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CDTech treasure hunters study their clues before embarking on the search for the mystery locations.



'Treasure Hunters' Discover Community 'Jewels' via Metro Rail

By RICH MORALLO

(Nov. 16, 2005) "Take off the dust and see the jewels in our communities," encouraged Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who helped kick off the city's first community treasure hunt, sponsored by the Community Development Technologies Center (CDTech).



Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa welcomes a participant. Below, Los Angeles City Councilwoman Jan Perry took a moment with Metro Security Assistant Maria Alvarez.

Following the mayor's talk, teams of adventurers rode Metro Rail from the Los Angeles Trade Tech Community College to McArthur Park and to a neighborhood near the Metro Blue Line's Vernon station. Their challenge: solve a series of puzzles leading to mystery locations within the one square-mile playing areas.

Villaraigosa said the journey on Metro Rail to South Los Angeles and MacArthur Park would showcase locations that could help bolster the economy of the area. Treasure hunt participants had to solve a series of puzzles, follow directions and talk to residents to find the mystery locations.

The clues were designed to test map reading skills, knowledge of popular culture, social skills, computer skills and current



events. The teams had to discover concealed markers to reach their treasure hunt goals.

Benefited literacy and education

Successful teams won a \$250 prize. Proceeds from the event benefited CDTech’s literacy and education programs.

Los Angeles City Council members Jan Perry and Ed Reyes were also on hand to wish the assembled students, city staff members and families good luck on their trip.

“Welcome to Metro Rail and please be safe on your travel this morning,” said Sgt. Jerome Ryan with Metro’s Transit Services Bureau. Metro Security staff escorted the urban adventurers on Metro Rail as they fanned out to complete the hunt.

Near the Vernon Metro Blue Line station participants visited historic Dunbar Hotel, Farmers’ Market, and the CDTech facility. Treasure hunters who traveled to the Westlake/MacArthur Park station visited the park’s boathouse, the UCLA Labor Center and Mama’s Hot Tamales Restaurant.

Manual Arts High School student Octavio Ramos followed his clues and went to the Grand station to catch the Blue Line to Vernon station. “Metro Rail took me where I needed to go,” he reported.