

Newsbriefs



The Aug. 16 kickoff event at the new Welcome Back Center (WBC) in Bridgeport, which will help foreign-trained healthcare professionals obtain practice in the U.S.

obtain needed credentials to continue doing work

us reports have identified problems medical certification nationally in recruiting

help those with promising degrees from other countries by walking them through the steps they need to obtain an Illinois nursing license. To broaden the talent pool, who are both qualitatively competent.

in 2001 on the west side, many immigrants face particular challenges over time they worked in jobs just to make a living, though they wanted to pursue nursing because, as Jose Ramon Fernandez said, they simply pursued nursing jobs after arriving.

systems present unique requirements in one state to the other, though all nurses must

deserts

tailors, and how to bring in even more food retailers?"

implementing help food deserts in Illinois begin to offer options stockpiled as new food stores, permanently. on to www.ericachalderoffice, call (773) 673-1234. GPCC, log on to www.ericachalderoffice, call (773) 673-1234.

pass the National Licensing Exam (NCLEX) before being licensed.

With its new Chicago office, WBC will help nursing hopefuls understand how Illinois evaluates credentials earned abroad; what they can expect when taking the required English language proficiency exam; and how to prepare for the NCLEX.

Marzena Urbas-Alvarez shared her licensing experience with the audience. Trained and educated in Poland, Urbas-Alvarez worked there as a nurse for several years before arriving in the U.S. in the mid-1990s. She had hoped to resume her career, but was able to find work only as a waitress. Over time, opportunities in less skilled health occupations opened up, but without the necessary State license she could not go back to nursing. Only recently did she meet Illinois's licensing standards and get her RN license.

State Rep. Theresa Mah (D-2nd) has worked in Springfield trying to ease immigrants' difficulties in transferring professional credentials earned outside the U.S. to meet local standards. "This is a diverse group, with individuals who have many skills and talents as well as a strong sense of cultural sensitivity," Mah said. "They're a resource that we need to tap into."

Program director Rob De Cortie said that, while WBC is based at Velasquez Institute, its services will be open to anyone in the city holding health care licenses earned abroad.

For more on the WBC, visit www.ccc.edu/welcomeback or call (773) 838-7847.

—Sheila Elliott

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Morgan Arts Complex creates gallery, event space in Bridgeport

An historic Bridgeport china factory now houses a fine art gallery and studios for working artists, while growing space to host events and receptions. The Morgan Arts Complex (MAC) at 3622 S. Morgan St. is the project of long-time building owner Richard A. "Rick" Simon, president and CEO of United Service Companies, the Chicago-based parent company of several cleaning, staffing, and security companies across the United States.

MAC will host a grand opening on a date to be announced later this calendar year. It held a soft opening in October 2021 when new tenant Hilton Asmus Contemporary presented a show featuring work by British fine art photographer David Yarrow that focused on supermodel Cindy Crawford, who attended the gallery's opening. Hilton Asmus Contemporary showcases internationally known artists from the United States, Northern Europe, and the Mediterranean and Middle East regions; it continues a longtime presence in Chicago's River North area along with its new Bridgeport site.

Beth Peterson, senior vice president of business development at BrightSpace marketing agency and MAC spokesperson, noted the space seeks two more larger galleries; the artist studio space already is sold out.

"Rick loves the arts and loves to see what artists and arts do to a community," Peterson said of Simon. "The building is in the middle of what is a happening, bustling community of the arts."

The building continues to develop, with new plans for event space. "The event portion is evolving," Peterson said. "It was not an original intention, but it became evident people are interested in this beautiful space."

The interior boasts high ceilings, wood beams, and exposed brick. Local artists exhibit their work in the hallways outside their studios. The exterior includes a large outdoor patio on the former loading dock with steps down to a grass path that will offer a sculpture garden soon. Peterson envisions outdoor event seating for up to 200 guests. "It's beautiful and only beginning," she said.

MAC joins a growing hub of art-focused buildings in Bridgeport.

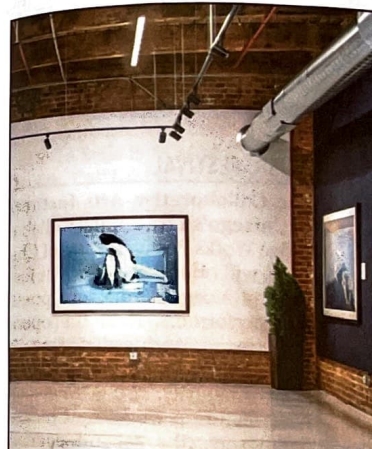
"This will be a great asset for our community," said South Loop Chamber of Commerce's office manager, Colleen Mancari, from the SLCC office located in the

September 2, 2022

Zhou B Art Center at 1029 W. 35th St. Both Zhou B and Bridgeport St. Center at 1200 W. 35th St. host a monthly Third Friday reception, featuring artists and open studios, 7 to 10 p.m. "Artists are popping up all over," Mancari said of the up-and-coming Bridgeport neighborhood. "Third Fridays are very popular: people come to look at the art and then go to area restaurants."

Other MAC tenants include business-to-business and commercial offices, an upholsterer, and a sound studio. See the website at <https://morganartscomplex.com/>.

—Monica M. Walk



The Morgan Arts Complex at 3622 S. Morgan St. will host art events as well as businesses and offices.

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