

Behind the Scenes

Executive Director's Report

The arrival of vaccines for COVID-19 has brought some hope that the pandemic is nearing an end and that society will finally be able to return to normal later this year.

I have gotten a lot of questions recently about how Access will be assisting its customers in traveling to vaccination sites. While Access has been transporting customers to vaccine sites such as medical offices and pharmacies, we are currently having discussions with both the City of Los Angeles and the County about taking customers to drive through vaccination sites, like Dodger Stadium. We have expressed our concerns about the potentially long wait times that our drivers and customers could encounter at some of these vaccination sites and have asked if priority lanes could be provided for our vehicles so there is some certainty about the wait time.

Access has also been advocating for its drivers (including taxi operators) to be given priority for vaccination. Unfortunately, last week, Governor Gavin Newsom announced a new vaccine prioritization plan that eliminated any priority for sectors identified in Phase 1B - Tier 2, which included transit frontline workers under the "Transportation and Logistics" sector. The California transit community has pushed back on the new plan and is asking the Governor to reconsider this decision.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Andre Colaiace
Executive Director

access



Access steps up to deliver meals on behalf of the Los Angeles Department of Aging



When the pandemic struck in March 2020, it caught almost everyone by surprise. A simple task like going to the grocery store or a restaurant meant potentially risking exposure to COVID-19. Seniors and persons with disabilities should not have to choose between food and catching a deadly disease. When the City of Los Angeles reached out to Access for several meal delivery projects, Access saw this as an opportunity to make a difference in our community while providing additional work for contractor drivers.

Starting on April 6, 2020, Access collaborated with the City of Los

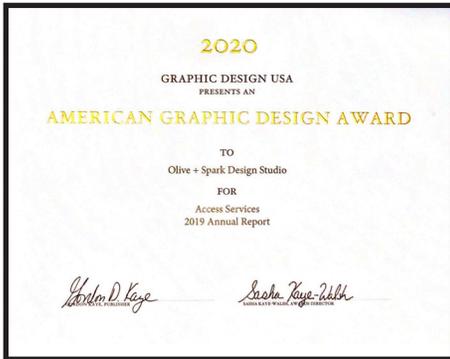
Angeles on several meal delivery projects to help provide meals to those in need throughout Los Angeles County. This was new territory for Access and staff dedicated countless hours developing standard operating procedures for the projects.

Tammy Reese, Executive Nutrition Director of Valley Intercommunity Council (VIC) in the San Fernando Valley, recognized Access' hard work and dedication. She noticed that Access embodied VIC's goal of "no senior left behind." As a token of gratitude for Access' partnership, Tammy Reese recently presented Access with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Office of Monica Rodriguez, Los Angeles Councilwoman, 7th District, and a Certificate of Congressional Recognition from the Office of Representative Tony Cardenas, member of the United States House of Representatives, 29th District, which includes the San Fernando Valley.

Access proudly continues to support Tammy Reese and the VIC centers, along with many other partner agencies during these unprecedented times. As of January 20, 2021, Access has delivered over 107,000 meals on behalf of the Los Angeles Department of Aging.

Justin Sheldon
Operations Service Monitor

2019 Annual Report recognized by American Graphic Design



I am proud to announce that Access' 2019 Annual Report has received an American Graphic Design Award. Access was selected from a competitive pool of over 1,000 submissions.

Graphics Design USA has been the news and ideas magazine for creative professionals since 1963. The awards competition is nearly six decades old and honors the power of design to shape commerce, culture, and causes across all media. Some of the other companies recognized were Adobe, Amazon, American Heart Association, Coca Cola, the Gates Foundation, and the NFL.

The agency is fortunate to have access to exceptional and creative consultants and their accomplishments are indicative of their hard work. I want to thank all the staff who contributed to the creation of the Annual Report, particularly Access Intern Lorena Ochoa and Access consultants Lisa Young and Peter Watkinson.

Josh Southwick
Chief Marketing and Creative Officer

Commendations

"I am filing a commendation for my driver Isiah Martinez. I had forgotten I scheduled a ride and became stressed that the driver may have left without me. Instead, I was pleasantly surprised to see that Isiah was patiently waiting for me."

Cyndi Ferguson
Rider since August 2013

"I am filing a smile for my bubbly driver, Mrs. Green. My scheduled driver was running late and when Mrs. Green saw me waiting; she called headquarters to see if she could take me instead. After approval, Mrs. Green was able to take me to my destination without delay. Her friendly disposition and initiative made my day."

Crystal Campbell
Rider since May 2010