



# TAG CONNECTION

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Transforming Transit

#### TAG Helps Facilitate BART Infrastructure Improvements

The high-profile \$120-million Hayward Maintenance Complex (HMC) – Phase 1 Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) project will enable more efficient repair of the transit system’s newly procured train cars, thereby reducing disruption and delays for passengers. The overall effort is comprised of four discrete contracts located within a 29-acre site, including: warehouse demolition; access road construction; civil sitework, trackwork, and systems modifications; and construction of a new 129,400-square-foot Component Repair Shop, as well as renovation of the existing 120,000-square-foot Hayward Main Shop, which services BART trains 24-hours a day.

“Coordination and communication on this project are essential,” says HMC Resident Engineer Olugbenga Olayomi, “especially when it comes to the rehabilitation work being done on the Hayward Main Shop – it’s a live building where BART trains are being repaired around the clock.



The expansive new Component Repair Shop at HMC

We work closely with a variety of BART departments – Train Control, Maintenance & Engineering, Rolling Stock & Shops, and Electrical, to help ensure we’re always on the same page, and that there is no disruption to BART revenue service.” As a testament to management of the project, the Component Repair Shop is on schedule for Substantial Completion in September 2017. Other critical work has been successfully completed during several scheduled system shutdowns, all focused on meeting hard deadlines for reopening the mainline for revenue service. Learn more about HMC project here: [www.bart.gov/about/projects/hmc](http://www.bart.gov/about/projects/hmc)

**BART A Line Station Structures Retrofit:** TAG’s Resident Engineer Vanessa Young is in the process of closing out the BART A Line Station Structures Retrofit – one of the final projects in the BART Earthquake Safety Program. BART issued the Certificate of Substantial Completion on May 23, 2017 – 30 days ahead of the contract completion date. Next up? A BART Cable Replacement project.

**BART Elevator Flooring Project:** All punchlist work is complete on the BART Elevator Flooring project, with closeout underway and the Certificate of Substantial Completion in the process of being obtained. During construction, TAG’s Resident Engineer Luis Paez helped redesign and re-scope the project, and Inspector Thomas Aguilar ensured all contractor and subcontractor work met safety and quality standards, leading to an exceptional project outcome. Luis and Thomas will both be working on new BART projects in the near future.

## TAG TALK



Dear Team,

I am happy to share this quarter’s many milestones and events with you.

In this Summer 2017 edition, explore the spotlighted Hayward Maintenance Project and in-progress project closeouts. Continue reading to learn how the PMO Partnership formed and delve into TAG’s client connection with FTA’s Leslie Rogers.

This summer we again brought on a great group of interns, and we’re now in the process of wrapping up the internship program. None of it would have been possible without your support (see page 4 to learn more about our interns!). You’ll also find out about TAG’s playdate at Children’s Fairyland and a number of moments worth celebrating in this issue.

As always, keep up the good work and stay connected!

Sincerely,

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

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## SUCCESS FACTORS

## Small Firms Join Forces

### Partnering to Pursue FTA Projects

In 2008, TAG partnered with two minority-owned, Florida-based small business enterprises – EAC Consulting, Inc. and Brindley Pieters & Associates, Inc. (BPA) – to pursue a project management oversight (PMO) contract with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The FTA maintains more than 20 PMO contracts with firms charged with overseeing and reporting on the progress of FTA-funded projects. With rail and bus transit projects nationwide, PMO Partnership has locations in New Jersey, Charlotte, Milwaukee, Cincinnati, Jackson Hole, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, among others – enabling the team to respond to FTA assignments from coast to coast.



Steve Kappler joins project team members to view the tunnel boring machine launch on LACMTA's Crenshaw/LAX Transit corridor project.

The three joint-venture partners also bring a diversity of talent to fulfill FTA's requirements for task order management as well as subject matter expertise in more than 40 areas (e.g., risk management, Buy America, rail vehicle procurement, etc.). EAC is an engineering firm with extensive experience in public transportation and systems engineering; utility planning and design; and civil design. BPA also serves the transportation sector, providing construction management, inspection, and professional civil and structural engineering services.

The three partner firms have a truly collaborative relationship, communicating through monthly management meetings and periodic retreats in FTA's different regions, where they share lessons learned and best practices, meet with FTA regional managers to exchange information, and conduct workshops on specific topics of interest.

**PMO Partnership's task order managers are responsible for evaluating and making recommendations to ensure FTA-funded projects comply with contractual, statutory, regulatory, technical, and administrative requirements.**

TAG's current task order managers are also responsible for ensuring implementation of projects within scope, schedule, and budget with the highest professional quality and include: Steve Kappler, who is working on the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (LACMTA) \$2.1-billion new Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor project; Rob Owen bringing his expertise in rail vehicle procurement to oversee LACMTA's \$891-million P3010 project to procure 235 new vehicles in total; Liz Wiecha overseeing the highly complex new \$2.4-billion San Francisco Transbay Transit Center Phase I Program; and Robert James, who is responsible for the \$1.1-billion Charlotte Area Transit System Blue Line Extension, and was also asked to lend his extensive experience in Buy America to write new standards for the FTA.

## Enhancing Transit Options

Throughout his career with the FTA, Leslie Rogers has been a dedicated advocate of accessible, affordable, and reliable public transportation. Today, as Administrator of FTA Region 9, his realm of responsibility stretches from Arizona, California, and Nevada to Hawaii, and the territories of Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Leslie's notable recent accomplishments have included advancing major heavy and light rail transit projects such as: LACMTA's Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor, for which TAG is providing PMO services; the San Francisco Metropolitan Transportation Agency's new Central

Subway; and BART's Berryessa Extension Project, among many others.

Leslie's working relationship with TAG first started more than 20 years ago on the BART-SFO Extension project, but he only began working directly with our firm when TAG and its joint venture partners – PMO Partnership – won their first contract to provide PMO services to FTA in 2009, followed by a second contract in 2014. Leslie commends TAG's passion for pursuing large public infrastructure projects based on the conviction that small firms can provide quality services equal to those provided by the larger firms in the industry: "The Allen Group's sense of integrity and caliber of work delivered have always stood out to me." He also credits Schatzie with

giving him insights into the hurdles small businesses face. "Connecting with Schatzie has helped me better understand the real-life impacts federal requirements can have on small businesses," he explains.

What's next for Leslie? He says, "Retirement," but rest assured that he will continue to be a strong voice in future efforts to shape better public transportation solutions for us all.



**FTA Region 9 Administrator Leslie Rogers's portfolio encompasses \$15 billion in FTA-funded projects.**

**WORKING CONNECTIONS**

**TAG Jumpstarts Interns' Professional Experience**

Every summer, TAG is excited to bring on summer interns to learn about our business and what the construction and project management industry entails. This year's interns come from colleges and universities nationwide, and represent a variety of educational pursuits, from engineering and architecture to journalism and sociology.

**TAG's Internship Program provides young people with the opportunity to expand their professional network, gain experience in our field of work and expertise, and explore career opportunities.**

In addition to providing hands on job experience, TAG's program affords opportunities to learn more about specific areas of endeavor in our industry. Each intern is assigned to project teams or to TAG offices, depending on their interests and career goals. To this end, TAG sponsors a



TAG interns, mentors, and colleagues hike at Muir Woods.

weekly Speaker Series at the San Francisco International Airport (SFO) which invites not only the TAG interns, but the entire group of summer interns working on design and construction projects at SFO. Here, interns are able to network with their peers as well as design and engineering professionals in the industry. With presentations given by SFO staff and other project design and construction

partners, this summer's topics include sustainability, professional licensing, pull planning, virtual design and construction, building a collaborative design/build and project management support team, and project controls.

TAG's Summer Internship Program also makes having fun a high priority. Activities like go-karting, hiking, a scavenger hunt, and an

activity of the interns' choice were scheduled throughout the duration of the program, providing opportunities for interns to connect with each other and team build. This allows them to learn from each other's strengths and educational backgrounds, and to have fun in the process. To learn more, visit the TAG Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/theallengroupilc](http://www.facebook.com/theallengroupilc)



The TAG Scavenger Hunt led its participants to explore numerous locations across Golden Gate Park, including the Japanese Tea Garden, Pioneer Log Cabin, Chinese Pavilion, Portals of the Past, and Bison Paddock.

## WORKING CONNECTIONS CON'T

TAG Interns  
Summer  
2017

Wesley



Kyle



Agneya



Anna Sara



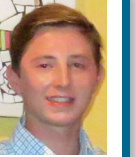
Myah



Naomi



Demetris



Nick

**Wesley Eccles** is a rising senior and architecture major at University of New Mexico. He interned on the ongoing, multi-project T1 Redevelopment Program at SFO and took advantage of the opportunity to network with a number of professionals in the industry through his mentor Tony Kingman.

**Kyle Knight** is a rising junior and psychology major at University of Nevada Las Vegas. Kyle had the opportunity to explore outside of his current field of study by working on SFO's Construction and Logistics Management (CALM) Program with his mentor Justin Montgomery, which exposed Kyle to SFO's Geographic Information System software.

**Agneya Loya** is currently completing an M.S. in Sustainable Design and Construction at Stanford University. Mentored by Pratima Joshi, Agneya also interned on SFO's T1 Redevelopment Program and gained insights into the processes that guide the execution of large infrastructure programs.

**Anna Sara Mehoulley** is a rising high-school junior at Oakland School of the Arts. Under the mentorship of Lisa Sommer in the TAG SF Office, she reviewed and proofread marketing materials. Check out her blog *Thrive by Design*, a space for teens to learn from one another in a complex world: [www.thrivebydesignblog.com/blog](http://www.thrivebydesignblog.com/blog)

**Myah Overstreet** is a rising junior majoring in print and online journalism with a minor in English literature at San Francisco State University. She is currently providing a wide range of marketing support services in the SF Office, also under the mentorship of Lisa Sommer.

**Naomi Overstreet** is a rising senior and kinesiology major at Texas A&M University. She assisted with administrative support in TAG's Oakland Office where she learned about the intricacies of the firm's administrative processes and organizational systems through the mentorship of Bianca Mallory.

**Demetris Robertson** is a rising sophomore and architecture major at UC Berkeley. Demetris gained an introduction to the T1 Redevelopment Program, sustainability at SFO, and 3D architecture and design basics using Rhinoceros while working with mentors Anthony Kinslow and Joseph Magsaysay.

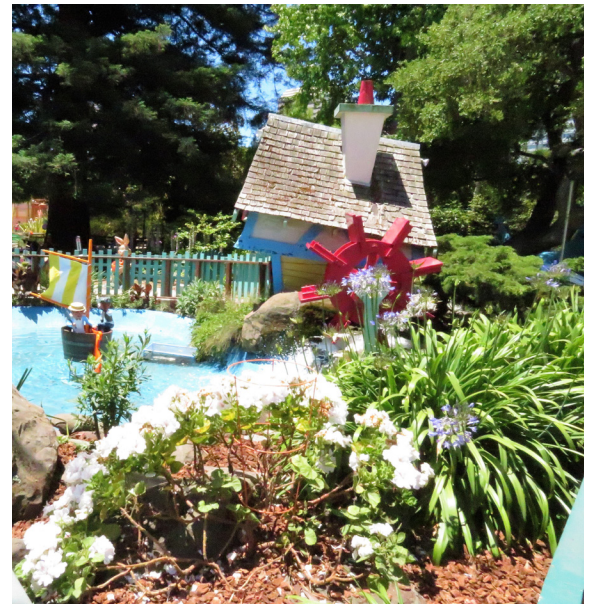
**Nick Wiesbrock** is a rising sophomore and civil engineering major at the University of Illinois. Having first become interested in engineering by spending time at his uncle's civil engineering office, Nick especially valued the opportunity to gain firsthand experience working on SFO's T2 ATCT Demolition and Buildback project under Nivya Sannareddy's mentorship.

## OCCASIONS &amp; OUTINGS

TAG Family Playdate  
at Children's Fairyland

On Saturday, June 3rd, TAG employees and friends brought their children for a fun-filled day at Fairyland in Oakland. The sun came out as everyone enjoyed a picnic lunch near Lake Merritt and TAG families got to know one another better outside of work.

The children got into the Fairyland spirit with face-painting, flower crowns, and pirate hats. Out in the park, they used special Fairyland keys to listen to talking "Storybook Boxes" and enjoyed a variety of whimsical attractions.



Face-painting fun and timeless attractions at Fairyland!

**NEWS & NOTES**

**TAG NEW HIRES**

**Amir Hashemi**, *Office Engineer*, BART HMC | Previously a TAG intern, Amir is excited to return as a full-time Office Engineer on the BART HMC project. He holds an M.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering with a focus in Sustainable Design and Construction from Stanford University.

**Rahul Joshi**, *Office Engineer*, SFO CALM Program | Rahul joins TAG as a recent graduate of UC Davis with a B.S. in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning. He currently serves as an Office Engineer on SFO's CALM Program.

**Oscar Zhao**, *Office Engineer*, BART Earthquake Safety Program (ESP) | Oscar recently graduated with a B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering from San Jose State University. He currently serves as an office engineer on BART's ESP for the Fruitvale and Coliseum stations.

**TAG Supports Oakland Students**

For 23 years, the Port of Oakland's Employees' Scholarship Program has joined with the nonprofit Marcus Foster Education Institute to award 270 local graduating high-school seniors nearly \$900,000 in scholarships raised from donations. "I've participated in the program for over a decade, and am honored to represent TAG in this year's charitable golf tournament and continue helping Oakland students gain access to higher education," says TAG Senior Project Manager Paul Kooner, who took part in the tournament alongside TAG Senior Project Manager Peter Ross.



Peter Ross and Paul Kooner (left).

**TAG BIRTHDAYS THIS QUARTER**



**APRIL**

- Vanessa Young**, BART A Line Station Structures Retrofit
- Jonathan Tang**, BART Street Entry Canopy; BART Escalator Rehabilitation
- Robert Owen**, FTA LACMTA Light Rail Vehicle Procurement
- Crystal Graves**, TAG Oakland Office

**MAY**

- Paul Kooner**, BART HMC
- Robert James**, Charlotte Area Transit System Blue Line Extension
- Amir Hashemi**, BART HMC
- Angel Walters**, BART A Line Station Structures Retrofit
- Joseph Magsaysay**, SFO Terminal 1 Program

**JUNE**

- Micaela Mazzini**, TAG Oakland Office
- Anthony Kinslow**, SFO Net-Zero Energy Master Plan

**JULY**

- Myah Overstreet**, TAG SF Office
- Christopher Vasquez**, TAG SF Office
- Maria Sirre**, TAG Oakland Office
- Lisa Sommer**, TAG SF Office
- Dwayne Hannah**, TAG Oakland Office

**CONGRATULATIONS**



Thomas Aguilar's daughters Alexandria and Sofia both graduated in 2017: Alexandria (top right), from Saint Ignatius College Preparatory, and Sofia from UCSF with an M.A. in Urban Affairs and Public Policy. Alexandria will be attending the University of Redlands.



Sean Hannah also graduated in 2017, receiving a B.A. in Sociology from Whitman College. He is currently working as a Family Involvement Coordinator at the Washington Middle School Community Learning Center in Seattle, WA.



On July 14, Regina and Jeff Burkebile welcomed Mikael Jeonneung into the world weighing 8lbs 3oz.