



San Diego Promise Zone

Jobs & Education Working Group

Wednesday, January 27 | 2:30 – 4:00 PM

Via Zoom

Working Group Goals: To create jobs and improve educational opportunities in the Promise Zone

In Attendance

City Council District 4, City of San Diego Economic Development Department, Cox Communications, e3 Civic High, International Rescue Committee, Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation, The League of Amazing Programmers, LJL Consulting, Logan Heights Community Development Corporation, MANA de San Diego, mohuman, Nile Sisters Development Initiative, Outside the Lens, Reality Changers, San Diego Community College District, San Diego for Every Child, San Diego Futures Foundation, San Diego Workforce Partnerships, South Bay Community Services, Southeastern San Diego Community Planning Group, Urban Corps of San Diego County, Urban League of San Diego County, and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Meeting Notes

Welcome & Agenda Review

Jobs & Education Working Group Co-Chairs reviewed meeting goals and introduced themselves:

- **Sarah Cooper**: Executive Director, League of Amazing Programmers
 - Joined as the Education Co-Chair in July 2020.
 - Sarah.cooper@jointheleague.org
- **Stephen Colón**: Senior Manager of Integrated Services, San Diego Workforce Partnership
 - Joined as the Jobs Co-Chair in 2017.
 - StephenColon@workforce.org
- **Staci Dent**: Program Manager of Teaching and Learning, Mount Hope/ Chollas View Community Integrated Youth Services Division, San Diego Unified School District.
 - First meeting as the Education Co-Chair.
 - District and community steward; expressed requirement of vulnerability and transparency in all community-driven work.
 - Sdent@sandi.net
- **Sean Karafin**: Neighborhood Investment Manager, City of San Diego Economic Development Department.
 - First meeting as the Jobs Co-Chair.
 - Previously had oversight of Promise Zone as Interim Program Manger.
 - SKarafin@sandiego.gov

The meeting goals were to reevaluate identified objectives and priorities and seek Partner-driven direction on activities for 2021.

2021 Strategic Planning Discussion

- Partners and Co-Chairs agreed that it would be valuable to root collaboration between the two groups by focusing on the relationship between jobs and education for transitional-aged youth.
- At the onset of the pandemic, Partners pivoted efforts to address digital inclusion. While digital inclusion remains a priority, Promise Zone stakeholders must also consider the long-term implications of distanced learning on educational and life outcomes for students during the pandemic.
- Partners discussed how the Promise Zone working group meetings have facilitated relationships and collaboration outside of the working group.
- Partners agreed that the working group must solidify a workflow that prioritizes intentional engagement, direct service providers, Partners as stewards of knowledge, and Promise Zone staff as the backbone organization to support collective impact.

Partners identified the following priorities and objectives to consider for 2021:

- Career exploration and job training for transitional youth, including options such as:
 - Career exploration presentations, including best practices, resources, and how to use internet to find job opportunities.
 - Virtual reality kits for VR-based career exploration
 - STEM pathways
 - Local examples:
 - [San Diego Housing Commission's Achievement Academy](#): Career planning and job search resource center and computer lab.
 - [National City Adult School: Free FAA107 Training](#): Classes requisite for receiving a drone license.
- Applied education and youth leadership, such as:
 - Promoting extracurriculars and project-based learning as ways to reengage students after having spent months outside of the traditional school setting.
 - Considering ways to promote social structures and relationships, which Partners mention has been lost during remote learning.
 - Providing emotional and educational support alike to address any achievement gaps exacerbated by remote learning and the pandemic.
- Around digital inclusion, Partners pointed out that:
 - Digital inclusion may mean different things for different communities
 - Online training materials and resources require funding.
 - A need to assess connectivity and devices for students and transitional youth interested in college

To increase funding capacity, Partners discussed:

- Creating a grant proposal package with data and a narrative that celebrates the Promise Zone and promotes dignity
- Teaching grant application best practices
- Adapting a think-tank model to preemptively prepare projects for future funding proposals.

Promise Zone staff and Co-Chairs indicated that steps are being taken to plan for these items.

To re-engage key Partners in the Promise Zone initiative, Partners emphasized the need to prioritize the following:

- Building trust and acknowledge past shortcomings
- Articulating [collective impact model](#) to substantiate workflow and prioritize intentional engagement
- Instituting frameworks to secure input from residents:
 - Consider creating focus groups, in which those who engaged could be compensated
 - Partners suggested creating a survey to gather data about what is impacting residents

City of San Diego Digital Equity Working Group Update

- City Council allocated \$500,000 towards digital equity efforts in July 2020. An internal working group led by the City of San Diego Internet Technology Department, that includes Council representatives and key City departments, has been routinely meeting since then to decide how to effectively allocate the funding.
- Digital Equity Working Group initiatives include [SD Access4All](#), hotspot gaps mapping, and broadband voucher programs.
- Current Promise Zone role in the Digital Equity Working Group is to communicate to City officials Partner suggestions and requests, as gathered from Promise Zone working group conversations and grant alignment meetings.
- Partners requested that moving forward, the Promise Zone:
 - Update Partners on the status of their requests at the Digital Equity Working Group and directions of conversations
 - Advocate for greater Partner engagement in the initiative
 - Emphasize to the City the need for intentional engagement and partnerships

Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 24 | 2:30 – 4:00 PM

Via Zoom (Meeting ID: 685 092 0045, Passcode: 075612)