



Discover *The* Difference

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION
OF THE FIGUEROA CORRIDOR PARTNERSHIP
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

SUMMER 2009

JOHN TRACY CLINIC CELEBRATES YEARS OF SERVICE TO CHILDREN

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Starting June 9th, 2009

Dinosaur Encounters

Get close to a living, breathing dinosaur! Fun, educational and interactive, Dinosaur Encounters features NHM's life-size dinosaur puppets. Each presenter focuses on a different topic, including theories on dinosaur behavior, extinction, adaptation, and the relationship between birds and dinosaurs. Dinosaur Encounters is family friendly, and each presentation is about 20 minutes long. For more info visit nhm.org

Starting June 2009

Timescapes: California from the air

Thousands upon millions of years ago, Earth's greatest sculptor, nature, began shaping a spectacular landscape. Unleashing the mighty forces of wind, water, fire, and ice, Nature formed a wondrous land of contrasts. During 1987 to 1988, photographer Barrie Rokeach flew 1,000 to 17,950 feet above sea level to capture California's awe-inspiring panorama. Enjoy the magnificent view! Visit californiasciencecenter.com for details

Starting August 2009

Hop, Slither, and Stalk

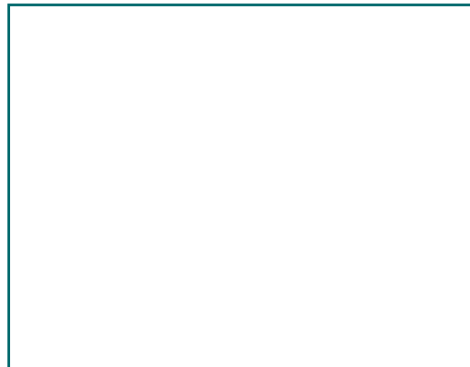
Move and think like an animal in our interactive puppet shows! Please join us this fall for a fun and active way to learn about animals, how they communicate, and how they move. Meet the HumAnimals, talented Museum performers who transform into familiar animals using costumes and puppets made from recyclable materials. Hop, Slither, and Stalk Programs rotate seasonally highlighting our exhibits and pavilions, and work with the State of California curriculum science standards for Pre-K through Grade 2. For more info visit nhm.org.

August 2009

40 Years of Space Photography

From the earliest photographs of our closest celestial neighbor, the moon, to the farthest reaches of our known Universe, these photographs reveal our progress and help us understand our place in the cosmos. Forty Years of Space Photography provides a window on our Universe and the technology we use to view it. Visit californiasciencecenter.com for details

The Figueroa Corridor is home to several respected charitable organizations that offer crucial services to children and families. One of these is John Tracy Clinic (JTC), which provides free services to parents of young children with hearing loss, offering hope, guidance, and encouragement.



When Louise Tracy—wife of actor Spencer Tracy—founded the JTC in 1942, it was the only organization in the world to provide services completely free of charge to parents of infants and preschool-aged children born with hearing loss. Louise named the center after her and Spencer's son John Ten Broeck Tracy.

Throughout John's childhood and adolescence, Louise traveled extensively to study techniques that would help him develop the speech and language skills he would need to be part of the hearing and speaking world. It was these techniques, and many more she discovered on her own, that she later refined at the clinic.

"As a child, John Tracy couldn't have known that he would be the inspiration for a whole movement to give new hope to parents of children with hearing loss," says JTC President Barbara Hecht, Ph.D. "John Tracy Clinic is dedicated to carrying on the legacy of John and his family."

Today, JTC is the largest private provider of services for young deaf children and their families in the world, and the only education center of its kind to provide all family services without charge. More than 25,000 families a year participate in one or more of the Clinic's programs.

The clinic offers parent-centered, speech and language education and audiological assessment for children five and younger with hearing loss. This includes a parent/infant program, adult classes and support groups, a prechool, a correspondence course, summer sessions, and community hearing screenings. JTC also offers a master's degree and a credential program in deaf education with the University of San Diego.

FROM THE CHAIR



Darryl Holter, Chair

When Chrysalis told me they were going to give an award to the Figueroa Corridor Partnership at their annual fundraising dinner, I was more than happy to agree. Chrysalis

has been our partner in our Clean and Safe program since the founding of the BID in 1998. Our Board Members decided to employ Chrysalis for the Clean Team because we were impressed with the organization's track record and service to the community.

What can be more important to our society and economy than to help people who have been down-and-out or have had problems with the law or drugs to re-enter the workforce? Several members of our Clean Team, all Chrysalis employees, have moved into private sector jobs after working in the Figueroa Corridor for a year or two. We felt honored to have been able to play a role in helping them to help themselves.

So we've seen the positive things Chrysalis can do: not only keeping our district clean and free of graffiti and debris, but helping to lead people to become responsible adults who earn wages for a living, pay taxes, and buy products that stimulate growth in the economy. In a capitalistic economy, people are defined largely by their work, their skills, their accomplishments, and contributions to the larger society. Just as the Figueroa Corridor BID has led the way to major improvements and billions of dollars investment in our district, Chrysalis fulfills its mission by providing a framework that allows people to become self-sufficient and perform meaningful work.

Although we were happy to accept the award from Chrysalis, we want to use the occasion to salute Chrysalis for its successes and do what we can to ensure a continuation of that success in our district, our city, and our world.

Darryl Holter
Chair, Board of Directors
Figueroa Corridor Partnership

FIG'S OWN URBAN MINI FARM

It's interesting how the simplest things in life—such as sunshine, daily walks, or humor—can have such a profound effect on our well-being. Growing one's own food is one of these things.

Reminiscent of "victory gardens" during WWII, where people were encouraged by Eleanor Roosevelt and others to grow their own food to be self-reliant, community gardens are popping up again around the nation. In addition to providing communities with their own local food system where food is grown and distributed, some urban mini farms also incorporate training and educational programs, and create jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities. They can provide food to those who otherwise cannot afford it, and some have been credited with turning lives around. Community gardens are, undoubtedly, a simple concept with the potential for profound consequences.

To help provide wholesome food to nearby residents, the Exposition Park Intergenerational Community Center (EPICC) partnered with Community Services Unlimited Inc.'s (CSU) "From the Ground Up" program in 2005 to create an urban mini farm. The 2/3 acre garden, located at the corner of Martin Luther King Blvd. and Menlos Ave., grows trees, vegetables, fruits, and herbs. The first trees were planted in February 2006, and educational programs began that spring.

The EPICC mini farm is a learning space used to teach community members of all ages how to grow food items naturally, recycle everyday 'waste' items, and minimize water use. Students from the Parsons Preschool attend weekly sessions in the garden to learn all aspects of growing food. They enjoy taste tests, receive nutrition education, and do stretching exercises. A group of 10-15 learning disabled adults attend weekly sessions in the garden and participate in food preparation activities. Another weekly gardening session brings seniors and youth together. The farm's "Nutrition from the Garden" class teaches community members how to cook great dishes inexpensively from what the garden grows.

In addition to these regular activities, the mini farm also offers special events. In winter 2006, it offered a series of six classes on soil and composting. Early in 2007, it partnered with Tree People to give away fruit trees and train recipients on how to plant and care for them. During summer months, the mini farm hosts teens and youth from EPICC's youth coamps.

To learn more about the mini farm or CSU, please visit www.csuinc.org.

JOHN TRACY CLINIC CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

One of the Clinic's programs, Baby Sound Check™, trains medical staff in community healthcare clinics to conduct early and periodic screening as part of regular well-baby checkups. Such an effort is expected to help thousands of children whose hearing loss is overlooked in hospital birth screenings or who develop late onset deafness. With early detection and expert

intervention, these children will have every opportunity to gain a level of reading readiness and spoken language on par with their hearing peers prior to kindergarten.

For more information on JTC, please visit www.jtc.org or call 213-748-5481.

SUBMIT NEWS

News submissions are encouraged!
Please email story ideas for the fall issue by August 15th to
info@figueroacorridor.org.

L.A. TRADE TECHNICAL COLLEGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The rumble you hear coming from Washington Blvd. and Grand Ave. is the sound of Los Angeles Trade and Technical College's (LATTC) growing pains. New construction is reshaping the campus inside and out, with the result being a public community college primed to serve the needs of the communities growing around it.

LATTC has been a stately resident of the southern end of downtown for more than 80 years, but the aging exterior has somewhat masked its pre-eminent position as one of the best and most comprehensive career-technical public colleges in California. Now the construction has begun to reshape the college's appearance and services.

Rising along the eastern side of Grand Ave., between the college and Metropolitan courthouse, is LATTC's newest five-story parking structure, which was ready for the fall semester 2007. With more than 800 parking spaces, it helped relieve one of the college's more difficult challenges. Funded through voter approved bonds, the parking structure not only serves the college but also public events at the Grand Olympic Auditorium, L.A. Mart, and nearby businesses.

The focal point of the LATTC campus was the K-Mall and the Grand Theater inside the administration building stretching along Washington Blvd. between Flower St. and Grand Ave. But the building of the \$77 million South Towers at the corner of Grand Ave. and 23rd St. has moved the school's center to the south end of campus. Ground breaking for the new buildings took place fall of 2007 and are expected to be complete in 2010. One will house a newly-designed one-stop admissions and enrollment center along with the school's administrative, academic, and student services offices. The second building will house the school's technology classrooms.

There's also a project going on inside the school's educational infrastructure, something being built with tools of initiative and partnership. LATTC, currently the only public community college west of the Mississippi to offer a two-year certificate in community development, is launching the Regional Economic Development Institute (REDI). It's a collaborative venture focusing on shaping career-technical education and training, to prepare and propel individuals into the L.A. workforce. Bank of America has become REDI's first corporate partner, to the tune of \$1 million dollars. With grants from California Emerging Technology Fund and the City of Los Angeles, REDI now has \$2.25 million dollars in seed money.

Statistics show that 75% of students enrolling at LATTC are searching for a two-year program that will become a ticket to an immediate career. With LATTC offering 65 programs featuring two-year certificates, it finds itself as a leader in trade education. Twelve of LATTC's certificate programs are considered the best in the state. The reality is that LATTC graduates have moved immediately into L.A.'s fashion district, painted the glass windows at Disneyland, built more than one hundred Habitat for Humanity homes, catered state events for Governor Schwarzenegger, and worked in beauty salons across the region.

So don't let the aged facade on Washington Blvd. and Grand Ave. fool you. LATTC might look old school, but it's building new structures and a new workforce.

2ND QUARTER 2009 CLEAN TEAM STATISTICS



**TRASH
BAGS
8102**



**GRAFFITI
REMOVED
5571
(SQ. FT.)**



**SHOPPING
CARTS
12**

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FIGUEROA CORRIDOR CLEAN & SAFE

Team Members of the Quarter



Christopher Hillman
Clean Team



Juan Arana
Ambassador Team

The Figueroa Corridor Partnership is responsible for the daily management and promotion of the Figueroa/Flower/Vermont/Hoover Corridor, linking downtown Los Angeles to Exposition Park. The Partnership is committed to its development as a safe, clean, economically vibrant and aesthetically pleasing environment in which to conduct business, continue an education, visit a museum, attend a sporting event, worship, or reside.



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