San Diego Promise Zone

Jobs + Education Working Group

Wednesday, May 25th | 2:30 – 4:00 PM
Via Zoom (Meeting ID: 979 7737 1015 Passcode: 486144)
Working Group Goal: To create jobs and improve educational opportunities in the Promise Zone.

In Attendance

Access Inc., Barrio Logan College Institute, City of San Diego—CD4, City of San Diego-- Economic Development, City of San Diego-- Human Resources, Dreams & Ducats, Fleet Science Center, International Rescue Committee, San Diego & Imperial SBDC Network, San Diego County-- Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities, San Diego County Office of Education, San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, San Diego Workforce Partnership, SBCS (formerly South Bay Community Services), Second Chance, The LEAGUE of Amazing Programmers, United Way of San Diego.

Meeting Notes

Welcome, Agenda Review, and Introductions

- Co-Chairs welcomed Partners and led a culture share activity.
- Staff shared updates from the most recent Promise Zone working group meetings:
    - **Economic Activity** heard from the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) about the Community Economic Resilience Fund. City staff also provided a mid-year update on funding coming out of the Economic Development Department as well as an overview of the department's budget.
    - **Healthy Communities** welcomed Partner Financial Assistance awardees to share about their funded projects and find opportunities for collaboration. The City's Environmental Services Department presented on SB1383, which encompasses food recovery and recycling. Many of our Partners from the Healthy Communities working group are looking to hire Promise Zone residents for a variety of positions! We will be sharing some of those listings in the chat. This is a great opportunity for collaboration across working groups.
    - **Housing Affordability** discussed housing policy updates, extended eviction moratorium, and highlighted a homelessness services provider.

Partner Announcements

- San Diego Workforce Partnership, Dreams and Ducats, Access Inc, and One Club for Creativity San Diego, along with the City will be hosting **a Creative Industries Job and Resource Fair** at the City Heights Library on May 26th from 2:00 - 4:30pm. Register here.

- Founder of **Dreams & Ducats**, Rich Magale, will be speaking at CreativeMornings, a monthly breakfast lecture series. It is taking place on May 27th from 8:30am – 10:00am at the San Diego Central Library. [Register here.](#)
  - o It is also hosting Journey to Impact, a live Q&A event honoring the black youth experience. It will take place on June 18th at The Hamlett (7801 Broadway Ave). [Register here.](#)
- **SeaWorld and Sesame Place Park** are hosting an employment information session so different organizations can learn about SeaWorld career opportunities. It will be taking place on Friday, May 27th at 10:00am. [Register here.](#)
- The County of San Diego's **Department of Equitable Communities** is hosting a Career in Construction Workshop on June 3rd in partnership with the company PCL. Attendees will learn about the pathways to a construction career and necessary skills. [Register here.](#)
- **Barrio Logan College Institute** is accepting applications for new BLCI students for grades 3-11. To be eligible, applicants must be potential 1st generation college students. The deadline to apply is June 10th. For more information reach out to Tomasa@blci.org
- The City's **Parks and Recreation Department** is hosting a Career and Job Fair at the Balboa Park Club on Friday, June 24th from 11:00am – 1:00pm. There will be bilingual staff and computers available to assist with the application process. [Learn more here.](#)
- **The League of Amazing Programmers** has partnered with Outside the Lens and The National Conflict Resolution Center to offer an innovative digital inclusion program, Gen-Connect, for students in grades 6th – 9th who live in the San Diego Promise Zone area. Students will learn digital media and web development skills. [Learn more here](#)
- The City's **Human Resources Department** is looking for an organization to provide trauma informed training for its intern supervisors. If interested, reach out to LMcNabb@sandiego.gov.
- The **Live Well San Diego** Equity Ambassador Program (LEAP) is seeking to employ youth ambassadors to develop and share educational materials that address social and health disparities. [Learn more here.](#)

Overview of the City's Proposed Budget for the Economic Development Department
Monica Hardman, City of San Diego—Economic Development
- The City's Department of Economic Development administers several key programs.
- BEAR is the Business Expansion, Attraction, and Retention team. BEAR supports small business engagement and offers industry sector support, including support with foreign trade zones, grants and loans.
- The Community Development Division houses the federal and state grant administration and the HUD programs team. The San Diego Promise Zone initiative also lives within Community Development.
- Strategic Partnership and Research is responsible for Successor Agency asset management, corporate partnership development, and economic research. This division seeks out new relationships and solutions in the private sector to achieve city goals.
- Business Operations and Support Services (BOSS) ensures that expenditures are paid. The Boss team also processes money and responsible for PRA management.

- The Economic Development Department offers grants and financial assistance, including a microgrant capacity building program which supports CBOs.
- EDD is putting forward operational changes to support priority projects. Its primary initiative is small business assistance. In the FY2023 budget, EDD asked for significant expenditures for the BEAR Department and Connect2Careers to help provide a wide range of direct services for small businesses such as BIDs. It is asking for the addition of non-personnel expenditures for the restoration and enhancement of the small business enhancement program with a focus on investments in communities of concern.
- The Connect2Careers contract is ending. Since there are no CDBG funds for this program in 2023, EDD is asking for $750,000 to support opportunity youth and continue with other programs to support this goal.

SD Access 4 All Program Updates
- Digital equity emerged as a priority in 2020 with the pandemic. Promise Zone Partners focused on immediate and middle tier solutions such as hotspots and public Wi-Fi access points and Chromebook checkouts. The Jobs + Education working group will continue hosting digital equity workshops to support these essential efforts. Past workshops have resulted in the creation of 19 public Wi-Fi hotspots within the Promise Zone.
- Structural barriers prevent the implementation of the modern technology needed for fast internet speeds within the Promise Zone. This has been referred to as digital redlining. Fiber is a huge driver of economic development. The fiscal year 2023 budget will have funding to expand on these efforts.
- ARPA is funding Capital Projects and Affordable Connectivity Programs to support digital equity. The City is not well equipped to go after these funds because it needs a broadband master plan with a needs assessment in order to do so. Developing a broadband master plan will involve communities in mapping fiber gaps.

Working Group 2 Year Overview + Discussion
- Co-Chairs asked Partners to consider what activities this working group can revisit as related to our goals.
- The Jobs and Education working groups combined before the pandemic began and stayed together at its onset to focus efforts on addressing the shared priority of digital equity. In 2020, this working group collectively pursued an Economic Development Administration grant to receive a needs assessment specific to the San Diego Promise Zone. While this effort was not funded, this represents a major effort successfully undertaken by this Working Group, and these conversations would be later used to inform citywide advocacy efforts and a series of workshops.
- In December of 2020 we hosted the first installment of the Digital Inclusion in the Promise Zone Workshop Series, "Getting to a Common Agenda," which featured a Promise Zone Hotspot Mapping Activity. This information was utilized by the City's SD Access for All Digital Inclusion Initiative to help determine key locations to set up device and public Wi-Fi access.
- In May of 2021 we hosted our second Digital Inclusion Workshop, "Access to Connectivity," where we discussed the emergency broadband benefit, the expansion of

the SD Access 4 All Program, and digital inclusion asset mapping with the City's Department of IT.

- Last December, we hosted our 3rd installment of Digital Equity Workshop focusing on digital device access in the Promise Zone. In partnership with the Department of IT we were able to assess what difficulties community-based organizations are facing when it comes to sourcing and distributing affordable, high-quality computers.
- Since August 2021, this group also planned and executed a 3-part Career Opportunities Event Series. This project fulfilled the group's priorities to Cultivate opportunities for career exploration, applied learning, and youth leadership.
- Co-chairs shared discussion questions with Partners and asked them to keep these questions in mind so the discussion can be continued online.

Wrap Up and Adjourn
- Co-chairs reminded Partners that the next meeting will be in July.
- Digital Comment Box: https://us16.list-manage.com/survey?u=e913b9d30ca18b3436360cf47&id=62c8f5dc2f

Next Meeting
Wednesday, July 27th | 2:30 – 4:00 PM
Via Zoom (Meeting ID: 160 198 7510)