



THE ALLEN GROUP, LLC

Issue 5 • Spring 2018

# TAG CONNECTION

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### BART Canopy Project Provides Station Protection

The Allen Group is helping BART to implement a major modernization project at the downtown San Francisco Powell and Civic Center BART station. TAG is providing construction management services on the Market Street Canopies and Escalators Modernization Project, a \$4.5 million undertaking which is also serving as a pilot program for 24 total canopies to be installed at BART stations system wide.

“We are excited about helping BART to improve the rider experience,” said Luis Paez, TAG’s Resident Engineer (RE) on the project. As RE, Luis manages the construction contract to ensure that the contractor performs all work in full compliance with BART requirements.

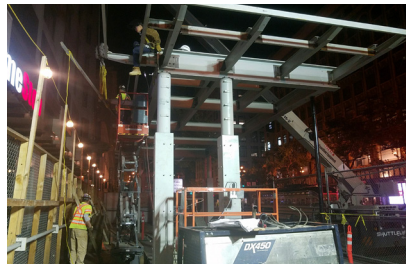
The canopies, which are steel and glass enclosures surrounded by a heavy-duty sealing, will protect the station equipment and entryways from outside elements and vandalism

during non-revenue hours. The project requires removal of existing parapet walls, and will add new concrete curbs, new cantilevered glass wall assemblies, new architectural finishes, stainless steel column covers, glass supports, fiber-reinforced plastic ceiling, and new lighting. It also involves installation of communications and information systems, and new signage.

With 80 percent of the project completed, the team is eager to finish the project by August of this year.

“It is challenging to work in but we are working diligently to make sure any delays are done as quickly as possible,” explained Luis. “We actually shaved a good four months off of the schedule by standardizing the design for both stations.”

The team is rapidly making headway for the next project as this one comes to a close.



New entrance canopies at Power and Civic Center stations should be completed by August 2018, providing much needed station protection.

## TAG TALK



Dear TAG Team,

We had a fabulous quarter, and I am delighted to share the spring issue of our newsletter with you.

The BART Canopy Projects are in the spotlight, and TAG’s Resident Engineer Luis Paez is leading the project team to success. The unique project is expected to be finished in August of this year, and TAG is thrilled to help BART improve its facilities to better serve the public.

Meet our summer 2018 interns! We welcomed ten, eager interns to our team this spring from colleges and high schools across the country and around the world. Interns are working with TAG project and construction managers at BART and SFO projects, and with TAG employees at the Oakland and San Francisco offices to get hands-on experience in the project/construction management field.

I am honored to share with you that our founder, Mrs. LaVerda Allen, was awarded the Equality Trailblazer Award, presented by Equality California for her dedication to diversity by adding LGBTQ contractors to the BART Small Business Program.

Keep up the great work and stay connected!

Sincerely,

*Schatzie Allen Jefferson*

Talk Back: Send your news, views, and ideas to us at [TagTalk@the-allen-group.com](mailto:TagTalk@the-allen-group.com)

### Follow TAG on Social Media

[www.facebook.com/theallengroupllc](https://www.facebook.com/theallengroupllc)

[www.linkedin.com/company/the-allen-group-llc](https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-allen-group-llc)

## IN THIS ISSUE

- In the Spotlight.....1
- Success Factors.....2
- Working Connections.....3
- News & Notes.....4

SUCCESS FACTORS

# TAG Welcomes New 2018 Interns

The Allen Group welcomed its eager summer 2018 interns over dinner at the Mission Rock Resort restaurant in San Francisco on May 29th. Project managers and TAG employees greeted the interns with words of wisdom and advice as they began their internships.

Ten interns from high schools and universities from across the country—and the world—joined TAG for a nine week internship. They are working on projects at BART and SFO, with TAG staff.

“The dinner made me feel right at home,” said intern Darril Samuel, who is entering his senior year at Grambling State University majoring in Construction Management. “I

was impressed with TAG’s diversity and company culture of hard work, which helped facilitate a smooth entry into the internship program,” he added.

TAG Career Path Program members planned a fun summer for the interns, with activities ranging from hiking on Angel Island, to a night out at Mission Bowl.

The interns will also have opportunities to learn about the industry by networking and attending the SFO Speaker Series, where industry executives and subject-matter experts discuss recent developments, ground-breaking research and projects at SFO. Recent speakers include Geoff Neumayr, Chief Development

Officer at SFO, and Kristi Hogan, Vice President of AECOM.

“I look forward to learning about the mechanics behind building an essential facility such as [the BART Hayward Maintenance Complex],” explained intern Riley Ross, an incoming senior at Tuskegee University majoring in mechanical engineering.



TAG staff welcomed the 2018 summer interns with a dinner in Mission Bay.

## 2018 TAG Summer Interns Show Strong Diversity

TAG’s 2018 summer interns hail from all over the United States – and the world – highlighting a wide range of skills, interests, and many unique points-of-view.

**Jadelynn Johnson** will be a junior at San Francisco University High School in the fall. Her interests in urban planning and engineering lead to her internship with The Allen Group (TAG) this summer, working at the SFO Terminal 2 ATCT Tower Demolition project. She is most excited about working on a project and learning about project managers’ roles.



**Darril Samuel** crossed paths with TAG at the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) 44th Annual Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He intends to expand his knowledge of construction policy development and common construction terminology used in order to be a decisive communicator during his internship at SFO’s New Long-Term Parking Garage No.2.



**Desiree James** is an incoming senior at the University of Southern California studying civil engineering. After graduation, she plans to attend graduate school to earn her master’s degree in transportation systems. This summer, she is interning at the BART Hayward Maintenance Complex (HMC) project.



**Shanetris Robertson** is an incoming junior at Gordon State College studying business, and aspires to get her PhD in business as well. Shanetris’ dreams of successful entrepreneurship are inspired by TAG, as she plans on giving back to her community by helping others through mentorship. This summer, she is also interning at the BART HMC project.



**Riley Ross** will be a senior at Tuskegee University majoring in mechanical engineering. She is eager to take part in operations at the BART HMC project during her internship this summer.



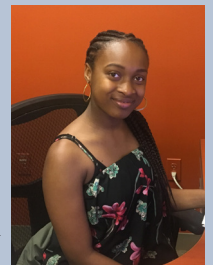
**Xinyu Wang** is an incoming graduate student at Stanford University studying sustainable design and construction. He received his bachelor’s degree in Suzhou, Jiangu, China, at Soochow University. He has joined Anthony Bernhiem at the SFO Terminal 1 (T1) Sustainability program as an intern.



**Amudhini Konguvel** is interning at the SFO T1 Sustainability program this summer. She is a recent graduate of SSN College of Engineering in India, where she received a degree in civil engineering in April. Amudhini is excited to learn about construction management, and trusts her TAG internship to solidify her interests.



**Anna Sara Mehoulley** will be a high school senior at Oakland School for the Arts in the fall. As a marketing communications intern at TAG this summer,



Interns continued on Page 3

WORKING CONNECTIONS

# CFO Provides Valuable Mentorship

As Chief Financial Officer for The Allen Group, and as mentor to Mercy Matheri and Selam Kifle, Dwayne Hannah enjoys providing guidance.

With over 30 years of experience working with banks and broadcast companies, Dwayne is happy to offer his professional advice and support to his eager mentees.

As a kid, Dwayne participated in the Boy Scouts, where he found valuable life-mentorship. “One of the greater mentors I had [was] in the Boy Scouts,” he said. “It was a very important time in my life as a young person, in terms of growing up.”

“At times, I didn’t have a person to consult,” Dwayne shared. “[So] I see that as something I can add to someone that I’m mentoring. It’s important that you have someone that you can trust and that you can talk to. It’s important to keep those channels open.”

Dwayne recognizes that professionals who are early in their career need advice on how to move within an organization.

“In general, there are always challenges on a career path or with moving within an organization,” he shared, and he

intends on sharing tactics that can help alleviate the chaos of mapping out a successful professional development path.

Key advice that he gives to his mentees is to have open communications, be upfront about goals, and be willing to participate within the organization. But most importantly, he wants to be available to share ideas that he has or that his mentees may have as a resource for bouncing ideas off of one another.

“I admire his work ethic and devotion,” said Selam. “His relationships with coworkers and ability to execute difficult tasks in a professional manner are among his strongest qualities.”



Dwayne Hannah mentors new employee Selam Kifle at the TAG Oakland office.

# Blending Experiences

Robert James is a TAG Senior Project Manager, currently working as a Task Order Manager on Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Capital Projects. As mentor for TAG’s



Career Path Program members, Robert has much to offer to his mentee, Justin Montgomery. Robert has over 30 years of experience and plans on supporting Justin in a way that is as authentic as possible.

“I’m not necessarily looking forward to teaching per se,” said Robert. “But more so to providing honest and candid opinions if asked, and being there for any support.”

Because he understands that effective mentorship should be a reciprocal partnership, Robert looks forward to learning how to better understand new approaches in the working environment from Justin. “I hope to blend the best of past and new experiences in a constructive and creative way that is mutually beneficial,” said Robert.

At the beginning of his professional development, Robert had numerous mentors he turned to for advice, and he continues to consult with them to this day. He learned design and analytic skills, negotiation tools and techniques, technical public speaking, effective presentation, conflict management, and how to sustain yourself under pressure from experience and valuable mentorship.

“It’s an important aspect of professional development for both the mentee and mentor, and gives a greater purpose to my own work,” Robert added.

“One key point of advice I’ve absorbed from Robert is that all goals can be accomplished,” Justin explained. “However, you will need a set plan, allotted time and commitment to the task at hand in order to bring your goals into fruition.”

Robert offered a quote by Benjamin Disraeli as a parting insight: “The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share your riches but to reveal to him his own.”

Interns continued from Page 2

Anna Sara has gained much experience in a professional work place. She looks forward to enhancing her skills in writing and media, as well absorbing knowledge from her supportive mentors.

**Scott Hannah** is currently attending Morehouse College studying English, and is interning at TAG’s Oakland office. In 2013, Scott attended Chabot College, where he received his associate’s degree in liberal arts. This is his second year as a TAG intern, his first time being in 2016.



**Donovan Warren** is an incoming senior at Stuart Hall High school in San Francisco. This summer, he will be working with TAG

project managers at the SFO Terminal 2 ATCT Tower Demolition project. He is eager to learn about the ins and outs of the project, and is thrilled to have the opportunity at such a young age.



**Vedang Vadalkar** is a graduate student at Stanford University, studying civil engineering with a concentration in sustainability design and construction. He received his undergraduate degree in civil engineering from Mumbai University in Mumbai, India. He is currently interning at the SFO T1 Sustainability program.



# CA LGBTQ Group Honors TAG Founder

All eyes were on The Allen Group’s CEO and Founder LaVerda Allen on May 12, 2018 as Equality California (EQCA) – California’s largest LGBTQ civil rights group – awarded her and the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) the Equality Trailblazer Award at the 2018 Equality Awards. Senator Tammy Baldwin (WI) and Representative Mark Takano (CA-41) were also honored at the annual awards gala.

EQCA bestowed the honor on Mrs. Allen and BART to show appreciation for their successful efforts to add LGBTQ contractors to the BART Small Business Program, which provides bid preferences for qualified small businesses. Openly gay BART Directors Bevan Dufty and Rebecca Saltzman received the award on behalf of the agency.

Dufty said that he was proud that BART was being honored at the same time as Mrs. Allen, whom he noted, “started The Allen Group with a vision to uplift local, small, disadvantaged and women-owned businesses, and develop a diverse group of professionals to serve public agencies nationwide.”

“Mrs. Allen’s philosophy is consistent with that of LGBT icon Harvey Milk, who also believed in the interconnectedness of the fight for equality,” Dufty said.

Speaking on the work done to include LGBTQ businesses, Mrs. Allen stated that, “I have a renewed confidence that the course for equality will continue to move forward and build momentum...and that we will continue to demand that equality also comes with dignity and respect” she said. “It’s a wonderful thing that BART recognizes the importance of all people’s rights, including the LGBTQ community. I’ve seen a lot of changes, and a lot more that need to be. We have work to do.”



## NEWS & NOTES

### TAG NEW HIRES

- Raphael Garcia**  
*Project Manager*  
SFO REACH Program  
Raphael received a Master of Landscape Architecture from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and a Bachelor of Science (Biology) from University of California, Santa Barbara.
- Selam Kifle**  
*Accountant*  
TAG Oakland Office  
Selam received an Advanced Diploma in Accounting from University of Asmara, Asmara, the State of Eritrea and a Diploma in Accounting and Business, Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).
- Mohamed Taleb**  
*Senior Project Manager*  
BART ESP  
Mohamad received a B. S. in Civil Engineering from San Francisco State University.
- Tiona Hearn**  
*Project Administrator*  
BART HMC  
Tiona is currently attending Chattahoochee Technical College / Academy of Art.

### TAG BIRTHDAYS THIS QUARTER



#### APRIL

- Vanessa Young**, BART Central Warehouse
- Jonathan Tang**, BART Hayward Maintenance Complex
- Robert Owen**, FTA P3010 Rail Car Procurement
- Crystal Graves**, TAG Oakland Office

#### MAY

- Paul Kooner**, BART Hayward Maintenance Complex
- Tiona Hearn**, BART Hayward Maintenance Complex
- Robert James**, FTA Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project
- Amir Hashemi**, BART Hayward Maintenance Complex

#### JUNE

- Michaela Mazzini**, TAG Oakland Office
- Anthony D. Kinslow II**, SFO Net-Zero Energy
- Harry Overstreet II**, TAG Oakland Office

### Congratulations to Nivya Sannareddy!

Siddhartha Sannareddy Duvvur was born to TAG employee Nivya and her husband Sandeep Duvvur on June 6, 2018 at 8:14 a.m. Siddhartha was born weighing in at a healthy 6 pounds, 8.9 ounces, and 19.5 inches. Welcome to The Allen Group family Siddhartha!



*Clockwise from the top:* Mrs. Allen speaks before the audience of the 2018 Equality Awards at the Westin St. Francis in San Francisco; Mrs. Allen poses with Equality California Executive Director Rick Zbur and the Equality Trailblazer Award; Mrs. Allen displays her Equality Trailblazer award with BART Directors Bevan Dufty and Rebecca Saltzman, who accepted the award on behalf of the transit agency.