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Behind the Scenes

Executive Report

Congratulations to California Transit and Diego Rangel for winning the 2014 Access Roadeo! On Saturday, a very warm day in Pomona, Access hosted the 4th Annual Access Roadeo in which 47 drivers participated for the opportunity to be "The Best of the Best" and approximately 400 individuals came out to cheer them on. The competition was fierce and everyone had a wonderful time. I would like to thank Richard Rodriguez, Access Senior Project Manager, for taking the lead on putting the event together along with Michael Tobin, Access Intern, Jack Garate, Operations Administrator, and Lucinda Webb, Access Receptionist, for all of their hard work, dedication, and organizational skills. The Roadeo could not have happened without the Access staff and I would like to thank each and every one of them for their amazing contributions in everything that we do.

Shelly Verrinder
Executive Director

Access Services 4th Annual Roadeo



Sunrise slowly broke the horizon as a light haze struggled to keep its grip off the ground.

From 4:00a.m. - 5:30a.m., ACCESS Associates rippled about like a slow trickle of water, and by 6:00a.m. like a disturbed ant hill, the place was abuzz with Associates taking responsibility for their part of the event, and then asked where else they could help.

Soon the air was filled with synergy, excitement and with the aroma of Tex-Mex Burritos, everyone lined up to enjoy the mouth-watering flavors of bacon, potatoes and egg burritos, garnished with guacamole, sour cream, peppers, salsa and more.

With our insides warmed and bellies full, we gathered under the big 40x80' white tent, kicking off our 4th Annual

ACCESS ROADEO, with the first order of business, recognizing our veterans with near deafening cheers and applause. Next, Ms. Christina Enriquez sang our National Anthem, accompanied by our trumpeter Mr. Eric Haack. The tempo was a slow melody that captured everyone's attention. One person described it as a mesmerizing surreal sunrise moment surrounded by a slight breeze, distant rolling hills and majestic purple mountains. When the Anthem was completed, the audience erupted uncontrollably with applause, cheers and the air filled with anticipated excitement of what was to come.

The new drivers course a horseshoe design, allowed guests and spectators to observe the challenges put upon the competing drivers. Over the course of the next three hours, judges offered insight and guidance, as the drivers navigated through a course that tested their skills. Throughout that period, cones were crushed, stop signs were hit and made into projectiles from some driver's miscalculation and in the end the "Best of Our Best" were identified.

Access Services Rodeo (cont.)

During the three plus hour driver challenge, children and adults lined up for face painting and other carnival games. The events background music provided by Industry Events was a mix of old school Route 66, with ongoing entertainment, raffles and synergies maintained by our infamous EMCC Mr. Torrance Johnson. Then came the succulent all beef Chicago Style Hot Dog Bar with a buffet of garnishments that would embarrass most happy hour chefs. The 350 hot dogs vanished with many people wanting more, AND THEN came the 1/2" CA Hamburger Bar with another special buffet that left everyone who took the challenge, STUFFED.

After the scores were tallied and announcements made, the lot echoed with the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat with thoughts now focused on being the victor in 2014. As the mid-day sun waned towards dusk, everyone slowly filed to their cars, laughing and conversing about the "I should have, could have, might have and leaving with smiles of a memorable FUN FILLED DAY with family and friends, with memories of camaraderie, professional bonding, shaking hands, kissing babies and over eating."

During the cleanup phase, again our associates took responsibility ensuring all materials were inventoried and returned to headquarters leaving the lot empty and void of our presence. As the last to leave, it was strange to see the lot empty where moments before it was filled with life, laughter and echoing cheers.

In reflection, we (ACCESS Associates), who participated once again, touched the lives of all who attended our 4th Annual ACCESS ROADEO, strengthening our commitments in support of those who deliver our customers safely.

If you weren't there, you missed out on a noteworthy moment in time!



Phillip Rice, Access Services Operations Supervisor

And the 2013 "BEST OF OUR BEST" ARE:
Individual Winners:

Placed	Individual
1st	Diego Rangel/CTI
2nd	Juan Manuel Chavez Caceres/GPI
3rd	Santiago Rojas/GPI

Team Winners	
1st	CTI
2nd	SGT
3rd	MV

Richard Rodriguez
Senior Project Manage



California Transit Inc. 2013 1st Palce Rodeo Winners, Geoffery Okamoto, Shelly Verrinder, and Faustino Salvador

CALIF's First Annual Summer Luncheon



On Thursday June 20th I attended CALIF's (Communities Actively Living Independent & Free) first annual summer luncheon. CALIF is one of the many independent living centers in Los Angeles County that provides invaluable assistance to persons with disabilities in Central and South Los Angeles. CALIF's mission statement reflects the diversity of services offered:

- 1.) To achieve greater input, participation and control over policies and services especially those for people with disabilities, including those that exclude them.
- 2.) To address discrimination wherever it exists.
- 3.) To encourage the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in mainstream activities that enhances the positive image and experience of disability.
- 4.) To empower people with disabilities by encouraging ongoing education and a broad knowledge of the history and heritage of the Disability Movement.
- 5.) To provide the Disability Community with the following core services:
 - a. Systems Change Advocacy
 - b. Housing Advocacy
 - c. Individual and Benefits Advocacy
 - d. Personal Assistance Services Advocacy

- e. Information and Referral
- f. Peer Counseling
- g. Independent Living Skills Training
- h. Assistive Technology (AT)

Lillibeth Navarro, CALIF founder and Executive Director provided the keynote speech, with respect to how CALIF was created and her path to advocacy. Director Navarro arrived to the U.S. in 1982 thinking this was Disability Heaven. Seeing all the available resources and facilities that provide services to the Disabled was a joy in itself. The availability of ramps everywhere, buses with lifts, accessible vans, elevators, restroom stalls, power wheelchairs and even technology that empowered the visually impaired to use computers was amazing. Though she noticed this was advancement at its best, Lillibeth saw a need to further the improvement in the transportation industry for the disability community.

This event had an array of visitors from every department in the City that works with the disability community. Among those in attendance, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Ronald E. Wade. Mr. Wade held an acting position with the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management and shared with me a major incident that occurred some years ago on the 10 Freeway west of Palm Springs. Mr. Wade cited this incident as the catalyst to improve upon the L.A. County Office of Emergency Management. During our conversation I explained how Access Services has been diligently developing a Disaster Preparedness Plan and made sure to provide Access Manager of Safety, Training, & Emergency Preparedness, Evie Palicz with his contact information.

Access strongly supports organizations in the community that assist persons with disabilities and appreciates CALIF's invitation to their event.

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Rider Comments

"Customer wrote in stating: I am writing this note to thank you for the wonderful service I have received from Access. I am disabled and really appreciate that Access enables me to be more independent at such a nominal cost. Thank you so much. Keep up the good work."

*Martha, Los Angeles
 Rider since 2011*

Bringing Back Broadway - Launching a Downtown Streetcar and Revitalizing Broadway in Downtown Los Angeles



a modern streetcar line served to bring businesses to open along the streetcar line route and improve neighborhoods along the route. The project will be partially funded by local monies that residents in the area of the proposed streetcar line voted to tax themselves to ensure the project would be pursued.

Current estimates for the construction of the Broadway streetcar and improvements to the corridor are \$125 million which is projected to carry 6,000 daily passengers and intends for construction to start in 2014-2015 and service is expected to open in 2016.

In addition to streetcar development, the Bringing Back Broadway program has already begun work on sidewalk, street furniture and street improvements along with active work performing marketing to large and small retail chains to encourage new businesses to come to the Broadway corridor.

The Bringing Back Broadway project promises to provide real improvements to a corridor of Los Angeles' Downtown which has not experienced improvements other parts of Downtown have seen in recent years.

On June 13th, the Women's Transportation Seminar hosted a luncheon at the Doubletree Hotel in Little Tokyo spotlighting presentations given by Los Angeles City Councilmember Jose Huizar and Jessica McLean, Executive Director of Bringing Back Broadway, a project designed to both revitalize Broadway in Downtown Los Angeles and also introduce a streetcar line that would connect Los Angeles' Civic Center with Broadway and entertainment district of the Staples Center and L.A. Live.

The principal aim of the Bringing Back Broadway project is to improve an historic corridor of Los Angeles. A major component of this plan is the introduction of an at-grade streetcar that will run down the center lanes of Broadway between 2nd Street and Olympic Boulevard.

In Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington, the development of

*Eric J. Haack
 Strategic Planner*