

# TAG CONNECTION

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Parking Garage Rises at SFO

The Allen Group (TAG) is providing a full range of construction management services throughout the life of the Long Term Parking Garage No. 2 project (LTPG2) at the San Francisco International Airport (SFO). The world-class parking garage will be equipped with full functionality for traffic and pedestrians. The \$150-million project is the third largest project currently taking place at the airport. Senior Project Manager Peter Ross and Office Engineer Kenny Smith shared their insights for the exciting new project that is to be completed in January of 2019.

The six-story building, located northwest of the existing long term parking garage, will be approximately 100,000 square feet, will have a capacity of 3,600 parking stalls. Up to 20% of the garage will have electric vehicle (EV) charging parking stalls. The facility will also potentially include 5,000 square feet of amenity spaces for luggage check-in, dry cleaning, valet parking, and kennel services.

Exciting high-tech features include the Automated Parking Guidance System (APGS), which guides



SFO's new parking garage is nearing the topping-out milestone

vehicles to the nearest available parking spot. In addition to being available upon entrance into the garage, the APGS will be accessible via mobile app, which will enable customers to reserve and pay for their parking spot before arrival. Other features include cameras in each parking stall.

Sustainability has been a priority for the project. The ParkSmart certified building will include photovoltaic (solar) panels in order to achieve net-zero energy consumption. The building will also be a 100% photovoltaic buildout, allowing it to supply solar energy for other projects within the airport.

The project team has been praised for its compatibility and effective collaboration. "I am enjoying being project manager. We're in a good place," Peter shared. "Typically the hardest part of a project is programming and design, because a lot of ideas go around. So it's fun once you get past that part. We were concerned about the finishes at first, but now we have an example of what the finished project will look like, so we're excited about that."

"Seeing what was on paper come to life has definitely been very rewarding," Kenny added.

The final phases of the project will be the addition of two bridges: the first will be a vehicular pedestrian bridge extending from LTPG1 to LTPG2, and the second will be a pedestrian bridge connecting the AirTrain platform to LTPG2.

## TAG TALK



Dear TAG Team,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2018! We finished 2017 with a lot to look forward to in 2018.

First, TAG employees' hard work and dedication at the SFO Long Term Parking Garage No. 2 is in the spotlight as the

project is taking shape in keeping up with client expectations for enduring value.

This issue highlights the brilliancy and talent of three extraordinary individuals who serve as CPP mentors: Leamon Abrams, who has recently rejoined as TAG's new Director of Diversity and Community Relations; Vanessa Young, a skilled Construction Manager who brings extensive experience and passion; and long-time client and colleague Dr. Beverly Scott, who tells the story of her path to success.

I am also very excited to share our experience at the National Society of Black Engineers Annual Convention. We had the opportunity to witness thousands of talented and ambitious young engineers who are ready to join the industry, and to meet and network with our team!

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)

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## CLIENT POINT-OF-VIEW

## 40 Years of Leadership in Transit

*Dr. Beverly Scott is an inspirational and influential figure in the public transportation and infrastructure industries. As a long-time friend and colleague of TAG, Dr. Scott was happy to share her story.*

Dr. Scott started her career in transportation in 1977 while she was an assistant professor of government and public affairs at Tennessee State University. She was encouraged to apply for an 18-month Carnegie Foundation Fellowship at the City of Houston's Office of Public Transportation. Dr. Scott was chosen as one of the four finalists. When asked which department she wanted to work in, she knew transportation was right for her. "It was an exciting time," she recalled.

Today, as CEO and founder of Beverly Scott Associates, LLC, Dr. Scott runs an executive infrastructure management firm focused on advancing solutions and results that achieve meaningful participation and equitable outcomes for people and communities. She puts an emphasis on lifting the voices of low-income communities of color, women, and others who have been historically under-represented: "I am passionate about the importance of our nation's critical infrastructure – transportation, electricity/

power, water, telecommunications, and food – to both our individual and collective quality of life."

Dr. Beverly Scott has held prominent roles in the public transportation industry for 40 years, and has worked for a total of nine transportation agencies. A few of her notable accolades include being appointed CEO of four major rapid transit systems nationwide: Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), Sacramento Regional Transit Authority (SRTD), and Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA). Not to mention, Dr. Scott has served as a past chairperson of the American Public Transportation Association, and was appointed by President Obama as Vice Chair of the National Infrastructure Advisory Commission (NIAC).

Dr. Scott describes her relationship with TAG as a truly "unique" friendship and professional relationship that she treasures. She remembers being introduced to Schatzie and TAG almost 15 years ago, in an industry setting, and was immediately impressed by Schatzie's and LaVerda's professionalism, accomplishments, and dynamic. "From the beginning, I recognized that we shared very similar core



**Dr. Beverly Scott has held many high-level roles in transit agencies across the U.S.**

values, aspirations, and experiences that matter on a number of levels – societal, business ethics, and personally. I claim TAG as part of my 'extended' family," she shared.

In more recent years, Dr. Scott values the opportunity to see and be around TAG's Career Path Program. "Mentoring and sponsoring the new workforce at all levels is a passion of mine – one that I share with Schatzie and the TAG team," said Dr. Scott. She looks to the TAG family for "a simple, honest sounding board, some good counsel, and an old fashioned sanity check every now and then." As parting advice to those who are growing professionally, she urges, "Be authentic and comfortable in your own skin; never stop learning; give back; and do not compromise your principles – have courage."

## Coaching the Next Generation

Vanessa Young is a TAG Senior Project and Construction Manager, currently serving as the project manager on the BART \$34.5 kV cable replacement project between the 19th Ave and Coliseum stations. Vanessa began her career at TAG as the construction manager on the Yerba Buena Gardens project, and was one of TAG's first employees.

With 30 years of valuable experience in construction and project management of large civil infrastructure capital improvement, renovation, and expansion programs for private and public sector organizations, she is excited to share her wealth of knowledge and experience with her mentees, TAG's Oscar Zhao and Carl Lewis, both office engineers.

Vanessa agreed to be a mentor because she saw an opportunity to coach other up-and-



**One of Vanessa's earliest CM jobs was the Yerba Buena Gardens Project in SF.** coming project and construction managers to be the best they can be. "Nobody makes it on their own. It is my pleasure to provide help and to give back," Vanessa shared.

"It's really important for mentees to have someone who can encourage them, because they will have adversities."

Carl describes Vanessa as a wonderful mentor. "She teaches me how to stay organized when managing construction projects, and how to pay attention to small, yet significant details, which is a great asset to have in this industry. The most important thing Vanessa has taught me is to always be excellent in everything I do, and to do it with humility."

"I look forward to learning the little tricks she has up her sleeve for contract negotiation," Oscar shared. "She has brilliant ideas that I would never think of, and it's something I am very grateful for."

Vanessa advises her mentees to pursue excellence, not perfection, and to be patient in their careers.

## WORKING CONNECTIONS

## Leveraging Insight and Knowledge

## Introducing TAG Mentors

Leamon Abrams, TAG's new Director of Diversity and Community Relations, joined the TAG family in December of 2017 looking forward to bringing innovative ways to support TAG's services and products in the area of community relations. He has had a working relationship with Schatzie and TAG for over 25 years.

Leamon joined TAG in order to work for a company that has exceptional service delivery coupled with a big heart. "I mean that sincerely since our founder is so committed to issues around equity, inclusion, small business participation, and mentorship," Leamon explained. The opportunity to join an organization that has high standards and an ethical center that is aligned with his personal perspective is what he calls a "rare opportunity."

As the Director of Diversity and Community Relations, Leamon hopes to demonstrate that a small company can have a big impact, and he hopes to add to the legacy and reputation that has already been built. "There are disparities in the work place and education setting, and there are hurdles that we have to overcome. That takes 'vision' like that of

LaVerda and Schatzie's, and folks like me that can help to implement that vision."

"I pinch myself every day because I just love the people that I work with, and I love the philosophy and the ethos of this company," Leamon shared.

So far, his favorite moments during his time here have been working with candidates for job openings within the company. He was asked to support the effort by doing outreach to attract diverse and talented candidates for the openings. He has enjoyed being able to build TAG's skill set by bringing on new and talented staff, and furthering the diversity of the company.

Leamon was introduced to his field of work by long-time mentor Congressman Parren Mitchell, who gave Leamon his first job as a congressional black caucus intern. He graduated from UC Berkeley with a political science and economics degree, and received his master's degree in city and regional planning with a concentration in finance from Harvard University. "What really attracted me to this work was when I went to a hearing when I was very young, and they were proposing to site a power plant in a low-moderate income neighborhood, but there

were no people from neighborhood to talk about what the impacts would be to them," Leamon recalled. He's also been interested in issues around inclusivity and fairness, and loves brainstorming ways to give people of low-income communities voices to be heard.

Leamon joins the TAG family as a mentor to CPP members Christopher Vasquez, Bianca Grogan, and Myah Overstreet. "Mentoring our Career Path Program professionals and working with people who are at an entry point in their careers is also very rewarding," Leamon said.

"Leamon is wonderful," said Myah Overstreet, TAG's newest Marketing and Communications Assistant at the San Francisco office. "He's a great mentor because not only does he offer career guidance and support, but he is a true role model, and he teaches valuable lessons that I will always carry with me."

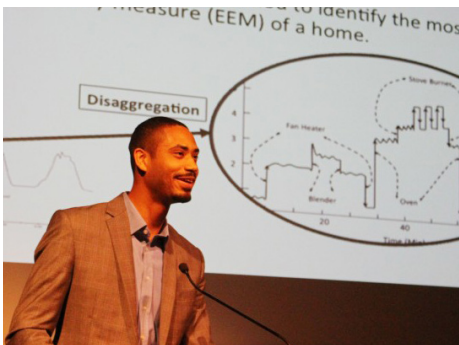


Leamon brings a 25-year relationship with TAG to his new position.

## SUCCESS FACTORS

## Former TAG Intern Brings Value in New Role at SFO

*In the summer of 2014, Anthony Kinslow joined TAG as an intern on the SFO Air Traffic Control Tower project. Anthony attributes the internship with helping him prepare for the completion of his master's degree in sustainable design and construction, and for the pursuit of his doctorate.*



Anthony was able to take the skills he learned with TAG to his new role at SFO.

"I learned about TAG through a seminar at Stanford University. I quickly became interested in joining TAG family from the sense of comradery and unity between co-workers that I noticed.

As an intern I learned how to interview stakeholders, and the importance of understanding and addressing their concerns and needs. This skill has helped me in my new position as a Net-Zero Energy Consultant at the SFO Airport where I am helping the Airport reach its goals of achieving net-zero energy.

My favorite memories of my time as an intern are times when I would sit and enjoy the view of the Air Traffic Control Tower, looking over the bay, and watching planes take off and land during my lunch break. I also really enjoyed becoming acquainted with Geoff Neumayr, Chief Development

Office at SFO, who is now my mentor. He and I have been able to have genuine and invaluable conversations about the challenges of management and leadership.

Following my internship, I completed my master's degree in sustainable design and construction at Stanford and have subsequently continued on to my PhD, which I will complete this year. My experience at the airport has motivated and enabled me to start my own company – Gemini Energy Solutions – which supports small- and medium-sized businesses to reduce their energy costs.

The work I am doing at SFO has helped both my research and my professional development. I would not have the confidence nor the experience to start my own company if not for Schatzie's mentorship and the experience I gained from TAG."

# Artistic Networking

## TAG's CPP hosts its first ever holiday mixer at Oakland's MOCHA

On December 4, 2017, TAG's Career Path Program (CPP) hosted a Holiday Networking Mixer at the Museum of Children's Art (MOCHA) in Oakland. TAG employees were able to network with experienced professionals in the infrastructure industry. Guest speakers such as Grace Crunican, General Manager of BART, and Linda Crayton, Vice President of the City and County of San Francisco Airport Commission, shared words of wisdom and inspiration to CPP members and guests. TAG CPP members got the opportunity to take charge of their professional development by focusing on creating an evening that would be fun, interactive, and beneficial to professionals from a variety of experience levels.

"The CPP event held at MOCHA was a great opportunity to bring together

professionals from a variety of firms," said CPP member and TAG employee Julie Ruetz. "It was a great success, with many professionals commenting afterward how much they enjoyed it."

The event consisted of activities that encouraged professional networking as well as the opportunity to connect on a more personal level outside of the work setting. Activities included a mini scavenger hunt as an icebreaker, which encouraged people to actively approach one another as they learned about each other's academic backgrounds, hobbies, and professional interests.

"This event was incredible and entertaining throughout the entire evening," added TAG employee and CPP member Justin Montgomery. "From the engaging games, inspirational guest speakers and creative arts, we had an amazing time networking with other industry professionals."



## NEWS & NOTES

### TAG NEW HIRES

**Jean Carlos Moreno**  
*Field Engineer*  
SFO LTPG No. 2 | Jean Carlos graduated with a B.S. in Landscape Architecture from UC Davis. He currently serves as a Field Engineer on the SFO Long Term Parking Garage No. 2 Project.

**Leamon Abrams**  
*Director of Community Relations*  
TAG SF Office | Leamon graduated with a B.S. in Political Science from UC Berkeley and an M.A. in City & Regional Planning from Harvard University. After serving in senior-level public and private sector positions, he rejoins The Allen Group as Director of Community Relations.

**Curtis Monette,**  
*Sustainability Project Manager,*  
SFO Terminal 1 | Curtis Monette graduated with a Bachelor's of Architecture from Southern University. He currently serves as a Sustainability Project Manager on the SFO Terminal 1 Program Management.

### TAG PROMOTIONS

**Jonathan Tang** | Jonathan Tang has been promoted from Field Inspector to Assistant Resident Engineer (ARE). Jonathan will serve as an ARE on projects at BART.

## TAG BIRTHDAYS THIS QUARTER

### DECEMBER

- Jeff Burkebile**, SFO REACH
- Bianca Mallory**, TAG Oakland Office
- Mercy Matheri**, TAG Oakland Office
- Nicholas Houchin**, BART
- Burl Toler**, SFO Terminal 1
- Julie Ruetz**, SFO

### JANUARY

- LaVerda Allen**, TAG CEO & Founder
- Michael Couacaud**, SFO ATCT Demo Project
- Bruce Gitron**, SFO Code Consultant
- Benga Olayomi**, BART Hayward Maintenance Facility Project
- Liz Wiecha**, TAG SF Office

### FEBRUARY

- Oscar Zhou**, BART Earthquake Safety
- Isabel Sanchez**, BART Hayward Maintenance Complex Project
- Jean Carlos Moreno**, SFO Long Term Parking Garage No. 2

### MARCH

- Bianca Grogan**, TAG San Francisco Office
- Justin Montgomery**, SFO Long Term Parking Garage No. 2

## AFRO-CUBAN FUN AT TAG'S ANNUAL POST-HOLIDAY PARTY

On January 26, 2018, TAG hosted its annual Post-Holiday Party at the W Hotel in downtown San Francisco. Filled with smiles and delicious foods, TAG employees, friends, clients and colleagues gathered for a night of celebration.

The party got started when Afro-Cuban dancers greeted guests and led them to the main venue area. Welcoming remarks from Leamon Abrams and Elizabeth Wiecha were followed by recognition of long-time employees and

supporters. Schatzie gave recognition to a number of TAG employees like Phillip Adams, Micaela Mazzini, Lisa Sommer and Bianca Mallory among others. Enthusiastic guests flooded the dance floor to learn salsa from the performers of the night and danced until the party was over.

Career Path Program (CPP) members honored the dedication, mentorship and passion that is embodied by our president, Schatzie Allen-Jefferson. After a few CPP members shared

their admiration and appreciation, they presented her with an encased collection of thank you notes from TAG employees.

The night ended on a high note, and guests were already anticipating next year's party. "The party was great success, and everyone had a fabulous time," said Bianca Grogan, TAG's executive assistant. "Guests are already looking forward to next year!"



## Annual NSBE Convention Opens Doors

The National Society of Black Engineers convened in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania this year for its 44th annual convention. Over 10,000 students, scholars and industry professionals gathered to network and discuss industry trends, careers and solutions to complex technical problems. The NSBE Annual Convention is without a doubt the best place to recruit motivated Black students and professionals from diverse backgrounds and levels of experience in all engineering disciplines. No other event provides so much access to this particular audience.

TAG's Justin Montgomery, Bianca Mallory, Leamon Abrams, and Schatzie Allen-Jefferson attended the conference to recruit eager engineers. They were joined by BART and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, both partners of TAG.

The convention was buzzing with students who were excited to get a jump start on their career path. TAG plans on continuing to encourage public agencies to attend future NSBE conventions. Join us in the fight to give African-Americans a chance

to excel in our thriving metropolis, and let's make sure we go and get some of this creative talent to make the San Francisco Bay Area their home.

