



south central los angeles regional center

sclarc scene

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arc mid cities paves the way for sclarc consumers to have gainful employment see page 2

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## south central los angeles regional center moves into its new permanent headquarters—legacy plaza

by marsha mitchell-bray

director of community services & family supports

South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC) opened the doors to its permanent new home—Legacy Plaza—on Tuesday, June 2, 2015. Legacy Plaza is the first major office development in four decades to be constructed in South Los Angeles. Formally located at the corner of Adams Boulevard and Figueroa Street, SCLARC's new headquarters are a welcomed service oasis in the West Adams District. It is anticipated that the local economy will derive added benefit as a result of the regional center's 300 employees and from its numerous stakeholder and vendor visits to this location. Additionally, SCLARC's Board of Directors and Leadership Team have made a commitment to inspire economic development in this area while providing local organizations with access to state of the art meeting rooms and ample parking for weekend community events.

South Central Los Angeles Regional Center first opened its doors in 1974. Within a year, the agency was serving 1,059 clients who had been diagnosed with a developmental disability on a budget of just over half a million dollars. Today, funded by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), SCLARC provides assessment, residential, transportation and day program services to approximately

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## consumer spotlight: arc mid-cities paves the way



For more than 60 years, Arc Mid-Cities has been giving people with special needs an added sense of purpose through gainful employment; thus enabling them to thrive and live higher quality lives. At AROCK Industries, SCLARC consumer trainees create custom-made pavers that add beauty to any walkway.

**by chantal grayson**  
**sclarc scene contributor**

Arc Mid-Cities has been in business since 1954 and continues to provide services to individuals living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. SCLARC consumers who attend Arc Mid-Cities work in enclaves--groups of three or more individuals who are employed with the help of Arc Mid-Cities' job developers and staff. Throughout the years, Arc Mid-Cities has also implemented and developed a training and employment program. One subsidiary of Arc Mid-Cities is AROCK Industries.

"For more than 60 years, Arc Mid-Cities has been giving people with special needs an added sense of purpose through gainful employment; thus enabling them to thrive and live higher quality lives. We are proud to be an advocate for people living with intellectual and development disabilities. We are also proud to be a permanent part of Legacy Plaza through our pavers," said JB Wagoner, Executive Director of Arc Mid Cities.

The company is an interlocking paver manufacturing company that is operated by SCLARC consumers. At AROCK Industries, consumers learn to mix concrete, fill molds, and add decorative features. Once the pavers are ready for transport, consumer trainees also aid in the loading and delivery of the pavers to job sites. The high quality pavers are custom-made to order.





# sclarc celebrates world down syndrome day

by crystal smith

family resource center parent advocate



March 21, 2015 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual world-wide celebration of World Down Syndrome Day (WDS). March 21<sup>st</sup> was chosen as the official date because it represents the most common manner in which Down syndrome is manifested—3 copies of the 21<sup>st</sup> chromosome (3/21). As an agency, SCLARC strives to educate and support all of our families. As such, the Family Resource Center (FRC) celebrated our families with young children diagnosed with Down syndrome by inviting them to our WDS Silly Sock Party which was held on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Silly Sock Party hosted more than 75 families, SCLARC staff and community partners, including 32 children with Down syndrome between the ages of 0-5. Everybody came with his or her dancing feet in tow. The families had fun participating in circle time activities that are geared towards early learning, movement and dance. There was hand clapping, feet stomping, shouting and lots of laughter. There was even a special dance mix where everyone was encouraged to show off their fancy moves.

Every child in attendance received a pair of silly socks and our little ones with Down syndrome received a commemorative SCLARC WDS 2015 t-shirt courtesy of the FRC. They proudly showed off their shirts at the brightly decorated WDS Photo Wall. Families were also treated to an expertly drawn caricature courtesy of Dominic Arneson--*The Cartoon Slinger*. The amazing artist and his talents were donated by SCLARC provider partner 24hr HomeCare.

Several SCLARC superstars, who shared their amazing life stories and accomplishments, were highlighted. Five adults with Down syndrome, along with their families and circles of support, were celebrated as outstanding members of the SCLARC community. Their testimonies inspired and encouraged our families who are just starting their journeys of caring for a loved one with Down syndrome.

Sharing their stories were Christopher Davis, Shanda DeCosta and Josue Estrada all of whom attend the Ideal Program Services Day Program and are shining examples of what is possible when given the right support and opportunities. These WDS heroes each possess qualities and skills that have allowed them to flourish, become responsible and more independent adults as well as social butterflies.

Likewise, Juan Pierri III has achieved amazing success as an artist. His artistic ability was nurtured at the Exceptional Children's

see sclarc celebrates on page 5

## sclarc moves into legacy plaza ... continued from page 1



reception area in the Legacy Building

13,500 stakeholders with a budget of \$150 million dollars. SCLARC began an exhaustive search in the early 2000's for their new headquarters that would meet their operational and programmatic needs. This was particularly difficult within the agency's low-income service area, where few large office facilities exist. The organization decided to take action by devising a financing and development plan with its Board of Directors to build a permanent headquarters.

With the support of Friends of SCLARC (FOS), a non-profit support organization of the regional center, a savvy predevelopment team was assembled to help move SCLARC forward with its dream of a new office

complex. FOS and SCLARC started a partnership between Genesis LA Economic Growth Corp., a non-profit community development finance entity that provided tax credits and technical assistance and Morgan Stanley, which provided predevelopment and land acquisition capital. However, due to the economic down turn in 2009, it was determined that more capital would be required to complete the project. Friends of SCLARC captured \$52 million in CA Tax exempt bonds to clear the predevelopment debt and obtain sufficient financing to complete the construction of the project that started in 2013.

Other invaluable partners behind this project included Primstor Development, one of the most experienced, minority-owned developers in Los Angeles; AE3 Partners, the lead architectural firm; Steinberg Architects, a firm specializing in historic projects and KSJ Construction, a newly-formed, minority general construction company. Together, the aforementioned entities were able to realize SCLARC's vision for its new headquarters.



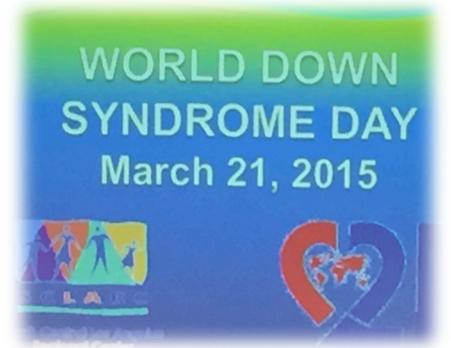
reception area in the golden state mutual building

The project entailed the renovation of the historic Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company Building (GSM) and the development of a new structure—the Legacy Building—that is comprised of two floors of office space for case management services and four levels of parking. Together, the buildings provide approximately 100,000 square feet that enhance SCLARC's day-to-day operations by providing the organization with increased parking, meeting space, and expanded clinical programming capacity to do intake services and assessments. GSM houses SCLARC's human resources personnel, a state of the art computer training room, the fair hearings offices, quality assurance staff, the agency's fiscal employees and its executive offices. Without a doubt, the Legacy Plaza provides South Central Los Angeles Regional Center the opportunity to deliver quality services to its stakeholders in an ecstatically pleasing setting.

As homage to world-renowned architect Paul Williams, the first African American member of the American Institute of Architects (A.I.A) who designed the Golden State Mutual Life Building in 1947, a bronze bas-relief is being created for the site. The memorial will recognize Legacy Plaza's and SCLARC's connection to a great innovator who contributed to communities throughout the world, including those encompassed within burgeoning South Los Angeles neighborhoods of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.



## world down syndrome day celebration ... continued from page 3



Foundation Art Center in San Pedro, CA. Juan's work has been displayed and sold at many art shows in various cities and states. In fact, many of his art pieces were displayed at the Very Special Arts (VSA) Art Exhibition at the Smithsonian in Washington D.C.! Juan says his inspiration comes from the people who are closest to his heart. He has found an amazing way to share his talent and spirit with the nation.

Lastly, we had a chance to meet and hear from Douglas Garcia. Douglas is a consumer of SCLARC who lives a healthy, happy and independent life. He lives on his own with support from his ILS team members who help him to manage his income and financial responsibilities. Douglas goes to work, he cooks from himself and he tends to all of his personal needs. Douglas is a high school graduate who also attended Santa Monica College. In addition to being a successful and accomplished member of his community, he also advocates for others with developmental disabilities as a self-advocate and has traveled to Sacramento with the President of the ARC. He has even traveled to the White House and met with President Barack Obama!

The goal of the World Down Syndrome Day is to bring to light that members of our society with Down syndrome belong to their community. This is done by bringing awareness to the larger community, and demonstrating that anything is possible for those diagnosed with Down syndrome and other disabilities. Most importantly, it is also about showing individuals with Down syndrome that their community is supportive of them and that we believe everyone can achieve a level of success.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual SCLARC-FRC WSD Celebration achieved this goal and then some. SCLARC staff members and consultants showed their solidarity by wearing the support colors of blue and yellow. They also came and partied with our families at our Silly Sock party, which was fun for all in attendance. SCLARC looks forward to rocking out at WSD 2016!

# sclarc's commitment to autism month just keeps getting better and better

by pamela colvin-lee \* sclarc autism liaison



Autism Month 2015 began with the Empire State Building and other monuments, across America showing off their blue. City by city, town-by-town "Lit It Up **Blue**" to raise awareness and to commemorate World Autism Awareness Day.

SCLARC's participation was no different. Our agency "Lit It Up **Blue**" on "Wear **Blue** to Work Day" in solidarity and support of our consumers and families. We wrote our emails in blue. We baked blue frosted desserts, wore our Autism puzzle piece pins and bracelets everyday throughout the month of April. We posted to our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages to boost awareness.



We also held "Kick Off" events to launch our fundraising efforts. Our consumers at Ideal Services, SCLARC's Autism walk sponsor, hit the pavement and hosted eight (YES, EIGHT) community walks. Ideal's clients (referred to as trainees) also hosted fundraising booths at the Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles County Fire Department and other various locations. Other Ideal Services efforts included an Autism Walk T-shirt contest. The winning tee was designed by one of their artistically talented trainees. The Autism Awareness Month's activities culminated on April 18th at the Pasadena Rose Bowl. Team SCLARC along with over 55,000 attendees participated in the 2015 Walk Now for Autism Speaks Los Angeles 5k Walk.



The day was met with great excitement from our team members as well as our SCLARC Ambassador families who led Team SCLARC on a 3.2 mile walk. We all proudly sported our signature, limited edition, Kelly green Walk tees. These special shirts were imprinted with the name of our new building "Legacy Plaza" and were surrounded by the words "40 Years of Service, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" which commemorates SCLARC's 40 years of stellar service to persons diagnosed with developmental disabilities and their families.

Everyone enjoyed the day of Walk Now festivities which featured kid's zone activities, a petting zoo, arts and crafts, appearances by Ronald McDonald, Smokey the Bear and the Los Angeles Kings. Additionally, those teams that raised \$1,000 or more were able to enjoy a VIP, red carpet styled entrance with photo booth pictures. This year's live entertainment featured several actors and musical performances by singers on the Autism Spectrum. With more than 170 members walking, Team SCLARC raised \$8,424.

A special Thanks goes out to our Ambassador Families, Ideal Program Services, SCLARC staff, VAC, vendors and those who generously contributed to the success of our Autism Month celebration.





# Special Olympics WORLD GAMES LOS ANGELES 2015

What are the World Games?

The 2015 Special Olympics will be the largest sporting event with athletes with intellectual disabilities from 177 countries. More than 7,000 athletes will compete in different sporting events.

Where will the World Games take place?

All of the sporting events will be in Los Angeles.

When will the World Games start?

The World Games will start July 25 - August 2, 2015



# Special Olympics WORLD GAMES LOS ANGELES 2015

Juegos Mundiales de Olimpiadas Especiales

¿Qué son los Juegos Mundiales?

Las Olimpiadas Especiales 2015 será el evento deportivo más grande con atletas con discapacidades intelectuales de 177 países. Más de 7.000 atletas competirán en diferentes eventos deportivos.

¿Dónde se llevaran a cabo los Juegos Mundiales?

Todos los eventos deportivos serán en Los Angeles.

¿Cuándo se llevaran a cabo los Juegos Mundiales?

Del 25 de Julio al 2 de Agosto de 2015



South Central Los Angeles  
Regional Center  
for persons with developmental disabilities, inc.

## Be a Fan in the Stands

SCLARC's Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) Is forming their

"Cheering Squad" to attend the **FREE** Special Olympics World Games

Sporting events throughout Los Angeles.

To participate contact:

Desiree Boykin at (213) 743-7031 or  
Monique Watts at (213) 744-8899



Be part of the Fun and join the CAC Cheering Squad!



South Central Los Angeles  
Regional Center  
for persons with developmental disabilities, inc.

## Enseñe su Entusiasmo en los Juegos

Viva la emoción en vivo y forme parte del

"Grupo de Porristas" del Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) de SCLARC.

Todos los eventos de los Juegos Mundiales de Olimpiadas Especiales

Serán en Los Angeles y serán **GRATIS**.

Para participar contacte a:

Marsia Chutan al (213) 743-3079



Sea parte de la diversión y forme parte del Grupo de Porristas!



South Central Los Angeles  
Regional Center  
*for persons with developmental disabilities, inc.*

## SCLARC's Consumer Advisory Committee "CAC" Monthly Community Meet-Up



**Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Mall**  
**3939 Crenshaw Blvd.**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90008**

**SATURDAY, JULY 18TH**  
**2:00 P.M.—4:00 P.M.**

- Come join us for some delicious food and fun
- Remember to bring enough money for your meal
- For more information, and to R.S.V.P contact, **Desiree Boykin** at (213) 743-3071 or [desireeb@sclarc.org](mailto:desireeb@sclarc.org)
- *Please R.S.V.P by July 10, 2015*

