



Charles Woo, President
Workforce Investment Board

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



Richard L. Benbow, General Manager
Community Development Department

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Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa, Los Angeles City Council, and the Workforce Investment Board Host HIRE LA's End of Summer Celebration

More than 2,000 youth to fill Griffith Park Crystal Springs Picnic Area on Friday, August 22, 2008 from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. with Actress Tichina Arnold as Special Guest.

Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa, along with the Los Angeles City Council and the Workforce Investment Board (WIB), will recognize more than 2,000 youth on Friday, August 22, 2008 for their successful completion of the six-week summer employment program. Facilitated by the City of Los Angeles Community Development Department (CDD) in collaboration with partners such as the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, Los Angeles Unified School District, and the Los Angeles Community College District, HIRE LA places youth in paid work experiences. The outdoor celebration simultaneously serves as the official kick-off of the City's campaign to reach a new goal of 15,000 jobs by 2009, having surpassed its previous goal of reaching 10,000 by 2008.

"Three years ago, the City of Los Angeles had 2,500 summer jobs for youth, but I said that wasn't enough" said Mayor Villaraigosa. "Our committed City team and our valued partners placed 10,304 youth in paid work experiences during the 2007-2008 program year. This is an incredible achievement for the City of Los Angeles and I especially look forward to reaching yet another milestone."

In response to staggering statistics that one out of five Los Angeles youth are out of school or out of work, CDD funds and facilitates intense programming throughout the city that links youth to education and employment preparation resources. HIRE LA reflects the city's commitment to building the next generation of prepared workers.

"The Community Development Department congratulates the thousands of youth who took charge of their destiny and participated in HIRE LA," said CDD General Manager Richard Benbow. "Our Department consistently strives to provide opportunities for youth and families not only during the summer, but year round as well."

(MORE)



(HIRE LA's End of Summer Celebration)

Under the HIRE LA umbrella, the City administers seven employment program components, some of which combine secondary education and work experience. With the assistance of the private sector, HIRE LA also offers permanent positions that provide a transition into living wage careers. The summer celebration specifically recognizes youth who participated in Learn and Earn, LA Scholars and, the traditional citywide Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP).

"We could not have experienced such tremendous success without the support of the business community," said Greg Irish, Executive Director of the Workforce Investment Board. "We sincerely appreciate the companies, both large and small, that offered rewarding work opportunities for youth."

The celebration provides a platform for the City to recognize youth, employer partners, community partners, and City staff for a successful six-week program. In addition to a formal recognition ceremony, youth have the opportunity to rock climb, experience a moon bounce, dunk tank, and other fitness challenges. The celebratory event, with special guest speaker Actress Tichina Arnold of *Everybody Hates Chris*, doubles as a college and employment resource fair, with 20 exhibitors scheduled to attend. The event also presents "LA's Youth Have Talent" where youth will showcase their performing arts skills.

"The City of Los Angeles firmly stands behind its dedication to youth workforce development," said Lisa Salazar, Director of CDD's Youth Opportunity System. "Through continued collaborations with our partners and through the extraordinary work of our youth development specialists, we know we can continuously elevate the number of jobs for young people, thereby resulting in a safer and more prosperous Los Angeles."

The City of Los Angeles invites media to experience the 2008 HIRE LA End of Summer Event:

Friday, August 22, 2008

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Griffith Park Crystal Springs Picnic Area

4730 Crystal Springs Drive

Los Angeles, California 90027

Mayor Villaraigosa will address attendees at noon.

For more information on HIRE LA's Youth, please visit www.hirelayouth.com .

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