnership with United Way is of great value to us. We share a vision of what could be in Los Angeles, and we are both working toward the same end. As such, we are in full support of United Way's Pathways Out Of Poverty Initiative. I encourage everyone to support the initiative and, more importantly, to get involved. (Please visit [www.unitedwayla.org](http://www.unitedwayla.org).) It is our collective future that is at stake.

## PVJOBS Employment Update

**P**VJOBS is looking for a few good women! The Department of Labor has contracted with PVJOBS to assist women in entering construction apprenticeships. We are looking for women who have an interest and aptitude for work in construction. Those with little or no experience will be asked to complete an eight-week apprentice preparation course that will

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The PVJOBS office headquarters has moved! Please make note of our new address as well as our new telephone and fax numbers, which are listed below. And feel free to stop by when you're in the area.

Also, please join us at our Grand Opening Reception! You can take a tour of our office and meet our staff. Plus, refreshments will be available. Everyone is invited, so we hope to see you there!

### PVJOBS GRAND OPENING RECEPTION

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

### PVJOBS

9100 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 200

Los Angeles, CA 90045

(310) 590-1385-phone

(310) 590-1993-fax



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PVJOBS At Work:  
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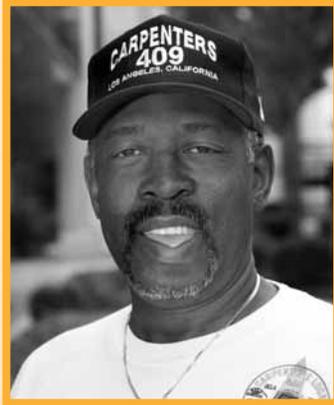
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Community Partners

# PVJOBS At Work

## WALKER MELSON: Doing What's Right

Fifty-four-year old Walker Melson believes one of the best things about being a carpenter is the sense of pride it engenders. "Every time my family drives by a building I worked on, my granddaughter points out, 'My granddad built that,'" he beams. "There's no better joy than knowing you had a part in building something."



Walker Melson

And since the buildings Melson now works on are schools, he gets an even greater satisfaction from his work. Melson works for Axis Construction, a PVJOBS partner that is currently redeveloping a series of schools, including campuses of the Los Angeles Community College District. He's particularly proud of his work at Pierce College, as the District's redevelopment effort saved the campus from being demolished. "Anything you can do to help the younger generation with their education, you're always proud of that," he says.

Melson's recovery from the life he once led is something he's equally proud of. Born the oldest of 12 children in Detroit, Melson helped his parents raise his huge brood of siblings. After graduating from high school and briefly serving in the Marine Corps, he returned to his hometown, where he soon found himself unemployed, tempting him to venture into the dark life of drugs. In an effort to escape the connections that drew him into his drug addiction, he moved to Los Angeles. Although he eventually married and found work at a carpet mill, he served a year in prison in 1992 for cocaine possession.

Determined to get clean, he moved into Sober Living, which not only helped him quit his drug addiction, but also led him to enroll in a carpentry apprenticeship program. He later remarried and landed his first carpentry position for Cove Construction, another PVJOBS partner. When Melson, by then a union member, was laid off seven years later, a co-worker told him about PVJOBS. He quickly applied for the job program, and was soon hired to work for Koam Construction, a District contractor that assigned Melson to work at the Pierce College site.

Melson says that PVJOBS means more to him than earning a paycheck. "PVJOBS led me to help other people like me get work," he says. "And being able to reach back and help others is what I feel in my heart is right."

## PVJOBS Employment Update

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cover the construction basics. After that, they will be placed into an apprenticeship in their trade of choice and will begin earning \$12 to \$14 an hour to start, escalating to \$30 to \$35 per hour at journeyman level. For more information, contact PVJOBS Union Liaison Jeffery Henderson at (310) 590-1217.

Project	Goal	Current Attainment
Playa Vista	10% at-risk	13.7%
LACCD Proposition A&AA Bond	30% local	36%
LACCD Proposition A&AA Bond	6% at-risk	8%

### PVJOBS Overall Performance (as of 9/17/2007)

# Clients Placed	1,396
# Completed 500 hrs.	460
# Positions Filled	2,764
# Completed 3,000 hrs.	99
# Active Clients	5,573

### Notes

- The Operating Engineers will begin their bi-annual acceptance of applications for new apprentices beginning January 9, 2008. Candidates will be notified of the actual test date after applying.

- The Steamfitters and Industrial Pipefitters have scheduled the following dates for accepting applications for the third quarter of 2007: July 3 & 5, August 2 & 7, and September 4 & 6.

For additional information on these and many other available union apprenticeship opportunities, contact Jeffery Henderson at (310) 590-1217.

## BUILDERS & WRECKERS

I watched them tearing a building down,  
A gang of men in a busy town.  
With a ho, heave, ho, and a lusty yell  
They swung a beam and a wall fell.  
I asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled?  
Like the men you'd hire if you had to build?"  
He laughed as he replied, "No, indeed,  
Just common labor is all I need.  
I can easily wreck in a day or two  
What builders have taken years to do."  
I asked myself as I went away  
Which of these roles have I tried to play?  
Am I a builder who works with care,  
Measuring life by rule and square?  
Or am I a wrecker who walks the town  
Content with the labor of tearing down?

# PVJOBS At Work

## CARMEN TIRADO: LACCD Interns Opens Doors

When 21-year-old Carmen Tirado graduated from Hollywood High three years ago, she set her sights on private arts colleges so she could one day pursue her dream career in design. But when she realized her family couldn't afford the tuition fees, she devised a plan. That plan



*Carmen Tirado*

required her to put off an expensive private school and instead attend Los Angeles Community College. Tirado reasoned that she'd earn her associate arts degree there while finding a paid internship program that would give her both work experience and financial support.

"It turns out that the LACCD Interns Program found me instead of me finding them," explains Tirado, who was approached by the PVJOBS staff when they visited the college two years ago to promote the Los Angeles Community College District's paid internship program. DMJM, the project manager for the District's bond program, hired Tirado as an intern just weeks later. What was originally a one-month assignment turned into a yearlong-plus internship.

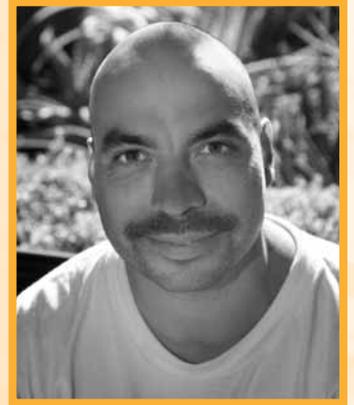
When DMJM lost its contract with the District last year, Tirado thought she'd have to look for work again. But thanks to her experience with the LACCD Interns Program, Bovis Lend Lease, a world renowned project management and construction company, hired her as a full-time graphic design artist.

Although Tirado is still making plans to enroll in a prestigious arts college one day, she no longer concerns herself with how she'll finance it. "The interns program opened doors for me to work and support myself," she says. "I hope the program continues to become more accessible to students because it gives them an opportunity to get experience."

# PVJOBS At Work

## JOSEPH ROYBAL: Better Days Ahead

In many ways, 34-year-old Joseph Roybal has spent the past year experiencing the real world for the very first time. Since landing a laborer position through PVJOBS last summer, Roybal has already become a union member and has made a name for himself as a hard worker for Superior Gunite Construction, a Playa Vista contractor.



*Joseph Roybal*

But just a year ago, Roybal faced life in an entirely different way. He was ending a lengthy term in prison. In fact, he had spent nearly half his life there.

Raised by a single mother in Fontana, Roybal dropped out of junior high school to join a gang. At 19, he was sentenced to a 14-year prison term for his involvement in a gang violence act. "It was the most wasteful time of my life," he remembers.

Then, when life seemed like it couldn't have gotten any worse, it did for Roybal. Within a year of serving his prison term, his older brother was murdered by gang violence and his mother died of cancer. Both tragedies devastated Roybal, but his mother's death hit a particular chord. "When my mother died, I knew someone needed to be there for my three sisters," he says. "So I had to grow up and take responsibility." After reflecting on that pivotal moment, Roybal added, "And to live life."

Armed with that realization, Roybal enrolled in a plumbing trade school in prison while working hard to maintain a good behavior record throughout the rest of his prison term. Soon after his release, Roybal took several odd jobs before a neighbor told him about PVJOBS. During his visit to the job program, the PVJOBS staff helped him enroll in the Laborers Boot Camp, a six-week laborer training program. A month after completing the boot camp, Kahromic Contracting, a PVJOBS partner and contractor for the Los Angeles Community College District, offered him his first job.

Today, Roybal is rebuilding his life, thanks to the job program and a renewed faith in himself. "PVJOBS played a big role in starting me in a good career," he says. "And it's only going to get better."

# PVJOBS Community Partners

## APPRENTICE PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Century Community Training Program (Mary Lou Clinkenbeard) (310) 673-3941  
 Los Angeles Technology Center (Latasha Hawthorne) (323) 732-0153

## WORKSOURCE CENTERS

Career Planning Center Marina Worksource (Nick Gonzalez) (310) 309-6000  
 Career Transition Worksource Center (George Fernandez) (562) 570-3700  
 Chinatown WorkSource Center Chinatown Service Center (Eddie Zhang) (213) 808-1700  
 Community Career Dev.Cntr Wilsh/Metro Worksource (Justina Munoz) (213) 365-9829  
 South LA WorkSource Center Community Centers Inc. (Gale Gilliam) (323) 752-2115  
 Compton Career Link Worksource California Center (Henry Smith) (310) 605-3050  
 Hollywood Worksource of California (Marjorie Gardner) (323) 960-1300  
 Metro North Worksource Center (Anna Zakarian) (323) 223-1211  
 Northeast San Fernando Valley WorkSource Center (Sheila Wright) (818) 890-9400  
 PACE/Westlake Worksource Center (Albert Sy) (213) 353-1677  
 Urban League Adams Baldwin Hills Wrksrce Cntr (Myrna Anguiano) (323) 732-7867  
 Urban League WorkSource Business and Career Center (Annita Wallace) (323) 600-1106  
 WLCAC Southeast LA-Watts Worksource Center (Victor Archaga) (323) 563-5669

## YOUTH AND ADULT PROGRAMS

All People Christian Center (Saundra Bryant) (213) 747-6357  
 Anchor of Hope (Jean Franklin) (310) 766-8337  
 Canaan Housing Corporation (Brenda Evans) (213) 748-0250  
 CCFP/ Meals on Wheels for Children (Sandra Moore) (323) 638-0760  
 ChrysalisSanta Monica (Adelai Whitman) (310) 392-4117  
 Communities in Schools (Roy LaVoise) (818) 891-9399  
 Community Build (Babatu Bektamba) (323) 789-9950  
 CRTD Faithworks (David Richardson) (310) 673-0287  
 DARE U TO CARE (Sabrina Parker) (323) 756-3208  
 Ex-Offender Action Network (Monnie Anderson) (323) 238-0445  
 FAME Renaissance Assistance Corporation (Dwayne Price) (323) 730-8354  
 Gratitude Retreat Foundation (Steven Nelson) (310) 618-9173  
 Homies Unidos, Inc. (Silvia Beltran) (213) 383-7484  
 Housing Authority of LA (Judy Rasheed) (213) 252-1800  
 Human Pontential Consultants, LLC (Deidre Norville) (310) 756-1560  
 Jobs for the Future/Homeboy Industries (Ft. Greg Boyle SJ) (323) 526-1254  
 Joint Efforts Inc. (Matt Davison) (310) 831-2358  
 Korean Churches For Community Development (Hyepin Im) (213) 984-4243  
 LA Family Housing Corporation (Abel Moreno) (818) 982-4091  
 LA Works (Salvador R. Velasquez) (626) 960-3964  
 LACOE (Nathan Auzenne) (213) 744-3168  
 Mar Vista Family Center (Pedro Valenciana) (310) 390-9607

Marriott Foundation Bridges (Tad Asbury) (213) 381-1220  
 Meaning and Purpose (Ted Moore) (323) 296-2553  
 NABSIO Nahaniel (Rashad Ali) (323) 755-6024  
 New Directions (Brigitte Slayton) (310) 914-4045  
 NO GUNS (Hector Marroquin) (310) 901-6570  
 PATH (Jonathan Bennett) (323) 644-2272  
 PATH Achieve Glendale (Catherine Conery) (818) 409-3333  
 Pico Youth & Family Center (Michael Jackson) (310) 396-7101  
 Public Allies of Los Angeles (Ernesto Saldaña) (213) 741-2202  
 Raeverly's Resource Center (Luis Patarroyo) (323) 752-9987  
 Save Our Future (Ken Jordan) (323) 234-0846  
 SCHARP (Denise Shook) (323) 751-3026  
 St. Vincent's Cardinal Manning Center (Chuck Happold) (213) 229-9963  
 Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE) (Samantha Quintero) (213) 745-9961  
 Success in Challenges (Leon Mosely) (562) 423-8111  
 Transitions Network (Eimon M. Raoff) (323) 751-1366  
 Union Rescue Mission (Stephen Mitchell) (213) 347-6300  
 Unity One (Bo Taylor) (213) 963-5843  
 Unity T.H.R.E.E (Shonteze Williams Sr.) (323) 732-0230  
 US VETS (Katherine Gibbs) (310) 348-7600  
 US VETS (Long Beach) (Fernando Godinez) (562) 388-8046  
 Venice 2000 (Melvin Hayward) (310) 823-6100  
 VIP Mentors (Volunteers In Parole, Inc.) (Pal Roman) (626) 450-6250  
 Volunteers of America (Mark Jackson) (213) 689-2179  
 Walden House Inc. (Ralph Mendoza) (310) 412-3702  
 Walden House SASCA Region 111 (Sal Wilson) (213) 741-3720  
 Weingart Center Association (Ronnie Price) (213) 267-9000  
 Youth Rebuild (Victoria Foreman) (310) 600-6201

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

Archdiocesan Youth Employment Services (Robert Gutierrez) (213) 736-5456  
 CCEO Youth Build (Joe Starks) (310) 225-3060  
 Covenant House of California (Lori Koenig) (323) 957-7455  
 Goals For Life (Reggie Berry) (562) 864-6040  
 La Causa Youth Build (Noemi G. Soto) (323) 887-2501  
 Los Angeles Conservation Corps Youth Build (Gabriela Jimenez) (213) 749-3601  
 LA Youth At Work (Sean Jernigan) (213) 580-7505  
 Los Angeles Youth Opportunity Movement - Watts (Adrian Veliz) (323) 971-7640  
 United Friends of the Children (Mindy Raphael) (213) 580-1850  
 Venice Community Housing Corporation Youth Build (Sandy Eiges) (310) 399-4100  
 Youth Oppurtunities Unlited Inc. (James L. Watson) (323) 789-4977

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



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