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LifeGear Design Opens New Headquarters on Mare Island

LifeGear Design Corporation has opened its new headquarters on Mare Island in Vallejo, where operations will carry on from its former home base in Benicia.

LifeGear President and Creative Director Magi Raible said they chose to move to Mare Island because of the unique setting, the proximity to the Vallejo Ferry Terminal and room for the business to grow. With the company's headquarters now occupying a historic officer's mansion, Raible said the new space is an ideal location to attract new employees, as she is hoping to hire some additional staff by the end of the year.



The company designs **LiteGear**, a variety of bags, totes and other travel necessities that are light-weight, yet tough for extreme packing. Along with the promise of craftsmanship and durability, LiteGear ensures that each item is made with integrity by a production team dedicated to quality and customer satisfaction.

The company is also proud to present the **Aero Tray**, a tiered portable station that ergonomically supports the needs of today's mobile lifestyle, with hands-free support for a total range of laptops, eReaders, books, tablets, beverages and snacks.

Although none of the LiteGear merchandise is actually sold at the company's headquarters, Raible said there is potential for a store opening, perhaps in the downtown area. With no travel gear store currently in Vallejo, Raible is hopeful that LifeGear could possibly have its own shop which would host its own travel goods as well as others. For the time being, LiteGear products and the Aero Tray are available online through [travel retailers](#) and store locations [found here](#).

LifeGear's headquarters is now located at 1195 Walnut Avenue on Officers' Row, where officers at the former Mare Island Naval Shipyard once lived.

Vallejo Will Convert City Streetlights to LED for Savings and Rebate

Last month, the Vallejo City Council voted to convert approximately 8,000 high pressure sodium streetlights around Vallejo to LED fixtures. The contract, which will go to Tanko Lighting of San Francisco, will be in the amount of \$1,732,214, and the conversion will result in an estimated annual energy savings of \$392,764.

In addition to the annual savings, the City of Vallejo **Public Works Department** will have a team focused on converting the streetlights to LED fixtures before December 31, which will qualify the City for a PG&E rebate of approximately \$650,000.

Tanko Lighting of San Francisco will provide project management services to oversee the conversion of the remaining 8,000 streetlights, and provide all PG&E approved LED fixtures, mapping and recording of inventory and location of all City streetlights, recycling of the old streetlight fixtures and eligibility and participation in the PG&E rebate program.

The project is fully funded by Measure B, the **City of Vallejo's** one percent sales tax. Staff assigned to the conversion project are currently undergoing extensive training on how to replace the fixtures and safely operate a bucket truck. Of the nearly 9,300 streetlights the City owns and maintains, approximately 1,000 have already been converted within the past two years.

Originally, a portion of the lights were a part of the **Participatory Budgeting** "Light-up Vallejo" project, which will now turn full focus on installing new streetlights throughout Vallejo until all project funds are expended. Final conversion of the City's streetlights is expected to result in the following annual savings:

	Current	New	Savings
kWh	4,639,271	1,908,407	2,730,864
Energy Costs	\$648,467	\$255,703	\$392,764
Maintenance Costs	\$109,880	\$21,440	\$88,440
CO ₂ Emissions	2,430,978	1,000,005	1,430,973

Vallejo No. 7 in Best Cities for Women in the Workforce for Medium Sized Cities

A recent **NerdWallet** article named Vallejo as the 7th best city for women in the workforce for medium sized cities. The study analyzed 522 cities: 61 large cities with populations over 300,000; 241 medium-size cities with populations from 100,000 to 300,000; and 220 small cities with populations under 100,000.

The number of women working in the U.S. workforce has experienced a steady increase in the last 50 years, with an increase of 29 percent to nearly 50 percent since 1967. According to the study, in 1960, only one in 10 mothers in the U.S. was the sole or primary family breadwinner. In 2011, the number reached four in 10.

NerdWallet crunched the numbers and analyzed the following factors:

- Women's earnings: looked at the median salary for the full-time, year-round female workers in each city and included the median gross rent as a proxy to gauge cost of living.
- Income equality: calculated women's pay as a percentage of men's pay to measure the level of income equality in each city.
- Population growth: assessed long-term growth potential by including recent population growth for each location.

By using median earnings, median gross rent, women's earning as a percentage of men's earnings and population growth from 2009 to 2012, Vallejo was placed at 7 overall:

Rank	City	Median earnings	Median Gross Rent	Women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings (%)	2009-12 Population Growth	Final Score
1	Kent, WA	\$40,317	\$938	82.11%	43.81%	62.18
2	Lehigh Acres, FL	\$27,207	\$840	87.06%	39.32%	59.07
3	Richmond, CA	\$45,863	\$1,119	109.89%	3.28%	57.01
4	Durham, NC	\$45,651	\$831	98.60%	4.44%	55.19
5	Syracuse, NY	\$36,046	\$677	100.57%	4.04%	54.5
6	The Woodlands, TX	\$52,123	\$1,150	51.87%	57.36%	54.17
7	Vallejo, CA	\$47,420	\$1,154	104.63%	2.80%	54.09

Vallejo's median earnings for female workers was \$47,420 and women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings was 104.63 percent both ranking second overall. The median gross rent was \$1,154 and population growth experienced just a 2.8 percent increase from 2009, both ranked seventh overall.

To read the full article, [click here](#).

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In This Issue

[LifeGear Design Opens New Headquarters](#)

[Vallejo to Convert City Streetlights to LED](#)

[Vallejo No. 7 as Best Cities for Women in the Workforce](#)

[Visions of the Wild Exhibit](#)

[Input & Suggestions](#)



Visions of the Wild Exhibit Call for Artists

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, Vallejo will be hosting the **Visions of the Wild Festival** this fall. Northern California artists are invited to submit their artwork for a juried exhibition to go along with the theme.

Paintings, sculptures, mixed media and photography will be accepted, keeping with the intention of the Visions of the Wild Festival, connecting nature, culture and community. Interpretations of the exhibition theme may include:

- What "wilderness" means in diverse cultural contexts
- How wilderness is expressed through art
- What urban wilderness looks like
- How we "re-wild" our humanized landscapes
- How our understandings of wilderness and wilderness conservation paradigms will change in an era of global environmental change

The exhibition will be sponsored by the Vallejo Community Arts Foundation and will run from September 3 through November 8, with an opening reception on September 5. For information and online applications, [click here](#). Deadline for submitting artwork is July 21.

The Visions of the Wild Festival will take place September 3 through September 6. The multi-day festival will include author talks, panels, concerts, art exhibits, a film series and field trips.

The **U.S. Forest Service**, partnering with many other public, private and non-profit agencies and organizations, is the lead presenter of the festival. The Visions of the Wild Festival will bring ideas and values of wilderness to a diverse San Francisco Bay Area audience.

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We welcome your input and suggestions at vallejionews@ci.vallejo.ca.us.