

PASADENA COMMUNITY JOB CENTER

Written and Edited by Kyle Lee and Apolonia Iezza



IN THIS ISSUE

**NEW WORKER CENTERS
OPENED IN LAS VEGAS
AND EL SALVADOR**

**THEATRICAL PLAY:
CHAMBEANDO**

**INTRODUCING THE
ADMINISTRATION**

**MOVING FORWARD:
LAS NOCHES
CULTURALES**

Beautiful Hands Crafting Beautiful Work



Artwork by: Ramiro Vega

Please support the talent of day laborers by sharing this photo or by donating your time in the workplace!



¡Arriba! Las Vegas Worker Center

In January 2018, the National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON) opened up a new worker center in Las Vegas, dedicated to developing, educating, and empowering worker and migrant communities to take action to defend their rights as workers and migrants. Pictured to the left is the triumphant opening of the center featuring grassroots worker representatives.

The First Ever Worker Center in Latin America

In June 2018, a delegation from NDLON (Pablo Alvarado, Francisco Pacheco, Caleb Soto, Bliss Requa-Trautz, Kyle Lee) travelled to El Salvador to establish the first ever worker center in Latin America. The new center, entitled ACIMITRA - Adelante Centro de Integración para Migrantes y Trabajadores - will facilitate a translocal and transnational movement to uplift the voices of day laborers for economic justice, social and political inclusion, and equality for all day laborers.



Pictured above is the newly-created board of directors for the new worker center. To the left is a press conference that was held on 6/6/18 to feature the opening of ACIMITRA. NDLON is continuing to work with their transnational partners to proceed with the establishment of ACIMITRA.





Theatrical Play: Chambeando

Guests are hurrying inside, bustling to find seats. The crowd gets quieter and quieter. The curtains drape down. The room is settled. And like so, “Chambeando” begins.

The theatre became a fun opportunity for day laborers to amplify their voices in unexpected ways. Eva Bernabel said, “I wasn’t interested in participating at first but once I saw they were using masks and hiding their face, I found it less scary.” Each participant had the chance to sing a song of their choice. Eva chose “Esa Wey No Paga”. The song was about an employer that didn’t give me water, say thank you or even pay me for my cleaning services,” said Eva. “It eventually worked out. Our lawyer Cal helped me get the money but the song was an ode to her,” she laughs.

Performers were empowered by their own ability to captivate an audience. “The theatre filled up, everyone was clapping—even the Americans,” she says smiling. When asked if she would participate again, Eva said, “Yes! It was a beautiful experience.” Mayor of Pasadena Terry Tornek, even made a guest appearance. At the end of the show he thanked the day laborers for their hard work.

Theatre classes will resume in September and many are excited to perform again.

Pictured to the left is Mayor of Pasadena Terry Tornek addressing Job Center co-director Luis Valentan after the success of the play.



Introducing the Administration

Luis Valentan, Co-Director

Luis Valentan immigrated to the United States with the intention of seeking a better life. A day laborer himself for nearly ten years, Luis brings over eight years of experience organizing in the day labor community and worked at IDEPSCA's Day Labor Project before joining NDLO. He has been with us for a year and a half.



Gerardo Santos, Co-Director



Gerardo Santos was raised in a Mexican and Salvadoran home which helped him understand two distinct worlds of struggle, love, dignity and compassion. He mediates between jornaleros and employers to create a safe and just environment for both parties, having done so for a year and a half.

Julieta Aragon, Minimum Wage Coordinator

Julieta Aragon has been a part of the Pasadena community for almost forty years, having been born in Mexico. She has been working at NDLO for three years as the coordinator and director for the minimum wage outreach campaign, which seeks to raise the minimum wage for workers in the Pasadena area.



Kyle Lee, Administrative Coordinator



Kyle Lee is a senior at La Cañada High School and organizer for juvenile justice and labor politics. He has worked at NDLO for four years, helping develop the leadership of the day laborers and producing research on organizing strategies for various campaigns.

Apolonia Iezza, Volunteer Coordinator

Apolonia Iezza is an anthropology and sociology major at Whittier College. More importantly, she is a proud Boliviana and feminist passionate about immigrant rights advocacy. She has been working at the Pasadena Job Center for three months now, formalizing a volunteer sector.



Aurora Grenada, Administrative Volunteer



Aurora Grenada is an advocate of growth through solidarity within the latinx community. She specializes in administrative work as she volunteers as our front desk assistant. She loves nature, animals and most importantly, her daughter Victoria.

Elizabeth Palma, Organizing Volunteer

Elizabeth “Eli” Palma received her B.A. in American Studies and Latinx Studies from Tufts University. During her time as an undergrad she began doing migrant justice organizing to fight for education equity for undocumented students. Community work is what drives her passions and she is grateful to be volunteering at the PCJC.



CONTACT THE STAFF!

500 North Lake Ave
Pasadena, California 91101
Call us at: 626.440.0112

Check out our website at: pasadenajobcenter.com

The Pasadena Job Center is a proud affiliate of the National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON).



Noches Culturales

Starting July 27th at 7 pm, the PCJC is opening its doors to artists and community members who would like to share the space with jornaleros! For one night, every month, the center will host “Noches Culturales” to celebrate talent within our own Pasadena community. Poets, musicians, painters and all other local curators are welcomed to submit their art to be showcased during this special night. It’s a time to commemorate art within our Pasadena community.

Site coordinators Luis and Gerardo believe this event to be necessary in maintaining our community’s sense of culture. More importantly, Luis believes it is a way to recognize the work that goes unnoticed when one does not have the privilege to curate art “professionally”. On this night, artists can display their work and (if they’re interested) have the option to sell their art or teach a workshop. Vendors will also be selling food and drinks.

Noches Culturales will prove itself to be an enriched night of learning and appreciating the art that stems from our diverse Pasadena community. The Job Center is not only a place that connects day laborers with employers. It is a unifying space that connects people from all walks of life. It brings together people with incredible stories; stories that have inspired art, and art that Luis believes is more-than-worth sharing.

