


The Urban Wilderness

The Health and Safety Risks for Mobile Food Vendors in San Diego




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 In Partnership with the Employee Rights Center (ERC)


Background

- Informal Economy
 - No protections afforded traditional employees
- Transitory Workforce
 - Near the border
- High unemployment

Unemployment




Location	Unemployment Rate (%)
USA	~5
CA	~7
San Diego	~12
City Heights	~20



Artist Rendition of the Famous City Heights Tower Bar

Objectives

- Update worker database
- Survey workers on health and safety concerns
- Build connection between the ERC and workers



Top: Focus Group Ice Breaker
 Bottom: H&S Presentation at Focus Group

Mixed Methods

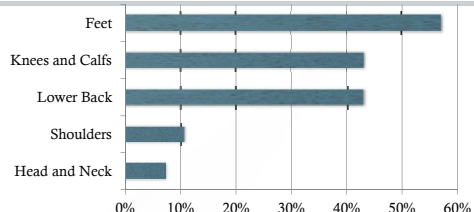
- Worker Surveys
 - 28 Vendors
- 3 Focus Groups
 - 8 Participants
- In Depth Interviews
 - 2 Workers



Left: Marcial Surveying a Palettero
 Right: Bryan Inviting Palettero to Focus Group

Physical Hazards

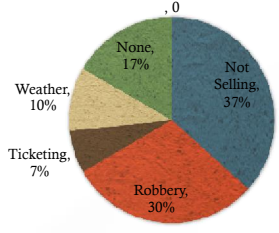
Cause of Pain



Body Part	Percentage (%)
Feet	~55
Knees and Calfs	~45
Lower Back	~45
Shoulders	~10
Head and Neck	~5

The average palettero is walking the streets for 8 hours and 40 minutes. This doesn't include the 2 plus hours it takes to set up and store his push cart.

Psychological Distress



Cause	Percentage (%)
Not Selling	37
Robbery	30
None	17
Weather	10
Ticketing	7

- Like last year, not selling continues to be main cause of stress
- One palettero was held up at gun point
- San Diego had a rare summer thunderstorm that prevented them from working

Give Back Product

4 Remedios Contra el Dolor de Pies

Tome un descanso de 10 minutos por cada 4 horas de trabajo.

1. Para aliviar el dolor de pies, masajee los pies.

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3. Para aliviar el dolor de pies, masajee los pies.

4. Masajeo a sus pies con una pelota de tenis para relajar los tendones.

¿Necesita asesoría legal con su caso laboral o migratorio?

En el Centro De los Derechos del Empleado (ERC) le ayudamos a manejar casos como:

- Desempleo / Inestabilidad
- Responsabilidad compartida de compañías al trabajo
- Discriminación de salarios no pagados
- Prácticas laborales injustas
- Condiciones de Trabajo / Seguridad
- Detalles de inmigración

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También ofrecemos
Service to the Community



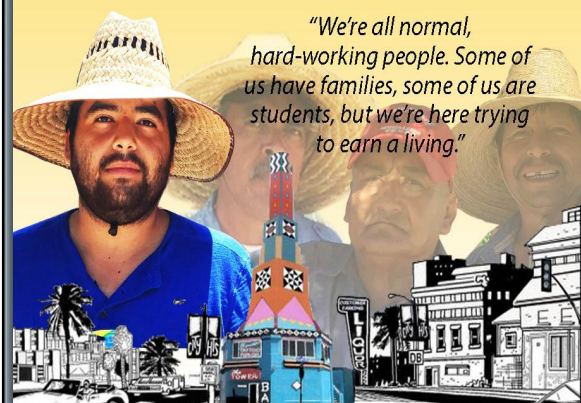


"We're caught between a rock and a hard place of being undocumented and not being permitted to sell..."




...but sometimes you have to work under the table because your kids have to eat."

"We're all normal, hard-working people. Some of us have families, some of us are students, but we're here trying to earn a living."



Challenges


- ◆ Finding the vendors scattered around City Heights
- ◆ Gaining trust early in the project
- ◆ Project fatigue
- ◆ Convincing workers to organize even though they are here temporarily



Above: Bryan standing outside the ERC checking to see if he received any messages from the workers after nobody showed up to the first focus group

Successes

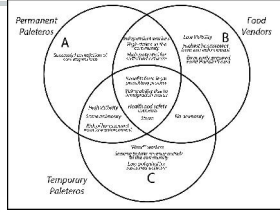
- Gaining the trust of a handful of Key Informants
- Getting several vendors into the ERC to tell their stories in depth
- Generating media attention from local public T.V.



Brian from Media Arts Center filming OHIP project and Paleteros working for pending story.

Recommendations

- ◆ For the purpose of organizing, consider the differences between our working groups
- ◆ Once a month attempt to reach our workers with the updated contact sheet
- ◆ Prioritize finding non-paleteros early because they are more difficult to find



Venn diagram designed to distinguish between different sub-categories of our worker population

Reflections



Left: Marcial with Jessica, selling tamales and helote outside a liquor store
Right: Bryan with Jose Rios preparing to sell after an interview at the ERC

Acknowledgements



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