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Outgoing Metro Cafe staff bid farewell to Metro after completing food service contract held by Sodexho since 1995.



Back row: Nicolas Carcano, Veronica Diaz, Pablo Ortega, Luis Olvera, Eladio Puc, Jose Medina, Isaac Garcia. Middle row, from left: Carlos Hernandez, Luis Gavidia, Julia Camacho, Wilfredo Ayala. Front row: Maria Pacheco, Linda Sanchez, manager Timikel Sharpe and Chef Rafael Vazquez. Photo: Gayle Anderson

Aramark begins contract to manage Metro Cafe on Monday

- Sodexho moves on but five members of the staff are retained by new management.
- Check it out at <u>www.aramarkcafe.com/metro</u>. Aramark's online website features the
 daily menu, the catering menu, café news and contact information. Employees can still
 download and view or print a pdf version of the menu from the Metro Café link on the
 Intranet homepage.

By GAYLE ANDERSON

Metro Café will close at 1:30 p.m., Friday, as employees of Sodexho Dining Services make way for a new food service provider.

Sodexho has managed the dining facility since Metro Headquarters opened in 1995, but on Monday, Oct. 3, the Metro Café will open under new management, Aramark, an international company with regional headquarters in Irvine.

Aramark is a regional presence in the Southland, managing cafeteria and dining room services for the Los Angeles Times, Boeing, LAUSD, the Los Angeles Convention Center, Union Bank and the Shrine Auditorium, among others. Its international division manages food services for the Olympics, a tall order to be sure.

Metro Café customers will have a new menu, a new serving of Aramark's trademark presentation and some familiar faces behind the counter.

Chef Ubi Martins, a native of Brazil and a graduate of several culinary institutes, will head a staff of 13. Martins is leaving his post at the Union Bank Corporate Center in Monterey Park for his new assignment at Metro Café.

Aramark's food service plans include a HotZone, SaladZone and GrillZone, each with core menu items that will change weekly. Service will include will head a staff of 13. weekly specials, promotions and seasonal items, as well as online



Aramark Chef Ubi Martins

Immediate changes offer a new look and new style for the cafeteria, including fresh paint and décor, a made-to-order pizza station, new vending machines and a fashionable look for the crew, who will be outfitted in colorful new uniforms.

catering service within the Gateway Building and at the Regional Rebuild

A week-long grand opening, expected later in October, will formally welcome Metro Café customers to the new service.

The transition will be smoothed by familiar faces: Aramark has retained five members of the Sodexho staff. They are Luis Gavida, who currently manages the RRC café; cashiers Julia Camacho and Maria Pacheco; Luis Olvera, who serves up perfect over-easy eggs from the breakfast grill, and the salad chef, Carlos Hernandez. The rest of the crew has been reassigned to other Sodexho venues.

The Board approved a motion, Aug. 25, awarding a five-year contract with five one-year options to Aramark Services, Inc., to operate the café at Metro Headquarters and at the RRC beginning Oct. 1.

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