

Welcome from the Executive Director

Welcome to *What's Cookin'* – HTA's newsletter on the programs, people and events at the center of our work. It has been a busy year and we are proud of the work we have done to create life-changing training opportunities for underserved individuals throughout Southern California and Arizona. Together with our numerous employer, community and education partners, we are making a tremendous impact on the lives of those experiencing homelessness, and clients that are justice-involved, foster youth, veterans and those coming from marginalized communities. We thank you for your current partnership with the HTA and anticipate an even busier 2025!

ADINE FORMAN

Executive Director, Hospitality Training Academy (HTA)

Knives Out - HTA Students Excel in the Kitchen



With hands-on guidance from world class instructors, our burgeoning Prep Cooks and Line Cooks hone their craft in our professional training kitchen. From precision knife skills and high-level cooking techniques to banquet presentation and recipe development to sushi-making and mastering cuisines from around the world – our students learn to thrive in a

fast-paced, team-oriented environment. As a result, HTA's programs produce graduates who are job-ready for the culinary and hospitality workforce. [VIEW MORE PHOTOS](#)

HTA IN THE SPOTLIGHT



HTA Hosts California State Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas at Community Buffet

In March, we welcomed government, employer, workforce development, labor and community partners to our Koreatown kitchen for our [Spring Community Buffet](#). We were joined by Speaker of the California Assembly Robert Rivas, Assemblymembers Rick Chavez Zbur and Lisa Calderon, employer representatives from USC, The Ritz-Carlton and JW Marriott at LA Live, Disneyland, Levy and CREWS at LAX, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, and UNITE HERE Local 11, among many others. Our Line Cook apprentices prepared a delicious feast and we recognized many recent graduates who now work in leading kitchens throughout Greater Los Angeles.

[VIEW MORE PHOTOS](#)



HTA Featured in CalMatters and PBS

In the spring, CalMatters profiled the HTA as an example of how High Road Training Partnerships are getting Californians trained and placed into life-changing jobs. Read the [CalMatters feature story](#) and watch the [PBS SoCal Matters segment](#) to learn more about the impact of our work.



Los Angeles Business Journal Names HTA Nonprofit of the Year Finalist

In May, the HTA was proud to be named a finalist for Nonprofit of the Year at the Los Angeles Business Journal Corporate Citizenship & Nonprofit Awards. We appreciate the recognition for our dedication to building pathways to good jobs in the hospitality sector and creating a diverse and ready-to-succeed workforce pipeline. Congratulations to the class of 2024 nominees and winners! Read the [nominee recap](#).

HTA Staffs Up New World Class Intuit Dome

Over five job fairs, HTA helped fill more than 800 open positions at Intuit Dome – Inglewood’s newest world-class sports arena and entertainment venue, and new home of the LA Clippers. HTA and UNITE HERE Local 11, in partnership with Levy/310 Provisions and the South Bay Workforce Investment Board, connected jobseekers from across Southern California to jobs as lead cooks and prep cooks, premium/concessions barbacks, stand leads and bar leads, dispatchers, concession supervisors and dishwashers. Thanks to [media from across Southern California](#) for spreading the word!

[VIEW MORE PHOTOS](#)

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Java Journeys Begin at State-of-the-Art Barista Lab



We’re brewing careers...one cup at a time! In September, we hosted an open house at our new headquarters and state-of-the-art barista lab in downtown Los Angeles. We kicked off our new Barista/Latte Artist Registered Apprenticeship Program, spotlighted recent program graduates, and shared about opportunities for youth in the hospitality sector. We are grateful to the US Department of Labor and the State of California Division of Apprenticeship Standards for registering our program and for their continuing support.

[VIEW MORE PHOTOS](#)

Honoring Workforce Leader Gregg Irish



This spring, Gregg Irish retired as Executive Director of the City of Los Angeles’ Workforce Development Board. HTA was proud to honor Gregg for his exceptional leadership, advocacy for those most in need, and decades of service to the City of Los Angeles and the workforce development system. The tribute to self-proclaimed “workforce evangelist” Irish included honors from Assemblymember Mike Fong, Senator Ben Allen, LA County Department of Economic Opportunity Director Kelly

LoBianco, City of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board Chair Charlie Woo, former LA City Council member Jan Perry, Larry Frank, UNITE HERE Local 11 Co-President and HTA Board Chair Susan Minato, and HTA Executive Director Adine Forman.

[VIEW MORE PHOTOS](#)

HTA Sponsors New California Alcohol Tasting Law



In September, Governor Newsom signed [AB 2378](#) into law! Authored by Assemblymember Lisa Calderon and sponsored by the HTA, the new law will allow us to start our first bartender cohort. The law allows participants in a registered bartending apprenticeship program to taste, in very small amounts, an alcoholic beverage for educational purposes. Taste-testing their creations in class is an essential part of learning the bartending craft and will help us equip bartenders and mixologists with the skills they need to excel with our hotel, event and sport venues and airport partners.

HTA Alumni Celebrate our World Series Champs at Dodger Stadium



Over the last decade, HTA has placed more than 200 graduates into good union jobs at Dodger Stadium...and our alumni working at the Stadium celebrated our hometown heroes every night of the World Series in October! We even had an epic UNITE HERE Local 11 (LA) vs. UNITE HERE Local 100 (NY) bet going – and LA scored big. Go Blue!

[VIEW MORE PHOTOS](#)

LA City Council and HTA Celebrate National Apprenticeship Week



In honor of the 10th Annual National Apprenticeship Week, the [Los Angeles City Council](#) [recognized the HTA](#) and proclaimed the week of November 17-23, 2024 – National Apprenticeship Week, celebrating the theme “Expanding Registered Apprenticeship to Underserved Populations.” HTA hosted a reception for almost forty graduates of the Line Cook Registered Apprenticeship Program and presented certificates with leaders from the US Department of Labor, Los Angeles County Department of Economic Development, State of California Division of Apprenticeship Standards, Los Angeles Unified School District, UNITE HERE Local 11 and employer representatives from USC, Legends at SOFI, Hyatt Regency LAX, and CREWS at LAX.

[VIEW MORE PHOTOS](#)

HTA SPOTLIGHT

Student Success Spotlight: Genesis Oviedo Medina



“Before I came to the HTA, I had just graduated from high school and was unsure about my future. When the Farmer John’s plant closed and my mom Cristina lost her

Employer Partner Spotlight: The Ritz-Carlton/J.W. Marriott



“We have been working with the HTA since its inception, almost 12 years ago, and have come to depend on the HTA to provide highly skilled staff, many of them cooks who

job, we discovered the HTA at a Good Jobs Fair and applied together to the Spanish Line Cook class – and we were both accepted! The HTA taught me how to cook professionally and for free. Every day was a new challenge, and the instructors helped me move forward and achieve my goals. Training and working with my mom at USC has been a gift. If someone is thinking about applying to the HTA, I say: do it. I'm very glad I took this opportunity."

GENESIS OVIEDO MEDINA

HTA LINE COOK REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP
PROGRAM GRADUATE AND CULINARY SPECIALIST
AT USC

have a solid foundation of classical culinary technique from their best-in-class training. Through our partnership with the HTA, I'm proud we continue to provide second chances and often transformational career opportunities to so many deserving workers who have overcome a lot in their lives – and are now thriving. And I'm grateful for this pipeline which helps us diversify our staff to reflect the spirit and culture of Los Angeles."

JAVIER CANO

AREA GENERAL MANAGER, THE RITZ-CARLTON LOS ANGELES AND J.W. MARRIOTT LOS ANGELES LA LIVE

ABOUT THE HTA

The Hospitality Training Academy (HTA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, labor-management organization that provides free training and best-in-class apprenticeships to prepare people for high quality, in-demand jobs in the hospitality, food service, leisure and tourism industries. We connect our partner employers in Southern California and the State of Arizona with well-trained workers, upskill the current workforce, and help move vulnerable people from poverty to self-sufficiency through life-changing careers.



[Get In Touch](#)



HTA Office

1150 S. Olive St., 26th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90015

HTA Training Kitchen

1234 S. Western Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90006

Los Angeles Hospitality Training Academy
1150 S. Olive St.
26th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90015 US

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