

## WDB Honors Decades of Service and Leadership



This month, the City of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board (WDB) bids farewell to some of our longest-serving and most impactful members. **Charlie Woo**, WDB Chair; **Patricia Perez**, WDB Secretary; and **David Crippens**, Youth Council Chair have each served the Board with distinction for nearly three decades. Their leadership spanned periods of both economic stability and crisis—including the Great Recession, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ongoing transformation of the regional labor market.

During their tenure, these Board Members played pivotal roles in shaping and guiding workforce strategies that responded to rapidly changing industry needs, championed equity in job training and placement, and ensured citywide alignment with federal and state workforce priorities. Their contributions include launching key initiatives, such as LA:RISE – supporting individuals experiencing homelessness gain economic stability, the LAP3 strategic plan – reducing disconnection rates among youth, and AdvantAGE LA – a bold strategy supporting the employment and advancement of older workers.

We also extend our deepest appreciation to Board Members **Agustin Cabrera**, **Priscilla Chavez**, **Veronica Corona**, **Hrag Hamalian**, **Kelly Nguyen**, and **Carmen Rad** whose collective years of service reflect a shared commitment to equitable economic growth, employer engagement, and talent development across Los Angeles.

The legacy of these Board Members is imprinted in the programs, policies, and partnerships that continue to define the WDB's impact. Their leadership has helped position Los Angeles as a national model in workforce development.

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## WDB Youth Council Recognizes UCLA YouthSource Center



During the May Youth Council meeting, the City of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board recognized UCLA YouthSource Center for over two decades of exceptional service to the city's youth. As a capstone to this recognition, a certificate from Mayor Bass was formally accepted by Director Mary Keipp, honoring her leadership and the Center's long-standing contributions.

Under the visionary leadership of Director Mary Keipp, UCLA has consistently delivered high-impact programming rooted in equity, access, and collaboration. Serving over 700 youth annually, the UCLA YouthSource Center has helped bridge the opportunity gap through initiatives such as: Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), Youth Service Corps, LA:RISE, and WIOA Youth Services.

The Center's collaborative approach—partnering with LAUSD's Pupil Services & Attendance (PSA) counselors, Division of Adult and Career Education (DACE), and Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD)—has been a model of integrated, youth-centered service delivery.

We are saddened by the closure of the UCLA YouthSource Center, **but thank Mary Keipp and the entire UCLA YouthSource Center team** for their steadfast dedication to improving the lives of young people across Los Angeles. Your work has transformed individual futures and shaped the broader system in which youth thrive.

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## WDB Hosts Crossroads Youth Policy Forum



On April 28th, 2025, the City of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board (WDB), in partnership with the Economic & Workforce Development Department (EWDD), hosted the 2025 Crossroads Policy Forum. Over 100 workforce professionals, youth and community leaders gathered at Los Angeles Trade Technical-College to galvanize collective action and explore policy solutions to support youth mental wellness.

WDB Youth Council Chair, David Crippens, opened by welcoming attendees and sharing the importance of this event in informing future policy decisions to support youth. Keynote speaker Alex Briscoe ([Public Works Alliance](#)) grounded the event, focusing on healing-centered care, the accessibility of Medicaid for mental health services, and innovative workforce programs bridging vulnerable youth into careers within the mental health space.

An expert panel led by Dr. Kristen Williams discussed dismantling harmful systems and building healing-centered futures. Panelists Mary Barraza ([LA County DMH](#)), Dr. Caleb Stephens ([Intersectional Clinician](#)), and youth leader Mariyah Williams reminded us: youth deserve more than survival - they deserve to thrive.

Student poster sessions showcased mental health research, policy recommendations and youth voices. A resource fair provided trauma-informed toolkits from youth mental health program professionals and community organizations. The forum closed with four professional development workshops centered on mental health and culturally responsive care.

The WBD team thanks all attendees for an unforgettable day of advocacy, healing and youth power. We walked away inspired - and ready to do the work.

**Click below for event program, resources, and photos:**

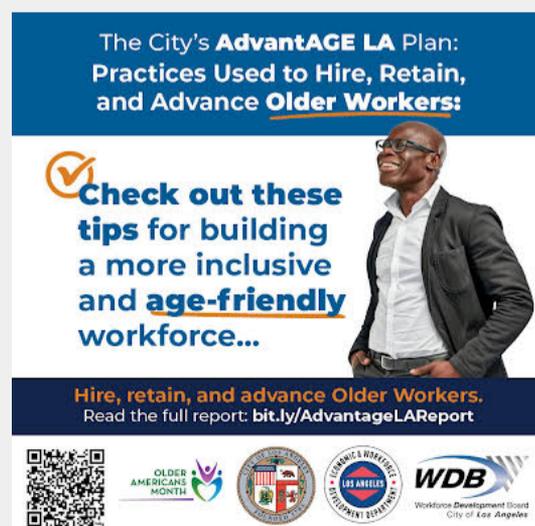
[Click Here to View](#)

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## WDB Highlights AdvantAGE LA for 'Older Americans' Month

May was nationally recognized as Older Americans Month, and this year's theme was "Flip the Script on Aging." The Workforce Development Board, with support from the Economic and Workforce Development Department, launched a social media campaign throughout May to celebrate older workers and raise awareness about the City's [AdvantAGE LA plan](#).

The AdvantAGE LA report is intended for policymakers, employers, agency leaders, community-based organizations, and older workers themselves. It provides a comprehensive understanding of the challenges older workers face and explores potential solutions.



The social media campaign served as a call to action—to raise awareness, show support for age-inclusive workforce practices, and encourage community involvement in being part of the solution.

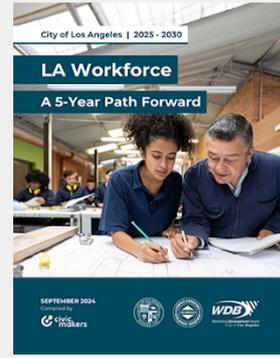
**Click below to view our social media awareness toolkit:**

[Click Here to View](#)

## Citywide 5-Year Strategic Workforce Development Plan Published

A Path Forward is the City of Los Angeles' [5-Year Workforce Development Strategic Plan](#), which lays out a bold, coordinated vision to expand economic mobility, advance equity, and connect 50,000 Angelenos to high-quality, living-wage jobs by 2030. Developed in collaboration with City departments, community organizations, education and training providers, labor partners, employers, and regional stakeholders, the plan strengthens workforce infrastructure.

This transformative strategy was designed to meet the urgent needs of residents and industries in the City of Los Angeles, prioritizing collaboration among the City's workforce system in order to provide both workers and employers with the support they need to thrive.



Click below to view a recent newsletter written by CivicMakers, a consultant that specializes in human-centered design, featuring a spotlight on the Five Year Plan and an interview with WDB Executive Director, Hannah Lee:

[Click Here to View](#)

## Los Angeles Regional Plan 2025-2028 Open for Public Comment

The Los Angeles Basin Regional Planning Unit has posted a draft version of its Regional Plan online for a **thirty (30) day public comment period from May 15, 2025 through June 15, 2025** to solicit the public's input.

In the link below, you will find:

- The full draft of the Regional Plan
- Relevant supporting materials
- Instructions on how to submit public comments

**We kindly request that you share with your network.** Members of the public, job seekers, non-profit service organizations, employers, and the business community are strongly encouraged to provide comments on the plan and its proposed strategies.

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## Upcoming WDB meetings

JUNE  
26  
2025

### POLICY & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Goodwill SoCal

JULY  
17  
2025

### WDB QUARTERLY MEETING

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Location TBD

**For more information:**

Please visit the WDB Website for Meeting information and agendas.

[Click Here to View](#)

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