**Regional Workforce Alliance Meeting**

August 21, 2023

**Zoom link:**[Regional Workforce Alliance - Zoom](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12pysCogvTxWfexZgHhlDETueUy2UTCvP)

**Partners in attendance:**

* Amy Srey, Human Services Administrator, LA County Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)
* Elizabeth Christy, Sustainability Program Manager, USGBC-LA
* Kelly Bernd, Program Manager, Global Inheritance
* Monique Palmera, Institute Coordinator & Media Director, Cal State University Long Beach
* Roberto Alvarez, Assistant Deputy, LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger’s Office
* Angela Gibson, President, Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce (GLAAACC)
* Louisa Ollague, Economic Development Deputy, LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis’ Office
* Caroline Torosis, Economic Development Deputy, LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell’s Office
* Sharon Segado, Senior Manager of Workforce Development, Los Angeles Clean Tech Incubator (LACI)
* Dominique Roberts, Executive Director, She’s Going Places
* Emalynn (Emy) Farrow-German, Program Officer, The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
* Benjamin Torres, Director of Civic Engagement & Community Organizing, CD Tech
* Luis Morales, Coalitions Manager, CD Tech
* Eric Ritz, President, Global Inheritance
* Gary D. Johnson, Sr. Energy Programs Advisor, Southern California Gas Company
* Carrie Hester, Director of Development, USGBC-LA
* Judith Ruiz, Supervisor, Special Programs, Hub Cities Consortium
* Pamela Leo, Workforce Development Assistant Deputy, LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell’s Office
* Kauleen Menard, Director of Regional Green Jobs, Los Angeles Clean Tech Incubator (LACI)
* Veronica Soto, Chief Development Group Special Assistant, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA)
* Sulma Hernández, Director of Policy & Partnerships, South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone (SLATE-Z)
* Ben Feldman, Special Projects, LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis’ Office
* Danna Perry, Senior Marketing Specialist, ICF
* Jessica Melendez, Director of Policy, TRUST South LA
* Timothy Watkins, President & CEO, WLCAC Watts Labor Community Action Committee
* Denise Gutierrez, President & CEO, California Council of Economic Education
* Carla Barrera-Ortiz, Grants Director, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)
* Eric Brach, Associate Dean of Workforce Development, Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD)

**Staff in attendance:**

* Minh Le, General Manager, County of Los Angeles ISD Environmental & Energy Services
* Lujuana Medina, Environmental Initiatives Manager, County of Los Angeles ISD Environmental & Energy Services
* Tessa Charnofsky, Energy and Environmental Services Special Assistant, County of Los Angeles ISD Environmental & Energy Services
* Meishka Mitchell, President and CEO, Emerald Cities Collaborative
* Tabaris Smith, Interim Southern CA Regional Director, Emerald Cities Collaborative
* Shanette Anderson, Southern CA Senior Program Manager, Emerald Cities Collaborative
* Anthony Borunda, Sr. Program Coordinator, Emerald Cities Collaborative
* Joseph Warner, Program Coordinator, Emerald Cities Collaborative
* Ann D’Amato, President, 3D Networks
* Kristi Villegas, Outreach Director, 3D Networks
* Vivian Soto, Outreach Coordinator, 3D Networks

**Meeting Minutes**

1. **Welcome**

a. Minh Le, Energy and Environmental Services General Manager, County of Los Angeles ISD

* + 1. Recognized the importance of the Regional Workforce Alliance Partners and Community Based Organizations
    2. Elaborated on current energy equity concerns
    3. Acknowledged the first-year anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

1. **Icebreaker and Attendee Introductions**
   1. Tessa Charnofsky, Energy and Environmental Services Special Assistant, SoCalREN
      1. Provided an overview of the agenda
      2. Facilitated the icebreaker titled “Best Ways to Conserve Energy”
2. **City of Los Angeles Green Workforce Goals** 
   1. Robert Zardeneta, Senior Manager, Mayor Karen Bass’ Office of Energy and Sustainability
      1. Highlighted success and impact of Green Workforce Initiatives in Los Angeles
         1. Robert is responsible for overseeing the development of the City of LA’s Comprehensive Green Job Strategy
            1. The goal is to create 1,000 Green jobs by 2025
         2. Robert also works on the LA Building Jobs Pilot Program
            1. A workforce development program focused on diverse jobs for workers with all levels of education
         3. Robert is proud to mention there are 63,000 green jobs in LA
      2. Shared Mayor Bass’ Green Workforce Goals
         1. Ensure public funding by expanding the use of project labor agreements
         2. Unite Public and Private sector partners to ensure worker pipelines for city projects
         3. Expand training programs (specifically electric vehicles maintenance training)
      3. Highlighted the strong green workforce ecosystem in LA
         1. LA offers programming with equitable access and early support hinged upon partnerships with schools, community colleges, apprenticeship, and Building Trades Council.
         2. Programs will be designed to scaffold each other and foster partnership rather than competition in the use of federal, state, and local funding
      4. What is a “Green Job?”
         1. Robert noted that all jobs should be green jobs; every job can contribute to sustainability
         2. Pamela Leo, Workforce Development Assistant Deputy, LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell’s Office
            1. Asked how is the City & County collaborating to have a shared definition of what a Green Job is?
         3. Sulma Hernandez, Director of Policy & Partnerships, SLATE-Z
            1. Suggested a different approach to internally categorize green jobs i.e., EWDD
         4. Amy Srey, Human Services Administrator, DEO
            1. Noted that the DEO office is ready to collaborate with the RWA and take the next step
3. **The Role of University Entrepreneurship Programs in Job Creation**
   1. Monique Palmera, Institute Coordinator & Media Director, Cal State University Long Beach
      1. Introduced the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IIE)
         1. The IIE focuses on mentorship, workshops, & Job Creation
         2. Shared on the importance of startups and small businesses
            1. Small Businesses created 66% of all jobs in the past decade
            2. Startups play a key role in job creation
      2. Outlined the IIE Entrepreneurial Journey
         1. Apostle Incubator
            1. A weekly workshop series focuses on ideation and creativity

Free and open to the community

* + - 1. Entrepreneur and Small Business Education Series
         1. A 5-week workshop series that provides insights on how to run and build a small business
      2. Woman-Owned Business Accelerator
         1. Female entrepreneurs receive less support than their male counterparts
         2. Collaborate with the Downtown Long Beach Alliance
      3. Long Beach Accelerator
         1. Targets tech startups to provide them with necessary resources they need to flourish

1. **Open Discussion**
   1. Tessa Charnofsky, Energy and Environmental Services Special Assistant, SoCalREN
      1. **What are you doing currently at your organization that you are especially excited about?**
         1. Elizabeth Christy, Sustainability Program Manager, USGBC-LA
            1. Shared how USGBC-LA just received a Fire Grant which will benefit the community
         2. Kelly Bernd, Program Manager, Global Inheritance
            1. Shared on the opportunities associated with the new programming Global Inheritance developed for the Future Green Leaders Youth Summit
      2. **Which areas of your organization are expanding or evolving?**
         1. Elizabeth Christy, Sustainability Program Manager, USGBC-LA
            1. Excited to expand the Green Building Core training program to focus on youth
         2. Luis Morales, Coalitions Manager, CD Tech
            1. Excited to make tangible contributions and quality impact
      3. Are you noticing **skill gaps** among your current workers and job candidates that need to be addressed? Is there a type of **education**, **training**, **experience**, or **certification** (STEM, social media..) that would be beneficial to address/provide?
         1. Lujuana Medina, Environmental Initiatives Manager, SoCalREN
            1. Reviewed high-level gaps in the community including workforce supply and living-wage
         2. Robert Zardeneta discussed the communication gap in the industry
            1. Educational institutions should establish communication channels with workforce partners to bring awareness about skill gaps
2. **Closing Remarks**
   1. Ann D’Amato, President, 3D Networks
      1. Emphasized the importance of collaboration and communication in the industry on Green Workforce subject matters and opportunities