



THE ALLEN GROUP, LLC

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# TAG CONNECTION

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### BART Canopy Project Provides Station Protection

The unanimous vote by the BART Board of Directors in June 2018 set the stage for the BART Market Street Canopies and Escalators Modernization Project. BART is moving forward with plans to install 22 new canopies to shield train station entrances on Market Street in San Francisco. The Allen Group (TAG) is providing construction management (CM) services for the \$4.5-million pilot project, installing the first two canopies at the Powell and Civic Center BART stations.

“We are excited about supporting BART in providing a significant public service and improving the BART rider experience,” said Luis Paez, TAG’s Resident Engineer (RE) on the project. He explained that the sleek glass canopy enclosures will protect the station equipment and entryways from outside elements—like rain and wind-swept debris—and vandalism during non-revenue hours, with motorized gates that allow the entrances to be locked at the street level when stations are closed. The canopies will also feature a digital

display to show train arrival times, new LED lighting, security cameras, and other improvements.

Working in the active and congested urban area has been one of the big challenges for the project, which interfaces with Muni and other transportation systems, vehicular and pedestrian traffic, and numerous businesses along Market Street and in the Civic Center area. The TAG team has coordinated closely with BART community relations to keep stakeholders apprised of the project progress and any impending impacts.

“It is challenging, but we have worked diligently to make sure any delays are mitigated, and we actually shaved four months off of the schedule by standardizing the design for both stations, added Paez.” He is also proud that the team can assist BART to turn lessons learned into best practices that will facilitate and expedite the future canopy installations. The project is on track for completion later this year.



New entrance canopies at Powell and Civic Center stations should be completed later in 2018, providing much needed station protection.

## TAG TALK



Dear TAG Team,

As fall begins, I can say we had an eventful summer. I’m sure you will enjoy reading about the ten interns we successfully hosted and who have returned to continue their academic training. By the end of their assignments they now understand what it takes to “run” a project from the general contractor and designers point-of-view. We greatly value partners such as BART and SFO who work with us to provide invaluable experiences and attract more diverse talent to our industry.

In the spotlight is the first installation of an important program for BART, the Market Street Canopies and Escalators Modernization Project. TAG’s Resident Engineer Luis Paez is leading the team to success in constructing the \$45M project and capturing best practices that can be applied to the entire program.

We also highlight the leadership of our founder, LaVerda Allen. In May, Mrs. Allen was awarded the Equality Trailblazer Award, presented by Equality California, for her dedication to adding LGBTQ contractors to the BART Small Business Program. Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin, and Congressman Mark Takano were also recognized.

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

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

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**SUCCESS FACTORS**

# TAG Welcomes New 2018 Interns

Beretta's, located in San Francisco's eclectic Mission neighborhood, was the perfect setting to laugh, enjoy some delicious food and bid farewell to the TAG 2018 summer interns. The three months since May 29 – when TAG's project managers and other TAG employees greeted the interns – went by quickly.

From high schools and universities across the country and around the world, this summer's interns were afforded the opportunity to gain hands-on experience and develop professional skills working with TAG's project and construction staff on projects at BART and SFO, as well as with TAG's business management staff in the Oakland and San Francisco offices.

"The Allen Group made me feel right at home," said TAG intern Darril Samuel when thinking back to the welcome dinner. Darril is entering his senior year at Grambling State University majoring in Construction Management. "I was impressed with TAG's diversity

and work ethic, which helped facilitate a smooth entry into the internship program," he added.

From bowling at Lucky Strikes, hiking at Angel Island, and attending weekly speaker series with presentations by industry experts, the interns were able to have fun while also making the most of their professional experience in the project and construction management field.

"I enjoyed the welcoming atmosphere. I was able to learn about the process for building an essential facility such as [the BART Hayward Maintenance Complex]," explained TAG intern Riley Ross.

Jadelynn Johnson, now a junior at San Francisco University High School, interned at the SFO Terminal 2 demolition and buildback project under the guidance of TAG's project manager, Michael Coucaud and resident engineer, Johnathan Lockwood. "Working with

these amazing people in the office helped me to learn as much as I could, and I thank them for allowing me the opportunity to join them during a chaotic and busy time." Jadelynn added.

TAG intern Desiree James said she's grateful for her experience and for the priceless relationships that she's built this summer. "I learned about construction and project management for BART projects, as well as learning more about the BART system as a whole," she added.

The interns are back at school with a wealth of knowledge and long-lasting relationships from their TAG experience.



**TAG Summer 2018 interns on a tour of the new SF Transbay Transit Center.**

## 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** is now a junior at San Francisco University High School. Her interests in urban planning and engineering led to her internship with The Allen Group (TAG) this summer. She interned at the San Francisco International Airport (SFO) Terminal 2 ATCT Tower Demolition project, where she was thrilled to learn about the project manager's role in construction management.



**Darril Samuel** first crossed paths with TAG at the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) 44th Annual Convention in



Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He interned at the SFO Long-Term Parking Garage, and looks forward to applying the knowledge that TAG afforded him during his senior year at Grambling State University.

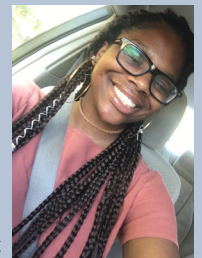
**Desiree James** is an incoming senior at the University of Southern California studying civil engineering. After graduation, she plans to attend graduate school to earn her master's degree in transportation systems. She interned at the BART Hayward Maintenance Complex (HMC) project.



**Shanetris Robertson** is a junior at Gordon State College studying business. She gained valuable experience at the BART HMC project. As a business major, she plans on building a successful enterprise inspired by the visions and values of The Allen Group.



**Riley Ross** will be a senior at Tuskegee University majoring in mechanical engineering. She enjoyed learning more about the day-to-day aspects of construction management under the guidance of the dedicated and hard-working team on the BART HMC project.



**Xinyu Wang** is an incoming graduate student at Stanford University studying sustainable design and construction. He received his bachelor's degree in construction management at Soochow University in China. He joined Anthony Bernhiem at the SFO Terminal 1 (T1) Sustainability Program.



**Amudhini Konguvel** interned at the SFO Terminal 1 (T1) Sustainability Program. She is a recent graduate of SSN College of Engineering in **Interns continued on Page 3**

WORKING CONNECTIONS

# CFO Provides Valuable Mentorship

As Chief Financial Officer for The Allen Group (TAG) Dwayne Hannah finds value in mentoring new TAG member Selam Kifle. With over 30 years of experience working as an accountant with banks and broadcast companies, Dwayne is happy to offer his professional advice and support to his eager mentee.

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.”

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 that one has when looking at the career path or with moving within an organization,” he shared, and intends on sharing tactics that can help alleviate the chaos of

mapping out a career.

His key advice to mentees? Have open communications, be upfront about goals, and be willing to participate within the organization.

“I admire his work ethics and devotion,” said Selam. “His relationship 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.

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India, where she received a degree in civil engineering in April. Thanks to TAG, Amudhini is certain about a career focus in construction management.



supporting the business management staff. In 2013, Scott attended Chabot College, where he received his associate’s degree in liberal arts. This was his second summer as a TAG intern.

**Donovan Warren**

is starting his senior year at Stuart Hall High school in San Francisco. This summer he worked with TAG project managers at the SFO Terminal 2 ATCT Tower Demolition Project along with Jadelynn.



**Anna Sara Mehoulley**

is a high school senior at Oakland School for the Arts this fall. As a marketing communications intern at TAG Anna Sara gained valuable experience in a professional work place. She looks forward to applying her enhanced communication and marketing skills in her future endeavors, including her blog: *Thrive by Design*.



**Vedang Vadalkar** is a graduate student at Stanford University, and also interned at the SFO T1 Sustainability Program.



He is studying civil engineering with a concentration in sustainability design and construction, and received his undergraduate degree in civil engineering from Mumbai University in Mumbai, India.



**Scott Hannah** is currently attending Morehouse College studying English, and interned at TAG’s 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, and with over 30 years of experience, Robert has much to offer to his mentee, Justin Montgomery, and plans on supporting him with real-world counsel.



Justin explained that Robert has underscored that “all goals can be accomplished; however, you will need a set plan, allotted time and commitment to the task at hand in order to bring your goals to fruition.”

Because Robert understands that effective mentorship should be a reciprocal partnership, he looks forward to learning 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,” he explained.

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 analytic skills, negotiation tools and techniques, public speaking, and how to resolve and manage conflict through mentors and coaches.

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

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.”

# CA LGBTQ Group Honors TAG Founder

All eyes were on The Allen Group’s CEO and Founder LaVerda Allen on May 12 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 LGBTQ 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.