

### **“We Build” Program**

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) has embarked on an aggressive \$19.2 billion school construction and renovation program that will deliver new and modernized school facilities and approximately 180,000 new classroom seats by the year 2012.

By the end of 2005, the LAUSD Facilities Services delivered 55 new schools (of the more than 150 planned) and 37 additions to existing schools, 19 early education centers, 14 playgrounds, and more than 12,500 modernization and repairs.

In recognition of the size and complexity of its school construction program, the District's Board of Education entered into a Project Stabilization Agreement (PSA) to ensure labor stability and to maximize local economic benefits through a 50% local worker participation goal. This ambitious local worker participation objective is the guiding principle for the “We Build” Program.

The “We Build” Program, established in 2004, is one element of a comprehensive local worker participation strategy to facilitate achievement of the 50% local participation goal as outlined in the PSA. The PSA is a partnership between the Board of Education of LAUSD, and the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trade Council. The “We Build” Program helps ensure that the economic benefits of the District's multi-billion dollar construction program are extended to local District residents by providing opportunities for entry into the field of construction. With several large construction programs in the general LA region, demand for construction workers is high and the “We Build” Program gives “ready to work” individuals an excellent opportunity to start a career in construction.

“We Build” provides local residents with an opportunity to enroll in an 8 to 10 week pre-apprenticeship training program through its partnership with the Century Community Training Program (CCTP) and the LAUSD Adult & Career Occupational Skill Centers. Pre-apprenticeship training provides trainees with a comprehensive overview and hands-on experience in over 20 different construction trades. An employability plan is developed for each trainee during his or her training to ensure the best match to a union building trade. Since its inception, the “We Build” Program has graduated more than 650 participants. Seventy five percent of those graduates, who have committed to begin a career in construction, are currently fully engaged in construction jobs.

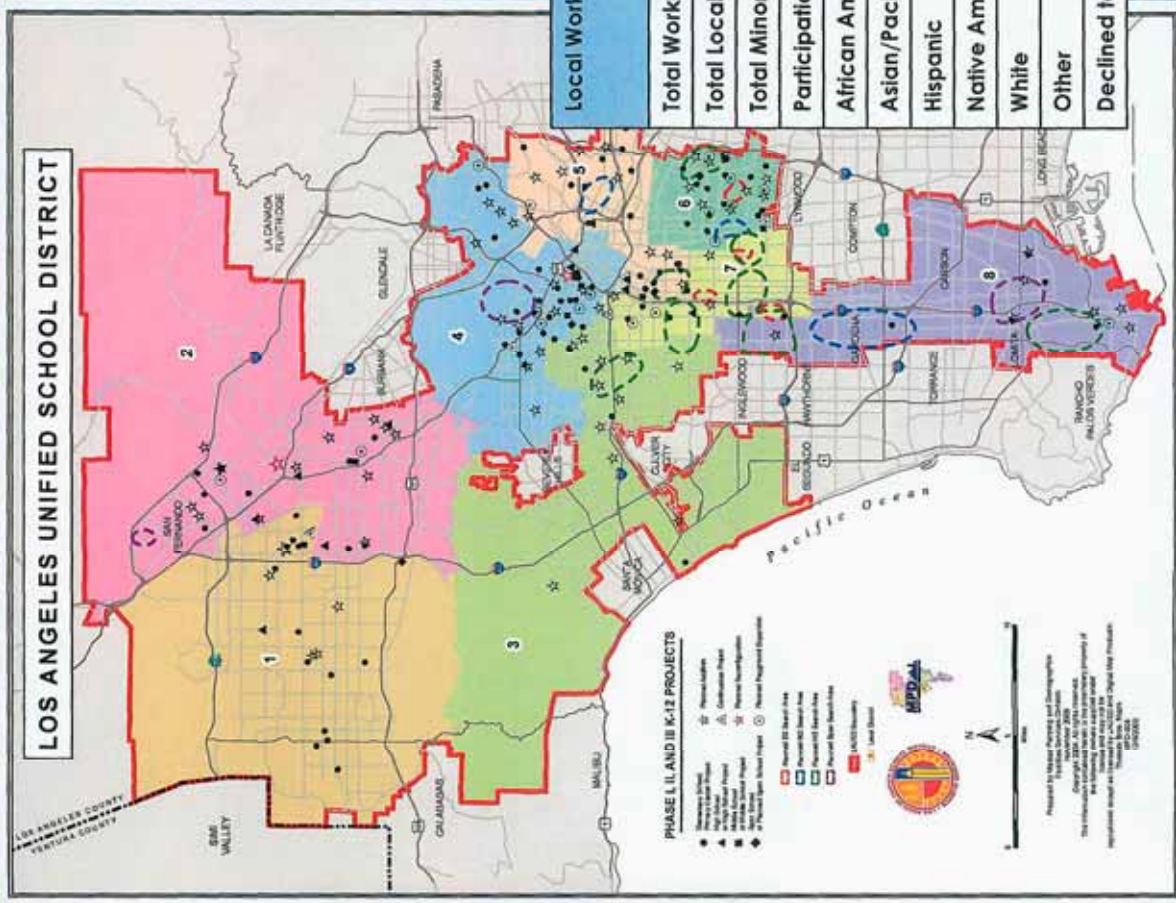
Recent graduate, Claudia Funez, is a single mother of four, who completed the “We Build” Program and is now working for Shasta Electric as a residential helper through the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IWEW), Local Union 11. Before her participation with the “We Build” Program, she was employed as a janitor. She previously believed that construction was a field for available only to men, but now she advises other women, “not to be discouraged because construction is a field open to both men and women with many opportunities.” There is tremendous room for more people like Claudia. The “We Build” Program helps local residents like her who are ready to be successful by fulfilling their obligations to the training program and then to the contractor who hires them as a union member.

**Contact: Jim McConnell • Los Angeles Unified School District • 355 South Grand Avenue  
Suite 1100 • Los Angeles, CA 90071 • 213-633-7117 • 213-633-7239 • James.McConnell@LAUSD.net**

# "We Build"<sup>™</sup> Local Worker Program



"We Build" participants at a local training session.



Local Worker Participation by Ethnicity	Regional Estimate (1)	LAUSD Workforce	"We Build" Program
Total Workers or Trainee Placement		9,554	200
Total Local Worker Participation (%)		35%	100%
Total Minority Participation		69.30%	85%
Participation by Ethnicity			
African American	2%	4.33%	23.50%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3%	1.99%	0.05%
Hispanic	38%	62.43%	61.50%
Native American	0.30%	0.55%	0.005%
White	36%	24.64%	0.06%
Other	20.7%	1.47%	0.05%
Declined to State		4.58%	

(1) Source: Rand Corp.

