



The City of



Economic Development

MEETING NOTES

San Diego Promise Zone

Healthy Communities Working Group

Thursday, January 20th, 2022 | 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Via Zoom (Meeting ID: 979 7737 1015 Passcode: 486144)

Working Group Goal: To increase access to healthy food and healthcare.

In Attendance

Aetna, Barrio Botany, Champions for Health, City of San Diego, Council District 8, City of San Diego's Economic Development Department, City of San Diego's Planning Department, County of San Diego Health & Human Services, Harmonium, Jackie Robinson YMCA, Kate Sessions Trees, Logan Heights CDC, Mongol Tribe, Rady Children's Hospital, San Diego Audubon Society, San Diego Co-Harvest, San Diego parks Foundation, Second Chance, Urban Corps of San Diego

Meeting Notes

Introductions, Agenda Review, and Partner Updates

- Lauren Welch will be transitioning out of her role as co-chair in February. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a co-chair, please reach out to Promise Zone staff.
- **San Diego Co-Harvest** is hiring a community director who will be responsible for the management of up to 4 Farm managers and the upkeep, maintenance, and distribution of up to 160 micro-farms. [Learn more here.](#)
- **Council District 8** is hosting a Community Pup-Up event on Saturday, February 5th from 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM at Memorial Park. It will be Valentine's Day themed with free pet food, free pet tags, free microchipping, low-cost vaccines, and music.
 - They will also be hosting a Community Cleanup on Saturday, March 5th from 9:00 – 11:00 AM. Meet at 2835 Imperial Avenue to pick up trash, weed, etc., from 28th to Imperial and Commercial to 33rd.
- **Champions for Health** is hosting COVID community pods with different vaccinations and other health screenings.
- **Mongol Tribe** will begin implementing its project at Wild Willow in the coming weeks.
- **Barrio Botany and Co-Harvest** have completed 2 of 4 planned school garden builds in the Promise Zone at Horton Elementary and Balboa Elementary. They will be starting the micro-farm installation at Cesar Chavez Elementary.
- **The City of San Diego's Environment Committee** is collecting input from the public on the committee's 2022 work plan and priorities. [Access here.](#)
- Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order **4 free at-home COVID-19 tests**. The tests are completely free. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days. [Request here.](#)

Click the following links to stay connected to the San Diego Promise Zone

[Newsletter](#) | [Website](#) | [New Website](#) | [Email](#) | (619) 236-6700 | 1200 Third Ave, 14th Floor, San Diego, CA 92101

- **Spaces as Places:** The City is now accepting applications for the Spaces as Places program which allows permanent outdoor dining and community gathering within the public right of way. [Learn more here.](#)
- **COVID-19 Updates** from Harmonium: Individuals can access their digital vaccination record here. [Access here.](#)
 - Email areyes@harmoniumsd.org for assistance with accessing the digital vaccination record or learn more about COVID-19 resources offered by Harmonium.
- **Urban Corps** in partnership with a Transformative Climate Communities planning grant held by the Environmental Health Coalition and with the help of Tree San Diego arborists and interns and an ARC GIS intern from Mesa College, developed a map of open tree planting locations and a survey still open for community members to suggest locations. We are now working to narrow down the list of 700 tree planting locations to then prepare for grant applications/funding. For more information email lwelch@urbancorps.org. This system can be replicated throughout the community. [Access the map here.](#)
- **County of San Diego:** Love Your Heart Week of Action is from February 12-20, 2022. Organizations across San Diego will be providing free blood pressure screenings to the public and education about heart disease to empower the public to take control of their heart health. [Learn more here.](#)
- County Board Letter regarding County funds for community gardens: <https://bosagenda.sandiegocounty.gov/cob/cosd/cob/doc?id=0901127e80e11540>
- **San Diego Promise Zone:** If you are interested in tabling at the Job Fair (March 24) or Career Exploration (April 24) please email PromiseZone@sandiego.gov.

Grant Opportunities, Capacity Building, and Volunteer Events

- [The FruitGuys Community Fund](#) Each year, The FruitGuys award grants for projects that align with one or more of its [core ideals](#) focused on small farms.
- [GrowMoreGood Grassroots Grant](#) This grant intends to bring gardens to communities across the United States, especially those focused on youth or greenspaces.
- [Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems Small Grants Program](#) UC Agriculture & Natural Resources invites proposals for small grants to fund pilot and research projects that support California's farmers, ranchers, and land stewards and/or rural, urban, and Tribal communities to plan, implement, or evaluate sustainable agriculture or food systems strategies.
- [USDA Food and Agriculture Service-Learning Program](#) The program is looking to increase the capacity for food, garden, and nutrition education in schools and classrooms while fostering higher levels of community engagements between farms and school systems.
- [Growing Spaces Urban Farming Grant 2022](#) Growing Spaces seeks to fund urban farming projects to bring fresh, affordable, healthy food and deserts while providing educational opportunities for community members.
- [California Releaf](#) Public and Private Funding for Urban Forestry from state grants.

- [Google for Nonprofits](#) Google is offering free advertisements for qualifying nonprofits. Nonprofits can use these advertisements to grow their reach, attract donors, and recruit new volunteers.
- [FREE Webinar: Sustainability, Looking Beyond Grants](#) Mandy Pearce of Funding for Good, Inc will break down the key components of sustainability planning, offer quick tips for including a capacity-building component into every proposal and discuss effective communication strategies to engage and retain donors.
- [Sacramento Promise Zone Grants Workshop](#) In 2020, the Sacramento Promise Zone, South Stockton Promise Zone, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the California Grants Portal developed workshops focused on the best practices for writing grant proposals for federal funding. Presentations include downloadable materials and recordings.
- [Free Marketing Tool for Nonprofits](#) Canva, a graphic design platform often used for marketing, has created a new platform, Canva for Nonprofits. This was developed specifically with nonprofits in mind and includes thousands of templates, images, and fonts. Nonprofits are invited to apply for a free account to step up their marketing in the new year.

2022 Policy Platform

- Promise Zone Staff and co-chairs shared the working group's draft 2022 policy platform for review and feedback. This document will be presented and reviewed again in the February meeting.
- Co-Chairs asked partners if there were any food policies elsewhere that they would like to see locally. Partner responses included:
 - Increasing agricultural education in local schools and increasing the presence of gardens in daycares and pre-schools
 - Regulating or decreasing water rates for community gardens, potentially giving them the same agriculture rates that larger farms receive
 - Creating pathways for pushcart food vendors to increase access to healthy foods.
 - Encourage MTS to adopt policies that allow stands to sell healthy foods near transit stops.
 - Investing in transportation within the Promise Zone by increasing bike lane infrastructure and looking at ways that MTS can give back to communities that are bisected by trolley lines.
 - Creating and encouraging community walking groups to support active living and active transportation efforts
 - Exploring methods of food waste mitigation for local farms.
 - Allow community gardens in more land use categories like commercial, residential, and industrial areas.
 - Community gardens are now allowed in open space parks, but partners are interested in expanding access to other types of parks.
- Co-chairs also asked if there were any specific health care services and policies that partners are interested in implementing. Partner responses included:
 - Expanding access to healthcare in collaboration with 2-1-1 and with pods.

- Expanding access to mental and behavioral health services.
- Exploring the ways that CalAIM will be implemented locally
 - Aetna Better Health of California can provide training on CalAIM and other healthcare initiatives launched in January.
- Encouraging small businesses to pay their employees for time spent getting vaccinated or tested for COVID-19.
- Increase access and incentives for the MEHKO program.

Project Prioritization, Partner Event Calendar

- Co-Chairs revisited the project prioritization map created in May 2021 to follow up on projects and determine the best ways to provide continued support.
- Second Chance Pay What You Can Farm Stand is Open. They would like continued support with information distribution.
- Co-Harvest & Barrio Botany School Gardens: 2 of 4 planned school garden builds in the Promise Zone are complete, the 3rd is set to begin installation this weekend.
 - Co-Harvest will be building a new community garden at Cesar Chavez Elementary in the spring.
- Project New Village recently got their food truck and is looking to get locally grown food and pre-packaged commissaries and are Interested in more guidance on the regulations of selling food from backyard growers. They are also searching for locations to park their truck and sell produce.
 - Potential locations for the food truck shared by partners included the Jackie Robinson YMCA and CVS parking lots.
- Mongol Tribe is implementing its installation at Wild Willow and is looking for locations for its food forest, potentially at Skyline Hills. They are also building a community garden at Bay Terraces Community Park for a garden cafeteria program.
 - They would like support from Promise Zone staff in license acquisition for tree working and potential apprenticeships for tree production and care.
- Jackie Robinson YMCA's healing garden is on hold due to pool construction and will begin in June of 2022.

Bike Rack Flyer Distribution Discussion

- The Bike Rack Flyer created by the Active Living/Active Transportation subgroup will be sent with the follow-up email with a Google doc that includes current distribution brainstorming. Please review the document, add any contacts, and share the flyer.

Next Steps & Adjourn

- If you have any feedback, you can share it anonymously through the [Digital Comment Box](#).

Next Meeting

Thursday, February 17th, 2022 | 1:00 - 2:30 PM

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