



# COVID-19: Resources + Updates

News around the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak has been fast moving and the impact widespread. In this edition of News@11, we've elected to still showcase the excellent work members are engaged in and highlight activities from the various Districts and Units, as we always do. For regular COVID-19 updates, please visit our website at [www.ibew11.org](http://www.ibew11.org) and check our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ibewlocal11](http://www.facebook.com/ibewlocal11). **Stay Safe.**

PHOTO BY TED SOQUI

## Stepping Stones: IBEW 11 On the Job With Bridge Housing



MARCH 2020

[WWW.IBEW11.ORG](http://WWW.IBEW11.ORG)

THE NEWSLETTER OF IBEW LOCAL 11

By Pauline Vu

After years of debate about what to do to alleviate Los Angeles' massive homelessness crisis, work is finally being completed on temporary bridge housing for the homeless.

Local 11 members are right there in the thick of it, powering up several of the sites.

"I believe it's a step in the right

direction," said Edward Michel, a journeyman working at the Venice site. "At the very least, it's opening people's eyes to the situation that we have with the homeless."

The sites are part of Mayor Eric Garcetti's "A Bridge Home" initiative, announced in 2018, to set up a temporary shelter in each of the city's 15 council districts and provide at least 1,500 beds. The sites are only planned to be open for three years as they help homeless people transition to permanent housing.

The Venice location contains five trailers to house teens and youth; a sanitation trailer with bathrooms, showers and laundry facilities; and a giant tent-like structure that will hold bed units for more than 150 people and include rooms for social services.

The Venice site's foreman, Local 11 member Victor Anthony, noted that when he joined the project in July 2019, it was still just a bus parking lot.

"Sometimes as electricians we  
(Continued on page 6)

## How Local 11 Members Rigged LA City Hall For a Unique Lighting Display

By Oren Peleg

Over 400 feet above downtown Los Angeles, Paul Martinez is standing on a small piece of scaffolding atop City Hall. He and fellow Local 11 electrician Chad Hudson are lifting a lighting panel in place that will help illuminate the building's famous pyramid crown. This panel is one

of the final lights being installed by Local 11 around the structure. When completed, some 400 LED panels and gobos will be able to wash City Hall in an array

(Continued on page 8)



PHOTO BY TED SOQUI

NEWS@11

FPO



# BUSINESS MANAGER'S MESSAGE

By Joel Barton

## In the Time of COVID-19

*Sisters and Brothers,*

**T**his newsletter will reach you well into the time we are still dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. I had hoped to continue with good news of the work picture, but all that has been put on hold while we work to contain and eradicate this terrible disease.

Stay at home orders were mandated by the city, county and state departments starting March 20, 2020. Certain essential services were excluded, including most types of construction. This does not mean you HAVE to go to work. If you don't feel comfortable going to work due to concerns about COVID-19, stay home. The International Union and National NECA have negotiated an agreement which grants

furloughs and safeguards for your rights. Look to our website at [www.ibew11.org](http://www.ibew11.org) for links to this and other documents which should help clarify and answer any questions you may have.

The pandemic predictions are changing every hour and the Local Union will monitor and react. On March 19, 2020, I was on conference calls with both Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and California Governor Gavin Newsom for updates. We had a conference call with the City on Saturday at 2:30 pm and plan to have weekly meetings to stay abreast of recent developments.

Your well being is of utmost concern and the Local Union will take appropriate action. This crisis is expected to last all of April and well into May 2020. We will help any way we can during these difficult times. Remember to use the resources you have as a member of IBEW Local Union 11. Your health plan, Membership Assistance Program and Pension Department.

These vital services as well as the Local Union will remain open to service your needs.

All IBEW conferences and events through June have been cancelled. You should have received a card notifying you of the cancellation of all Unit and District meetings. The latest order has been to not have meetings of any kind with any amount or people. I don't know how this will affect our monthly general membership meeting, but this is 4 weeks away and I will look for guidance from the International Union and local Health Departments. The business of the Local Union will continue if it is possible.

I hope this crisis is over soon. As we go through this together, we will prevail and become stronger because of it.

*In Solidarity,  
Joel Barton  
IBEW 11 Business Manager*

**I hope this crisis is over soon. As we go through this together, we will prevail and become stronger because of it.**

**COVID-19 Resources & Updates: [ibew11.org/covid-19-resources](http://ibew11.org/covid-19-resources)**

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Joel Barton

## IBEW 11 Veterans Enjoy Live Fire Shoot

Local 11 Veterans participated in a live fire shoot at Camp Pendleton, CA. in January. This was now the second consecutive year that Mike Kufchak (Director of Veterans Affairs) hosted the event for

our veterans. Ramses Martinez, who is a second year apprentice stated that he would have never imagined that he would find a career that was supportive of his past service in the military. Those that participated were hosted for the day and provided weapons and ammunition at no expense to our veteran members, and included a cookout prior to the day's end.



## IBEW 11 Member Recognized for Photography



IBEW 11 Member Natalie Anaya received first place in this year's IBEW Photo Contest. This year's winner comes from deep underground, where the third-year apprentice captured this hero shot of

journeyman wireman Ron Torres preparing for work. The Local 11 pair work for signatory contractor Dynalectric on Metro LA's Regional Connector, which will expand and connect Los Angeles' sprawling rail system through downtown by 2022.

## From the President

Brothers and Sisters, because of the recent current events, some of our members who are "reservists" will likely get called into duty (sometime in the near future) with the National Guard. I just want to let you brothers and sisters (who do get called into duty) know that your pension and health benefits are being maintained and credited with service hours by the trust offices. The law that stipulates this is called "USERRA," or the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (of 1994). If you are being called into service give the pension and health trust a call and find out how this is going to affect you. Whether you

**Do what you can, stay cool, be safe and show everyone how Local 11 is a cut above the rest.**



get additional credited benefits or your benefits become "frozen," the pension and health trust will give you the necessary "peace of mind."

In these difficult and uncertain times so many of our members are being pushed to extremes and both Business Manager Joel Barton and I are proud of every one of you. Do what you can, stay cool, be safe and show everyone how Local 11 is "a cut above the rest." Remember, when it comes to your benefits, you should always give the trust offices the first call. Thank you and I remain,

*Fraternally yours in Solidarity,  
Gaylord "Rusty" Roten*

## Safety: In This Together

We are the IBEW, and we are family. We are in uncharted waters now as we are going through extraordinary circumstances. I want to tell you that we are in this together. In the 39 years of being a member of IBEW 11, I have been through a few recessions, a couple large earthquakes and riots, all which shut down Los Angeles. I have been on 4-day work week schedule due to lack of work and also worked on jobs that paid 80% wages just to be able to work. After all this... IBEW 11 is still the 3rd largest local in the country. We lead the country in our forward thinking and PLA's signed. In my short time, we have gotten through it all. The IBEW has been around 129 years. Our past members have weathered World War 1, the Great Depression, World War 2, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. WE have members who have survived Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran conflicts. WE will get through this. WE as IBEW members are not like everyone else. WE share the Brotherhood heart. WE truly are

family as our Founding Fathers would have wanted it to be. WE carry a tradition of being the safest, best trained professional Electricians out there. It is our tradition to look after each other. And that brings me to my point. WE truly are our Brothers and Sisters Keeper. WE need to look after each. At this time, more than ever, we need to come together. WE need to support each other. Take time to listen to each other. Encourage peace and calm. If you are going to work, then you need to work but do it safely. We have many new members that have never seen tough times. Make sure to let them know. We are in this together. And we will get through this. And after all this is over, we will still be that family, still together. History will tell how the IBEW came out of this situation. Be sure that the story told will be one of solidarity, fraternity and Brotherhood. Remember, don't ever look down at your brother and sister unless your bent over holding your hand out to lift them up.

*Yours in Brotherhood,  
Bro. Ivan De Herrera, Jr.  
Asst. Business Manager, Director of Safety*

**DISTRICT 1**  
**Shomari Davis**

Happenings have been changing lately due to COVID-19:

- ▶ Hotel Project on Pico and Figueroa IS HAVING THE foundation dirt work being done. Project will be taking bids from our Electrical Contractors.
- ▶ LUCAS MUSEUM at Exposition Park
- ▶ Hollywood Presbyterian on Vermont and Sunset is doing a New Hospital tower.
- ▶ 8th & Figueroa Tower between the Parking structure and Ernst & Young tower that's just starting.

Stay safe out there while working... Any questions feel free to call my cell.

**DISTRICT 2**  
**Gary Tomlin**

These are some different and uncharted times we are in right now. The work picture has temporarily slowed down in the D2 area. Some of the turnarounds in the Refineries have been put on hold until this COVID-19 situation is over. Most projects are still moving along.

On a closing note, be safe and we will get through this and bounce back even stronger.

**DISTRICT 3**  
**Mike Costigan**

What can I say that already hasn't been said? We are living in a very stressful time that will definitely leave its mark in history. But I'm not here to report on the COVID-19 pandemic, but to report on what's going on in District 3. Frontier / Kemper has started working on the temporary substation that will power up the Tunnel Boring Machine for the third section of the Purple Line. We have a few members out there now, and were setting some of the gear today, 3/20/2020. Helix

at the MSC at LAX will be scaling back slowly over the next few weeks but will be continuing to work some overtime over that period. I also visited the ITF West project where people will be able to be picked up from the airport by friends or family when completed. It too has a very large footprint similar to the CONRAC job. Unfortunately, as of this article, the rain has caused a temporary slow-down because the job is in the underground stage, and it doesn't take a chemist to know that water and dirt equals mud. LAWA has temporarily stop issuing airport badges, but luckily, four of the good size jobs are considered "Landside" and don't require LAWA badges.

On another note, the District 3 Welfare Committee will be getting in some Do Rags shortly with the IBEW bug, similar to the ones you might have seen out on the job. I believe I speak for all the Welfare Committee's when I say Thank you for purchasing our merchandise. That money goes to a fund in that District to help members who might have been injured or fell ill, and that may need a little financial assistance to pay dues or some other necessity.

And finally, as a 35-year member, I've seen bad times, and I've seen good times. But I've never seen bad good times! Together as Brothers and Sisters, I know we can weather this storm.

Take care of each other. Take care of your family. And take care of yourself. We all need you.

**DISTRICT 4**  
**Marc Greenfield**

Greetings from The San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys. I hope this finds you and your families healthy and you have enough groceries and toilet paper!

I usually report on upcoming jobs and current on going projects. However at this time I would just like to tell all of you to take care of yourselves and your family and enjoy the time with your loved ones. Hopefully things will start getting back to normal in the not too distant future and I will report on a great work picture in D4.

**DISTRICT 5**  
**Mitch Klein**

Greetings from the High Desert.

As Spring is upon us and we are dealing with unprecedented times, we are continuing work at the Defense Plants, Antelope Valley College, Antelope Valley Transit Authority, Palmdale Water District and the Palmdale School District. So far no jobs have been shut down.

Beginning of Summer should bring more solar work in Lancaster. We have approximately 200 MW still to come. With the help of Business Development, our Business Manager and the Building Trades we should be looking at more Community Workforce Agreements. Through politics we are trying to secure private work with the City of Palmdale and Lancaster.

We are still heavily involved with our political races. Locally we are looking at the 25th Congressional, 21st Senate, 36th Assembly plus local City council, Water Board and School Board races. All the help we can get would be greatly appreciated.

If you had not done so, please sign up for our upcoming Journeyman Classes. Our next class will be LAQSP in late April. This will be a 32-hour class and counts as ongoing education for state certification and is good for 5 years. If there is a class you would like to see in District 5, please let us know.

I would like to thank our officers for all their hard work and participation Alfredo Torres, King Moore, Mike Kaminski, Luis Martinez, Edgar Ico, Dion Jensen, Shane Fairbrother, Adalberto Gonzales, George Martinez and Ron Dreiling.

Please keep our fallen Brothers and Sisters in your prayers and stay virus free.

**DISTRICT 6**  
**Erik Delgado**

As concerns for COVID-19 grow, the IBEW and NECA put out a newsletter with job site procedures. Please go to [www.ibew.org/](http://www.ibew.org/)



## Apprentice of the Month

ETI Training Director Diana Limon presented the Apprentice of the Month Award to 2nd year Inside Apprentice, Jason R. Amsden. Sister Limon talked about Jason's accomplishments. Jason currently holds a GPA of 99.4% and works for Apollo Electric.

media-center/Articles/20Daily/2003/200317\_IBEW\_NECA\_Sign and keep yourself safe. I just want to reassure that I am out here visiting your jobs and representing you through these difficult times. Brothers and Sisters if you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to call me. I am very optimistic that we will all get through this and return to our normal lives and back to building LA County.

**SOUND & COMMUNICATIONS**  
**Chuck Webb**

Over the many years I have spent in this industry there have been challenges faced and overcome. COVID-19 is unlike any threat that we have faced. Chances are pretty good that someone you know, a friend or loved one, will be affected in some way by this virus. We at Local 11 will keep you informed, to the best of our ability, through our website, email blasts and mailings.

Another challenge that we must face is Brotherhood. As I tried to find a good definition to put in this spot of my report, a definition that fully explained our use of the word, I came to several realizations. We may not be practicing what we preach. I grew up in southern Louisiana in the 1960s. Racism was a way of life. I think it is fair to say that people like to be with people that are like them. Taken to the extreme led to race riots and America trying to come to grips with who and what we were. Fast forward to today. Unlike many industries in America, our Collective Bargaining Agreement ensures that the contractor be both color blind and gender neutral. This is a great thing in a country where females and minorities are compensated at a lower rate than the white male in most industries. The subtleties of racism are like a self-inflicted wound. Many members have talked with me about taking a call and arriving on the job only to realize that no one there "looked like them," and they knew that this would be a short call. Brotherhood means that we, as members

of that brotherhood, are color blind and gender neutral. I should be able to go onto a jobsite and see a representation of every ethnic group that makes up this great state in which we live. If you are in the leadership of the company that you work for, meaning a Foreman or higher, it is up to you to make that difference. The politics of the day tears at each of us creating the divisions that lead us down a dark path; shine a light on the divisions within your workplace and be a part of the solution.

**RETIREE**

To help protect our Retiree's Club Members and practice social distancing as required by our local governments, we need to cancel in person events, so we are cancelling our next scheduled meeting on April 8, 2020 due to Coronavirus (COVID-19). This was approved by Retiree's Club Executive Board by phone.

We hope that all retirees are in good health and practicing sheltering in place and good hygiene (washing your hands with soap and water a lot every day).

The May meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2020. We also have an Executive Meeting scheduled before the regular meeting at 8:30 AM. If this changes, we'll let you know as soon as possible.

**ORGANIZING UPDATE**  
**Robert Corona**

In lieu of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have postponed the upcoming Contractor Business Course that was to be held in April. As soon as we can coordinate another date, we will send out notifications to everyone. We apologize for any inconvenience, but we thought it best to postpone this event to ensure the health and welfare of everyone involved. Please be safe and if you are considered part of the essential workforce, take the precautions that have been given to us when on the job site.

**A MESSAGE FROM CALIFORNIA LABOR**

**YOU COUNT IN 2020**  
**Census Fact Sheet**

Strengthen our worker power and build a better California!

**CENSUS 101: Why you need to fill out the 2020 census**

**Funding for our Communities**  
» School lunches. Hospitals. Housing. Infrastructure. Support for families in need. Federal funding shapes our communities' everyday needs.

**A Voice for California Workers**  
» Residents can use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life and worker-focused advocacy.

**Funding for Union Jobs**  
» The federal funds based on the Census results support hundreds of thousands of jobs in the public and private sector, most of which are union.

**No Citizenship Question**  
» The Supreme Court ruled that the citizenship question cannot be added to the 2020 Census.



**Safe and Confidential**  
» The government will not release personally identifiable information about an individual to any other individual or agency until 72 years after the census is taken.

**Super Accessible**  
» Fill out the census ONLINE! By Phone or Mail.

**Additional information:**  
US CENSUS: 2020census.gov  
CALIFORNIA CENSUS: CaliforniaCensus.org  
CA LABOR FEDERATION: CaliforniaLabor.org  
#calaborcounts

**CENSUS TIMELINE**

<b>MARCH 12-20</b> Invitations to complete the 2020 census questionnaire online will be mailed	<b>APRIL 1</b> CENSUS DAY
<b>MARCH 26-APRIL 3</b> Reminder postcard mailed. DON'T DELAY, BE SURE TO FILL OUT YOUR CENSUS FORM BEFORE APRIL 30	<b>APRIL 8-16</b> Reminder and hard copy questionnaire will be mailed
	<b>APRIL 20-27</b> Final postcards mailed before an in-person follow-up

California LABOR Federation  

**Celebrating 75 Years**

John Parlopino received his 70-year pin at last the District 6 February meeting.

Pictured: Brothers Ivan, Joe, John, Brandon, Bryce and Joe.



# Stepping Stones: IBEW 11 On

## At a Downtown Homeless Shelter, Local 11 is Making a Difference and Training the Next Generation

By Oren Peleg

**O**n a rainy morning in early March, Jerry Pavia and his team of electricians are at work converting the former Children's Museum downtown into an emergency homeless shelter. The 17,000-square-foot facility, which was built in 1979 and closed in 2000, is part of the Los Angeles Mall complex that the city is slated to demolish ahead of its Civic Center renewal project. Until then, however, this building will house some 99 beds for the nearly 2,000 people living on the streets of Skid Row.



This emergency shelter is part of the A Bridge Home plan launched by Mayor Eric Garcetti following his April 2018 declaration of an emergency shelter crisis. The plan calls for temporary shelters across the city, while permanent housing is being constructed with funding from Measure HHH.

"I know these Bridge homes are a big thing right now for the City of LA," Mike Luna, an electrician with IBEW Local 11, says. "A lot of our electricians from Local 11 have been working at those homeless shelters."

While the majority of A Bridge Home shelters are tented structures, the former Children's Museum is an existing building.

So does existing electrical infrastructure make the work here easier? "You would think so, but not really," Luna clarifies. "We were thinking at first that maybe we could just reuse a lot of the stuff that's already there, because they're all connected together. But, you look at the blueprints for this job, and it has to be wired differently. So, pretty much we just had to use all new wiring."

The team on this project is about nine members of Local 11. However, this site also includes two apprentices, which is a first for these shelter projects.

Edgar Valenzuela, one of the two apprentices, joined the crew at the former Children's Museum site in mid-February.

"This job is showing me a little bit of everything, and it's very in-depth," Valenzuela says. "Coming from my old job, we were doing retrofit. Right here I'm actually working with pipe, working with MC, actually seeing how runs are happening with pulls. It's very interesting."

Valenzuela adds that every day on the site has taught him something new as he shadows the various journeymen. His biggest challenge has been learning to bend piping. "At my old job, I didn't really do much of it," Valenzuela says. "Now, I want to do more and more just to get it down to a perfect science. As an electrician, it's very important to know how to bend pipe."

Valenzuela wants other apprentices to know that "at first, things might seem weird and different, but if you try to learn, you'll



PHOTOS BY TED SOQUI

learn everything that you need to know."

"What happens is, we have our tasks to do, and you kind of get him warmed up to all the materials, first, and handling the tools," Chad Hudson, a Local 11 journeyman electrician, explains of how he teaches the apprentices. "Then you kind of tell him to help you, so he sees what's going on. He's involved in the whole thing instead of just me having him hand me tools, which also happens, but eventually we got to get him into it. The more time we put into him now, the more time we're going to save later because he's going to know it."

Ultimately, projects like this shelter are special to the crew. "Getting the homelessness problem solved in the city is really important right now because it keeps getting worse," Hudson concludes. "We have the opportunity to get paid and do it, but at the same time, it's a little better than just making money for someone. It's definitely a positive thing."



# the Job With Bridge Housing

*Continued from the cover*

don't get the chance to see the whole process ... but at least with this project I'm getting to see it from the very inception all the way to the end," he said.

On the other end of West LA, Local 11 members were at another bridge housing site on the Veterans Affairs campus in Brentwood.

This site will allow 175 people to live in the tent structure, all of them veterans.

Carl Tomczak said he specifically requested to work on the bridge housing projects.

"There's a sense that we're doing something great for the community and we feel really positive about that," he said.

The work also had to be done on extremely tight timeframes.

"The time span that they give us, it's very intense, to get this thing done in three months," said Manny Perez, the senior electrician supervisor and Local 11 member in charge of the bridge housing sites. "That's what they're pushing for so we can get more people off the streets and into the homeless shelters."

He noted that the sites are well-designed; some include dog parks, while bed spaces are similar to cubicles, affording occupants a measure of privacy.

"I've heard people say it's a beautiful site, it doesn't feel like a prison," he said. "The architects that engineered and designed all



The bridge housing sites have provided interesting technical challenges for the electricians. Used to working on regular buildings with walls and floors, they've had to adjust to an impermanent structure, mounting boxes to beams, and working with I-beams that are 15 feet apart instead of studs that are 16 to 24 inches apart, for example.

"There were a lot of situations that we came across that most of us never experienced before, so with everybody coming together, all these ideas working themselves out along the way — it was a cool experience," Michel said.

In the case of the housing tent, they needed to set up the electrical before the tent was fully stretched out, "like an accordion," Anthony said.

"So, we have to make sure as we have electrical going from one point to another that we have enough extra electrical wiring that is going to stretch with it," he added.

this, their intent is to make it feel like a home."

The VA project is foreman Jorge Mazul's fifth bridge housing project. He said he was once ambivalent about the plan, worrying that they were just enabling the homeless problem and not attempting to fix it.

Now, though, Mazul feels differently. He's been back to the finished sites, has seen people now living there and, most importantly, has seen the changes in them.

It's one thing to know about the sites; "it's another thing to go to the actual project and see these people make a transformation."

"Literally you see them on the street before they start and then they're in the project the next week, and they're up and running and they're showered and they're taking care of their business," Mazul said. "This project is a stepping stone for them to go ahead and get back into society."



## For Carl Tomczak, Bridge Housing Project at VA Campus Personal Work

By Pauline Vu

**F**or Carl Tomczak, working on the bridge housing project at the Veterans Affairs campus—slated specifically for homeless veterans—holds special significance.

His father and four of his uncles all served in the U.S. Army, fighting in World War II and the Korean War.

"I don't think they were prepared for life after the war," Tomczak said. "It's part of the reason why working at the homeless facility at the VA means a lot to me."

Tomczak's Uncle Leonard operated a Howitzer gun at the Battle of Iwo Jima, and Stanley fought in the European Theater. The family's two youngest sons, Bill and James, both served in Korea.

Tomczak's father had superior boxing skills, and during WWII he traveled to military bases around the U.S., training soldiers in hand-to-hand combat. His wartime work, however, eventually resulted in grand mal seizures that would plague him the rest of his life.

He later got care at the same VA facility where the bridge housing is located. After visiting his father there in the 1980s, Tomczak, who was living in Chicago at the time, decided to move to Los Angeles.

Tomczak's father was a Local 11 member; Tomczak followed in his footsteps and also joined the union.

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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**All April Unit Meetings Cancelled**

## CITY HALL LIGHTING DISPLAY

*Continued from the cover*

of colors and designs.

“So, let’s say it’s Filipino Independence Day,” says Local 11’s Jerry Pavia. “They can actually put the colors of the flag up there to represent it, and then have a big old show out in Grand Park.” The gobos that will be installed later in spring will be able to project imagery like the Batman signal that was displayed on City Hall after the death of actor Adam West in 2017.

“If you see the Empire State Building, it’s similar to what they’re doing,” Pavia explains. “San Francisco City Hall has the same thing, and then in China they do this show on one of the bridges -- t’s all this LED lighting.”

Over the last six months, a 15-person crew of Local 11 electricians has been installing the lighting panels around the perimeter of the building on the first floor, and in strategic places on the fifth, seventeenth and twenty-fifth floors, as well as the roof.

Of course, the crew faced challenges wiring the 92-year-old building. “There was a moat around the building that nobody knew about,” Pavia says. IBEW made sure oxygen was pumped into the moat as the team drilled down under the building. “Just getting into these locations was tough,” Pavia continues.

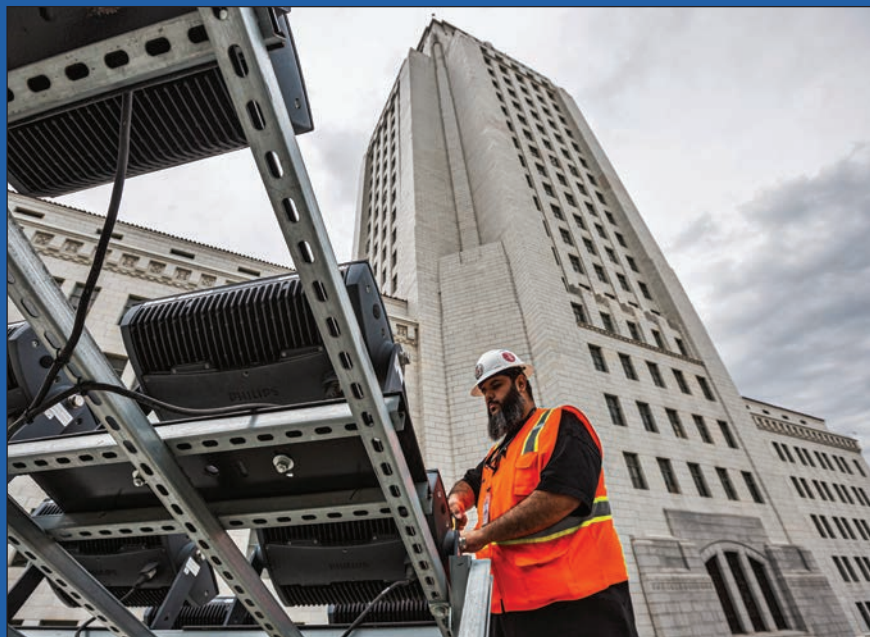
In the parking garage beneath City Hall, Pavia points to an enabler bolted near the ceiling. Each enabler controls 12 lights, which is connected, through a Cat 5 cable, to the mainframe in the basement that controls the entire array.

Mike Luna, a Local 11 electrician on the project, explains how the light panels on the lower roof levels were anchored onto a seismically-reinforced, galvanized unistrut frame. This frame was then “anchored to the concrete below,” Luna continues. “Then we cut holes in the existing roof and mounted all this on footings to the concrete, and had roofing guys come back to reseal the holes so it doesn’t leak.”

Back up on the top of the building, as Martinez and Hudson secure the 75-pound lighting panel onto the pole that will angle it up towards the pyramid crown, Diego Aragon, a Local 11 electrician, notes that the union “had to bring in a company to engineer some anchor points and whatnot for where we’re hanging off the edge of the building.”

“On all corners,” Pavia adds. “You got these yo-yos, so whoever does come back here again will have all their safety devices attached.”

The lights are rated for 15 years, and painted in a weather-and-UV-proofed coating, to keep future maintenance minimal.



PHOTOS BY TED SOQUI

“Doing anything at that height is difficult,” Hudson says after descending from the scaffolding. “Even just putting a washer and a nut on a bolt is difficult because, obviously, you can’t drop it. And if you’re working with anything heavy, it’s difficult. It’s a little bit more stressful and scary, right? And that takes more time. You have to tie everything, and safe everything off.

And of course, you’re tied off, too, so that takes a long time.”

I’m hoping by the end of April this will be done,” Pavia says. But the shows have already begun on the building’s facade. In February, the city paid tribute to Kobe Bryant using the light display. “That one was great,” Pavia concludes, “because they had it up all week.”

