

TAG CONNECTION

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DEAR TAG TEAM:

It is hard to believe we are nearly three quarters of the way through 2019! In our Fall issue of TAG Connection, we focus on The Allen Group, LLC's (TAG) commitment to small businesses and the community, and how central this core value is to our company's practices and success. For 30 years, TAG, as a woman-owned small business, has served as an active partner providing construction management and engineering services to public agencies on numerous public and commercial development projects in and around the San Francisco Bay region and the United States. From the company's earliest beginnings to now, we have built an enduring legacy with our broad range of project achievements and community commitments and as a result of our hard-earned business qualifications, contributions, and reputation.

In this edition, we highlight the positive impact that women-owned small businesses have had on the economy; and more specifically, on TAG's presence as an industry leader providing construction management professional services on some of the most important public sector project initiatives in and around San Francisco. In our Client Spotlight, we share insights on the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) agency from the perspective of its newly elected General Manager Mr. Robert "Bob" Powers. We extend our warm congratulations to Mr. Powers on his promotion to lead the agency's next generation of transit initiatives targeting ridership satisfaction, safety, fleet replacement, transit-oriented development, and infrastructure.

Since The Allen Group, LLC's founding in 1989, the company's principals have served as unyielding advocates for the communities where we live, work, and learn. In Community Spotlight, we are pleased to share with you our wide-ranging participation in local business, community, and social undertakings, as well as the various awards we have recently received.

Our ongoing involvement with organizations and events includes: Women in Transportation (WTS); the Equality California (ECQA) Awards Dinner; The Allen Group, LLC Professional and Engineering Internship (Class of 2019); Engineering News Review/ California (Project Award for SFO Long Term Parking Garage); and the Airport Minority Advisory Council (Legacy Award, Celebrating Women in Aviation). These commitments keeps us engaged and mindful of our pledge to industry excellence. We are deeply committed to leading our expertise and support to initiatives that promote inclusion, diversity, and community development.

It is with our highest regard for these core values that we are pleased to share that the company, in a Joint Venture Partnership with Hollins Consulting, Inc., Salimi Construction Management, RES Engineers, and Applied Technology and Science, was recently selected to provide Construction Management Staff Augmentation Services for the City of San Francisco's Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC) Southeast Community Center at 1550 Evans. Together, these highly qualified firms will soon be involved in another meaningful project to bring a new facility and community benefits to the Bayview-Hunter's Point community.

We look forward to updating you on our progress.

Sincerely,

Schatze Allen Jefferson

Save the Date!
THE ALLEN GROUP'S OPEN HOUSE
WHEN: SEPTEMBER 26, 2019
WHERE: 50 OSGOOD, SUITE 320
SAN FRANCISCO CA, 94103
LOOK FOR AN INVITATION IN YOUR MAILBOX.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

The Allen Group, LLC enthusiastically supports industry organizations and professional initiatives that celebrate diversity and inclusion. Earlier this year, we were pleased to support the 2019 WTS Annual Awards Event, held in Oakland and which conferred various awards to outstanding transportation industry professionals and projects.

Awards were presented to Tilly Chang of the San Francisco County Transportation Agency for Woman of the Year, and to Danielle J. Harris of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency for the Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership award.

Also, this past Spring, TAG had an opportunity to serve as a major corporate sponsor of the annual Equality California (EQCA) awards dinner held in San Francisco at the historic Fairmont Hotel. ECQA was founded in 1998 to advance civil rights and social justice by inspiring, advocating, and mobilizing

through an inclusive movement that works tirelessly on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community. The awards dinner was attended by state, local, and national elected officials and celebrities, including our very own founder/owner of TAG, Ms. LaVerda Allen. Ms. Allen (who received an award last year) was warmly received by the audience for her many contributions to ECQA and the Bay Area LGBTQ Community, and she also had the honor to present EQCA's Civic Leadership award to Mr. John Rahaim, Planning Director of the City and County of San Francisco.

As an active expression of our commitment to diversity and career development, TAG continues to take significant pride in our college internship program, which helps to

nurture professional objectives for aspiring engineers and professionals. This Summer, the company was delighted to welcome a new class of more than 20 engineering, economics, and communications interns to work in the Bay Area from colleges and universities throughout the United States. Currently in its fifth year, the TAG internship affords current college students and recent graduates an opportunity to work on public works projects in our offices in San Francisco and Oakland, or on assigned project sites around the Bay Area.

This wealth of hands-on experience has helped our students relate their academic courses of study to real world applications, and has provided other targeted opportunities for professional enrichment. This year, TAG interns participated in a SFO Speaker's Series, and they attended several professional and social mixers, including a trip to Six Flags Amusement Park. They also completed a tour of the Hetch Hetchy Water Treatment System.

Although our Class of 2019 interns will soon leave us for another school year or for other professional endeavors, we look forward to keeping up with their future experiences and successes going forward, and we hope they will share their knowledge and enthusiasm for the TAG program with others who may be interested.

Lastly, TAG is very grateful to our clients at BART and SFO for supporting another successful year of the company's Engineering and Construction Management Internship Program.



LaVerda Allen at The Equality California Awards Dinner in San Francisco, May 2019.



TAG Summer Interns touring the Hetch Hetchy Water System, July 2019.



CLIENT HIGHLIGHT

Riding the Rails with BART's New General Manager

Mr. Bob Powers, Newly Selected General Manager of BART

By Christopher Vasquez



After 46 years of impacting and transforming public transportation across the nation's transportation regions, monumental change has come to the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) District. Whether it is the challenge to replace an outdated fleet of rail cars (including many that date back to the very start of the transit agency); or the organization's appointment of its new General

Manager, following previous General Manager Grace Crunican's recent retirement after eight years of service to the agency; or the immediate need to replace an antiquated train control system, there is no shortage of transformation opportunities to keep this essential transit agency moving forward over the next decade.

As BART's new General Manager (GM), Bob Powers is working to implement numerous operational imperatives

and priorities as the agency plans for its future, where it will be possible for the system to transport more than half a million Bay Area riders a day. Existing priorities, as established by the BART board, involve assuring core infrastructure and system reliability, improving ridership, public safety and security, and managing the replacement and upgrade of trains. As newly announced General Manager, Powers' role will be to oversee implementation of the BART Board's many priorities, while achieving continuous improvement in train operations and service delivery, overall, and assuring quality for this integrated, 121 mile rapid rail transit system.

Having previously spent six years of his professional career as the Deputy Director of the Seattle Department of Transportation, and as prior Assistant GM of Planning, Development, and Construction at BART, Powers brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new role as the GM of BART. Through each of his professional transitions at BART, Powers submits that the one benefit he has most enjoyed is "working with some

of the best people in the industry," whom he recognizes as being "the best of class."

He also acknowledges that a talented, multidisciplinary team will be essential to the agency as it continues to assess its potential role in addressing regional issues such as affordable housing while simultaneously working to meet the agency's dashboard of transportation operational and quality initiatives.

The organization's successes will be measured by providing upgrades to many of the stations to meet future needs; upgrading the fleet of future rail vehicles (which will double the quantity of cars on the tracks from 600 to 1,200); constructing new maintenance facilities and providing traction power upgrades; as well as a new communication based train control system for better traffic management and infrastructure control that could help to increase passenger capacity through the Transbay Tube by approximately 30%.

In addition to these improvements, others include those afforded under the \$3.5 billion regional bond measure RR approved by Bay Area residents in 2016 to improve BART's transit infrastructure. This state-of-good-repair work includes upgrading portions of the system that will enhance access and Quality of Life (QOL) for all passengers, such as modernizing or replacing the 40 inoperative escalators around the system, that the agency has deemed as chronically challenging.

Powers is particularly motivated about QOL initiatives to improve the system's critical underpinnings; i.e., safety, security, and cleanliness. These would be achieved through hardening BART facilities; e.g., installing new fare gates to discourage fare evasion; and enforcement measures, e.g., adding new proof of payment teams; and providing social services outreach coordination. With many of these activities underway, Powers will continue to make these improvements a priority for the system and its customers.

Powers and his team have a significant scope of agency requirements to execute, and they will continue working to strengthen local, state and federal partnerships to keep current investments and future planning on track. In the near future, however, he is ecstatic about the soon-to-open BART-VTA extension into Berryessa in San Jose that will be one of the last steps before the realization of the decades-long vision of a rail system encircling the entire Bay, and finally creating links for all its major regions and targeted cities.

With each of the current initiatives providing an opportune sign that BART is moving in the right direction, Bob's exuberance, excitement, and experience for public transit are, indeed, gratifying pillars that are sure to enhance his approach to shaping the Bay Area's most important transit agency, and the rapidly growing super region it serves, into a solid future.

"[I am] working with some of the best people in the industry"

SMALL BUSINESS FORUM

The Future of Small Business is Women-Owned

By Anna Sara Mehoulley

Woman-Owned Business

TAG Connection Invites You to Test Your Knowledge

By Anna Sara Mehoulley

As a successful woman owned business for nearly three decades, TAG would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge businesses owned and operated by women, and to highlight their significance and impact on our economy, society, and communities. Since TAG's founding by LaVerda O. Allen in 1989, when small businesses and women-owned firms greatly paled in comparison to male-owned business concerns, women's entrepreneurship and women-owned small businesses have grown exponentially. Women owned firms now make up approximately 30 percent of all businesses in the U.S., and are generating about \$1.5-\$1.8 trillion in revenue according to an American Express, State of Women-owned Businesses report. Nationally, women are launching 1,200 businesses a day, and taking on non-traditional industries like construction, architecture, engineering and finance.

It is clear that Ms. Allen was very much on to something when she identified her niche to provide construction management services nearly three decades ago on the principle that small local, minority businesses can deliver quality and value on major projects equal to that provided by the largest firms in the engineering-construction industry. Always focused on where the company can bring added-value to clients, TAG has built a business that provides a full range of project and construction management services for prominent, complex civil infrastructure projects nationwide.

Now into its third generation of leadership, The Allen Group is well-known for its core business offerings in the project and construction management domains, and for its ability to deliver great value to clients and the surrounding community. We remain gratified to be part of the successful trend of women's increasing economic empowerment and our capacity to provide services and jobs that meaningfully contribute to strengthening the economy overall.

Also, as an African-American-owned firm, specifically, we are genuinely inspired by upward trending that shows the number of established businesses like ours continues to grow. We applaud this optimistic trajectory and the affirmation that today's women-owned ventures are more engaged than ever

in providing diverse expertise, services, and solutions across every industry and every sector – e.g., federal, state, and local governments, non-profit organizations, and commercially -- for programs, projects, products and initiatives across thousands of professional offerings.



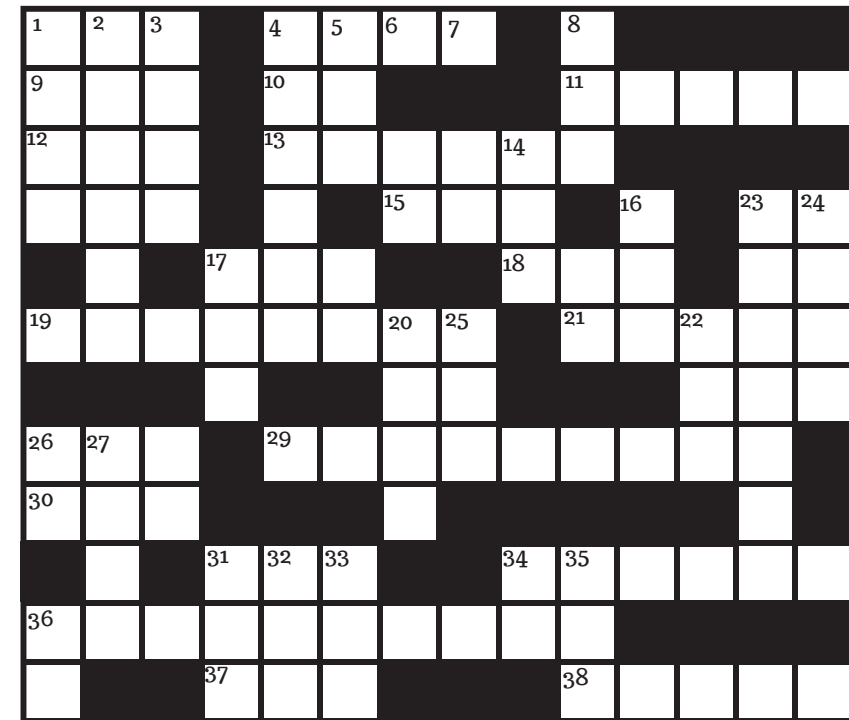
Three generations of The Allen Group, LLC. Schatzie Allen-Jefferson, LaVerda Allen, and Bianca Mallory, with SFO Airport's Geoff Neumayr.

We also duly recognize that women entrepreneurs can experience factors which make it difficult to establish, or progress in, a business; e.g., inherent biases, lack of representation, networking challenges, limited mentorship, and a broader need for access to capital and funding. Our advice is to stay the course. Women business owners must take full advantage of all available opportunities that encourage, or programmatically incentivize, their greater participation in these sectors, and that help to build financial capacity and wherewithal.

By promoting their own objectives, and leveraging access to support their respective industries and networks, women-owned firms can be highly successful in delivering impactful results while leading projects on their own or partnering with other firms. Assuredly, whichever path is chosen, they can compete at the highest levels in their respective markets, achieve great results and receive well-earned customer recognition in sectors that have been otherwise traditionally led by their male counterparts.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Women and Business



ACROSS

- 1 not him but ____
- 4 a leader
- 9 a time period
- 10 "a" turns into ____ before a vowel
- 11 when to give up
- 12 a listening device
- 13 not up to date
- 15 paid vacations
- 17 "healthier" than coffee
- 18 I always give 100 and ____!
- 19 hoarded riches
- 21 the most profitable color
- 26 not he but ____
- 29 be nicer to your _____ than your competitors
- 30 not masc but ____
- 31 what you wish you could do during work
- 34 between 1st & 3rd
- 36 turning into money

- 37 Mayweather's The Money Team abbr.
- 38 better than good

DOWN

- 1 back of the foot
- 2 pink end of a #2
- 3 female CEO's right now are ____
- 4 dependent humans
- 5 word on a penny
- 8 failure is never the ____
- 14 "Just kidding, ____!"
- 16 sketch comedy TV
- 17 deducted from your pay check
- 20 to climb the ranks
- 22 a smart choice: "I'll step out to get some ____"
- 23 The ____ 5!
- 24 a big pond

- 25 "Let's get lunch, let's ____"
- 26 one of two Allen Group office locations
- 27 she + ____ = shero
- 31 Nothing but ____!
- 32 automatic teller machine abbr.
- 33 large hole in the ground
- 35 it may be beaten
- 36 not Mr. but ____

ANSWERS



To learn more about The Allen Group, LLC's support to small business development and implementation, including SBE/MBE/DBE outreach, go to www-the-allen-group.com.

In Pursuit of the PMP, Part 2

By Robert James

After successfully managing projects for more than 25 years, including preparing numerous Project Management Plans, receiving years of various project management, leadership and organizational effectiveness training, I did not think there was much more for me to learn. However, after reading and conducting a partial review of the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK) guide, I gained an even greater appreciation and knowledge of the art and science of project management.

I am now of the opinion that becoming a PMP helps a project manager better understand how, when, and to what degree to employ the tools and techniques of project management under a range of project situations.

Through strategic and effective use of project management tools and techniques, the project manager is better able to objectively measure the effectiveness of project management decisions and actions leading to improvements that often result in win-win situations. It was this understanding that compelled me to pursue the PMP certification.

Years ago, PMP courses were primarily offered at universities or large corporations where the classes were 8 hours per day for one week.

Today, there are numerous online courses for both the 35-credit hours and the online exam preparation courses. The online approach is highly beneficial for working, disciplined professionals whose schedules allow for 12 to 18 months of study, exercises to understand project management concepts and taking numerous practice exams.

In pursuing the PMP it is important to develop a schedule that fits with your work life balance. It is imperative that you commit to that schedule or diligently make adjustments as necessary. Managing to your schedule and making adjustments when required is equally as important as actually understanding the material and completing the process to be prepared for the exam.

I would be more than happy to further share my experiences with anyone interested in obtaining their PMP certification, and to discuss the value it has brought to my approach to managing Projects.



Robert James served as the Task Order Manager for the CATS Blue Line Extension in Charlotte, NC, a project under TAG's Federal Transit Administration Project Management Oversight contract.

TAG ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONTRACT AWARD

September 2019 - The Allen Group, LLC/ Hollins Consulting, Inc., a Joint Venture was awarded a contract by to provide Construction Management Staff Augmentation Services for San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Southeast Community Center at 1550 Evans in the Bayview Hunter's Point Community with NTP anticipated in October 2019.

INDUSTRY AWARDS

July 2019 - SFO Long Term Parking Garage (Project Management Services by The Allen Group, LLC/ Cooper Paguada Management, Joint Venture) was named by Engineering News Review (ENR) as a Regional Best Project for Northern California. The award honors safety, innovation, and teamwork by the best construction projects and the companies that designed and built them in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. An awards ceremony will be held in October to honor all winning projects and companies.

WELCOME, NEW TAG TEAM MEMBERS!

Laurie Wilson Marketing Director

Laurie received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Law and Society, from The American University, Washington, D.C.

Xinyu Wang Office Engineer

Xinyu is the new Office Engineer for the BART ESP Coliseum/Fruitvale Project. Xinyu is a recent graduate from Stanford University and participated in our summer internship program last year

Vedang Vadalkar Office Engineer

Vedang is the new Office Engineer for the SFO Air Traffic Control Tower Demolition. He received his Master in civil engineering from Stanford. Bachelors in civil engineering from Mumbai University.

Ventress Sanford-Ware Project Coordinator

Ventress is the new Project Coordinator working under Emilia Sanchez at BART. She received her BA in Environmental Studies from Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, MA.

PROMOTIONS:

Christopher Vasquez is serving as BART Community Relations Project Manager

TAG ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Dominque Allen
 Elizabteh Wiecha
 Olugbenga (Benga) Olayomi
 LaVerda O. Allen

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Oscar Zhoa
 Raphael Garcia

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

Justin Montgomery
 Laure Wilson
 Bianca Grogan

APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

Vanessa Young
 Jonathan Tang
 Robert Owen

MAY BIRTHDAYS:

Tiona Herans
 Robert James
 Amir Hashemi
 Drashit Jasani

JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

Micaela Mazzini
 Anthony Kinslow
 Harry Overstreet

JULY BIRTHDAYS:

Christopher Vasquez
 Curtis Monette
 Selam Kifle
 Mohamed Taleb
 Maria Sirre
 Dwayne Hannah

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

Wesley White
 Thomas Aguilar
 William Soloman
 Steve Kappler

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Hanna Asfaha

TAG IN ACTION (CONTINUED)



TAG IN ACTION

The Allen Group, LLC has had a very productive year with our many activities and projects. We are happy to share the following photos of our Team engaged on projects, in the community, and in support of each other.





Cover: New downtown SF BART Powell Station Canopy Project completed in late 2018.

Back Cover: SFO's new Long Term Parking Garage #2, which opened in January 2019.