

# BEHIND THE WHEEL WITH AWG AMBASSADOR:

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**Name:**  
Carly Duenas

**Title:**  
Senior Program Manager

**Years with AWG Ambassador:**  
20

## Q&A WITH CARLY

**Can you share some of your favorite local spots in Las Vegas that might not be very well known to visitors?**

"Peyote restaurant on Fremont & La Neta Cocina in Downtown Summerlin are a couple of my preferred places to visit. Both venues are intimate, offering a cozy and charming ambiance. Each boasts excellent service and a delectable selection of food and beverages."

**Las Vegas is known for its vibrant nightlife. Do you have a favorite nightlife spot or show in the city?**

"Las Vegas hosts some of the most stunning productions with unmatched talent, but my go-to recommendations are Absinthe & Michael Jackson ONE. Absinthe is highly interactive and filled with notable adult humor, which I appreciate. MJ ONE is a feel-good, high-energy show set to the soundtrack of some of the most iconic songs of our time."

**As a resident of Las Vegas, what is one aspect of the city that you think is underappreciated?**

"The revitalization of Downtown Vegas doesn't get enough traction. There's a large selection of amazing restaurants, open outdoor spaces, unique bar concepts and boutiques. The building murals are so eye catching and it just amps up the whole vibe."

**Which restaurant or diner in Las Vegas would you recommend to someone visiting for the first time?**

"Vegas has so many diverse cuisine options, it's hard to choose just one. Texas de Brazil has a vast selection of flavorful meats & a generous salad bar. If I'm thinking in terms of a diner, I recommend the Peppermill. It's one of the only original remaining spots on the strip, where you'll get more bang for your buck. The portions are hearty & oversized so it's perfect for sharing"

**Can you share one unique or interesting fact about Las Vegas that most people might not know?**

"We have an abandoned ghost city situated beneath Lake Mead. In the early '30s, the town was submerged in over 60 feet of water with the creation of the lake. With today's rapidly receding water lines, you can see remnants of the town once known as St. Thomas."

**Beyond the usual attractions, are there any hidden gems in Las Vegas that you enjoy visiting?**

"Mount Charleston is a refreshing escape from the city scene. Whether you want to hike, camp, ski, snowboard, or just take a scenic drive and have a picnic, it's a welcome change from the fast-paced city life."

**In your opinion, what's the best time of year to visit Las Vegas, and why?**

"Vegas weather is beautiful in the Springtime. While you can enjoy the city year-round, outdoor activities are more enjoyable just before the onset of triple-digit heat in summer and right after the winter chill."

**What's the most memorable Las Vegas-based event or occasion you've been a part of in your work as a Program Manager?**

"I've been fortunate to manage the logistical planning and execution of some of the most popular events citywide, from music festivals & award shows to sporting events & conventions. However, a standout experience was a very intimate, behind-the-scenes project. AWG partnered with the Department of Family Services & Three Square to host a family reunification dinner, recognizing local families that overcame homelessness, familial separation, and substance abuse issues. It was a privilege to contribute to such a special evening and to observe our local community partners coming together to honor & support these families in an amazing way."