



A WorkBar participant receives career help.

A LOCATION THAT REALLY WORKS

ARC Broward's job placement program has a hip, new space to call home

BY ALYSSA FISHER

The Flagler Arts and Technology Village has become the hot new Fort Lauderdale neighborhood for artists to call home. With color-splashed walls wrapping galleries, studios and businesses, the art district—which goes by the simpler, cooler name, FATVillage—promotes education, inclusion and collaboration.

That's what makes it an excellent home for **WorkBar**.

WorkBar is one of 21 programs and three enterprises under **ARC Broward**, a 60-year-old nonprofit organization that supports children and adults with a wide range of disabilities: developmental (such as autism, Down syndrome and cerebral palsy), mental and physical. The workforce division used to be stationed in a warehouse-like building in Sunrise.

The vision for the 2,600-square-foot space on the corner of Northeast Second Avenue, which opened in February, was not only to be near bus routes but also to be part of a community. Mission accomplished.

The new WorkBar provides an innovative space in a hip, central location where job

seekers can learn how to land their dream career, network with local businesses and take classes with professional career and financial literacy specialists. It also offers training for human resources and hiring managers looking to employ people with disabilities.

The feedback has been positive, says Julie Price, ARC Broward's vice president of programming. One person the organization serves, Brad, recently announced that he worked out his transportation to the new space.

"He really wanted to get here because this feels very grown-up and professional," she says. "That's what we were hoping. We want to know, how does it feel? How does it inspire the job seekers and motivate them?"

The old space was about one-third the size. Now, members can relax with their peers or send out job applications from the couch or computer lab. Help is always available behind them.

WorkBar prepares job seekers using a

TALK OF THE TOWN

Keeping readers in the know about community news.

After taking over as full owner and operator of its culinary offerings, the **ATLANTIC HOTEL & SPA** (601 N. Fort Lauderdale Beach Blvd.) has made changes. Its main restaurant, formerly known as *Beauty & The Feast*, recently debuted as **ATLANTIC GRILL**, complete with a new menu. The fifth-floor ocean terrace bar, formerly *Ocean Market Grille*, is now called *Pool Bar*.

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Spend the night at the **RIVERSIDE HOTEL**, hail a Water Taxi and wander through an Elizabeth Taylor photography exhibit at the NSU Art Museum with the **"GIRLFRIENDS & GLAMOUR GETAWAY"** package. Offered through the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District, this mini vacation begins at \$179 a room and is available through Oct. 1. To book, visit riverwalkae.com/girlfriends.

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PARK & OCEAN is the new, aptly named casual restaurant on the southeast side of Hugh Taylor Birch State Park (3109 E. Sunrise Blvd.), facing the Atlantic Ocean. Open seven days a week, its menu includes the like of açai bowls, brisket grilled cheese and Mahi tacos. Shady Brewing is the in-house brewery, featuring cold-brewed coffee, teas and soon-to-come craft beer.

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Encore Capital Management, the developer remodeling Plantation's former fashion mall, announced the new name of the property: **PLANTATION WALK**. The \$350 million project, located just north of Broward Boulevard on University Drive, will be a mixed-use retail, residential, office and hotel destination.

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Victory Living—an organization that has created supportive environments for thousands of people with disabilities—is hosting its seventh annual **BLACK AND BLUE EVENT** on May 21 at the Galleria at Fort Lauderdale. There will be cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at Blue Martini followed by dinner, wine and dessert at The Capital Grille. For tickets, visit victoryliving.org.

"bundle service approach" for long-term sufficiency and success, says Jody Ellis, director of workforce services.

People don't come in only for résumé help. They learn interview skills and get hands-on job training. They receive financial coaching and tax-preparation services. Eighty percent of individuals served have savings accounts, Ellis says. The services provided by WorkBar often lead to employment opportunities, but the staff continues to offer support even after helping someone land a job.

"It's a lot of fun to support people who are looking for their first job or looking to change their careers or grow," Price says. "I love when I hear the story of the first paycheck. We're like, 'Cash it!' It's exciting and something that we all long for in our life."