



The City of



Economic Development

MEETING NOTES

San Diego Promise Zone

Jobs and Education Working Group Notes

Thursday, April 17, 2025 | 2:30 – 4:00 PM

Via Zoom | (Meeting ID: 160 295 2326) | [Zoom Meeting Registration Link](#)

Working Group Goals: *Create jobs and improve educational opportunities*

In Attendance

Access Inc. (Roshawn Brady), **Barrio Logan College Institute** (Tomaso Mauricio), **California Coast Credit Union** (Angel Nolasco), **California Department of Rehabilitation** (Jeff Noyes), **City of San Diego - Promise Zone** (Oscar Silva, Donika Moreno, Domanic Riley, Roosevelt Williams III, Amber Weber), **Core6** (Jay Bowser), **E3 Civic High** (Melissa Woods), **Elementary Institute of Science** (Sarah Tuakli Cooper), **Family Health Centers of San Diego** (Charles Myers), **Goodwill** (Aron Pritchard), **Greater Than Tech** (Jasmine LeFlore), **Grid Alternatives** (Sarah Elhassan), **International Rescue Committee** (Justin Wickstrand), **LEARN Program** (Lee Bardon), **Meals on Wheels San Diego** (Wendy Pino), **San Diego County Office of Education** (Ernesto Rivera), **San Diego Creative Youth Development Network** (Giselle Rocha), **San Diego Unified School District** (Alysse Peek), **San Diego State University** (Andrew Soliz), **SoCal Pre Apprenticeship** (Wanda Rogers), **University of California San Diego** (Raquel Aparicio), **United Way of San Diego** (Alyssa Abellar), **Urban League of San Diego County** (Kea Hagan), **Wesley House** (Robert Becerra), **Workshops for Warriors** (Sarah Verduco Singh), **XplorStem** (Vicki Meadows-Nienaber), **YouthWill** (Liliana Soriano)

Meeting Notes

Welcome, Agenda Review, Culture Share

- Co-chair Raquel Aparicio kicked off the meeting by welcoming partners and reviewing the agenda.
- Guidelines for a respectful and effective meeting were shared and posted in the chat.
- Co-chair Sarah Tuakli Cooper led our **culture share**: In honor of Earth Day, What is a practice or moment in your life that made you feel more connected to nature or the environment?

Partner Updates

- **e3 Civic High - Pathways to Possibilities Career Fair (April 30 from 8:30 am – 1:15 pm):** e3 Civic High is hosting the Pathways to Possibilities Career Fair, providing high school students the opportunity to explore career options, learn about

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educational pathways, and connect with professionals from multiple industries. Email mwoods@e3civichigh.com for more details.

- **Barrio Logan College Institute (BLCI) - Opportunity for Impact Fundraiser (April 23 from 6 – 9 pm):** Held at Farmer & Seahorse, this event will raise funds for student scholarships. More information available at blci.org/opportunity-for-impact.
- **Youth Will – Summer Fellowship (June 14 – July 26):** This 6-week in-person summer fellowship is open to San Diego residents aged 18-24. 10 fellows will meet every Saturday and receive a \$1,500 stipend. The focus will be on campaigns around post-secondary alternative opportunities. Applications are due April 27.
- **Greater Than Tech San Diego - Fundraiser (April 27):** Fundraiser to support students prototyping a space shoe in partnership with e3 Civic High and Equity Space Alliance Association. Funds raised will help students board a zero-gravity flight in Kansas. Event includes wine tours. [Purchase tickets here](#).
- **Urban League of San Diego County – Golden Pyramid Scholars Program:** In partnership with Doors of Change, the Urban League is supporting houseless youth through advocacy and services. The Golden Pyramid Scholars Program is also accepting high school applicants.
- **California Department of Rehabilitation - Youth Leadership Forum (August 4 - 6):** A 3-day program for youth with disabilities aged 16 – 21 hosted at SDSU. The YLF forum seeks to engage 50 students in leadership and development.
- **Workshops for Warriors Gala (May 31 from 5:30 - 8:30 pm):** Join WFW aboard the USS Midway for an evening of celebration and support for veteran training in advanced manufacturing.
- **San Diego State University - Summer Career Fair (May 28):** SDSU's final career fair of the fiscal year. Open to students seeking summer employment and internship opportunities.
- **STEM in Your Neighborhood Initiative:** In collaboration with Fleet Science Center, several organizations are using a National Science Foundation grant to collect stories of STEM in their neighborhood. The project will be kicking off in the coming weeks. Sarah Tuakli Cooper may be reaching out to partners with an opportunity to share your story. For more information, please contact Sarah at scooper@eisca.org.
- **Future Construction Leaders - Camp Teen Girls:** Future Construction Leaders is a nonprofit offering hands-on programs and career exploration in the construction industry for K-12 students. The FCL Teen Girls introduces participants to various trades, builds life skills, and challenges stereotypes around construction careers. They're seeking support to share resources, connect students, and fund scholarships. More information [here](#).
- **Groundwork San Diego - Kids to the Coast Summer Camp:** A free coastal exploration summer camp for Southeastern San Diego youth ages 9-12 happening in July. Camp includes fun and educational field trips to the beach for swimming, fishing, kayaking and more.
- **Logan Memorial Educational Complex - No Phone Zone (NPZ):** A student-led effort to create a device-free lunchtime space promoting conversation, creativity, and play. The program is in need of donations such as yard games, board games, art

supplies, snacks, or funding. To support or for more details, contact Emily Gage at emartin3@sandi.net.

- **San Diego Wesley House – Professional Clothing Drive:** Wesley House is now accepting donations of business casual clothing, accessories, and shoes to support low-income college students preparing for job interviews and entering the workforce. Donations may be dropped off or scheduled for pickup.
- **Access 4 All - Digital Equity Survey:** The City of San Diego's Access 4 All initiative continues to seek input from Promise Zone residents about their internet quality and affordability, digital skills needs, and computer and tablet needs. For those interested in continuing to assist the SD Access 4 All team in gathering additional data on digital inequity in the Promise Zone, you can take an online survey [here](#).

Promise Zone Updates

- **We're Hiring! - AmeriCorps VISTA Grants & Research Associate:** The Promise Zone has an opening for a full-time Grants & Research Associate VISTA with a projected 1-year term of service beginning on 06/02/2025. Upon completion, the member will be eligible for a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award (up to \$6,895) or a \$1,800 cash stipend. An Operations Associate VISTA position will also open later this month.
- **Newsletter Update**
The [April newsletter](#) was published at the beginning of the month, featuring Megan Emme, former San Diego Promise Zone federal liaison, as the Community Spotlight. Links to the [newsletter archive](#) and [nomination form](#) were shared.
- **Jobs & Education Logic Model:** We have a new tool for Promise Zone partners to help them add their activities to the Jobs & Education logic model. [Click here for a google form](#) for you to enter your items, which our VISTAs will then transfer to the logic model.
- **Promise Zone Partner Logo:** Last month the Promise Zone sent out our new Promise Zone partner logo to all our partner organizations who possess a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). If your organization hasn't received the new logo, please verify your contact information by emailing promiszone@sandiego.gov. To confirm your partnership status or begin the MOU process, please check the [SDPZ Partners page](#) or email us directly.

Presentation: Goodwill Industries of San Diego (Aron Pritchard, Employment Services Manager)

- **Call to action:** How can your organization support our collective objectives? Use the insights from the presentation to guide breakout discussions.
- Aron Pritchard, Employment Services Manager from Goodwill Industries of San Diego presented on the employment and training services offered through Goodwill's community employment centers and mobile employment centers.
 - Community Employment Centers: Goodwill operates several centers through San Diego County, including Rosecrans, La Mesa, and Escondido. These centers are open Monday to Friday, mostly from 9 am – 4 pm. They offer walk-in and online appointments, job boards with employer postings, and internal job opportunities.
 - Job Readiness and Training Programs: Goodwill offers a job readiness program that includes virtual and in-person workshops on conflict management, financial readiness, and resume writing. Participants who complete five classes receive a job readiness

certificate and a 50% discount on interview attire. Goodwill also offers a 3-month paid training program in retail, transportation, and e-commerce.

- Mobile Employment Centers (RVs): Goodwill uses refurbished RVs to reach remote areas, offering on-site job applications, resume printing, and employer-specific hiring events. There are no eligibility requirements to use the RVs, but space is limited.
- Specialized Support Programs: Goodwill provides targeted services through programs like the Veterans Program. These initiatives focus on individuals with disabilities or barriers to employment, with 58% of Goodwill's 14,000 employees having a disability or similar challenge.
- Goodwill's operations are funded through store revenue, grants, and donations. The organization is dedicated to creating employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities and those facing other barriers, aiming to help people secure and retain jobs.
- Aron emphasized Goodwill's willingness to partner with community organizations to expand outreach and support. He encouraged collaboration to better address community needs and leverage available resources.

Logic Models & Breakout Rooms

→ **Call to action:** How can your organization support our collective objectives?

Subgroup 1 Objectives: *Mobilize community partners to develop strategies that increase educational and career support for Opportunity Youth*

- **Attendance:** Raquel Aparicio, Donika Moreno, Domanic Riley, Robert Becerra, Roshawn Brady, Andrew Soliz, Wanda Rogers
- Raquel expressed appreciation for the collaboration seen at the recent Career Expo and emphasized the importance of continued partnership efforts.
- The group discussed best practices for resume building and review. Robert shared his experience with guiding students on writing cover letters, highlighting the challenge of encouraging students to use their own words rather than relying on AI tools. Robert raised concerns about students becoming dependent on AI-generated content.
- The group acknowledged the challenge of preparing students for both academic success and career readiness, emphasizing the need for students to develop critical thinking skills.
- The discussion also covered the current state of remote work. Andrew noted that while remote jobs are available, they are limited. Raquel pointed out that Gen Z values work-life balance, which makes remote work appealing despite its limited availability.

Subgroup 2 Objectives: *Build an infrastructure to help increase the number of students meeting school readiness and grade-level expectations*

- **Attendance:** Sarah Tuakli Cooper, Roosevelt Williams III, Oscar Silva, Domanic Riley, Vicki Meadows, Giselle Rocha, Melissa Woods, Charles Myers
- The group agreed to broaden the focus beyond Lincoln High School to include all Promise Zone high schools. Instead of just inviting schools to participate, they proposed offering resources to address the challenges faced by school administrators when attending Jobs and Education meetings.
- There was a discussion about the term "school readiness" within the objectives. Members pointed out that the term "school readiness" within the objectives lacks clarity

and suggested replacing it with “social-emotional learning”, as this concept better captures the holistic support needed, including housing, emotional, and social wellness.

- Giselle Rocha highlighted the work of SDCYDN in connecting youth with resources, however, she noted that the system remains difficult to navigate and emphasized the importance of collaboration among organizations to reduce the number of youth falling through the gaps.
- The group discussed how to improve partnerships with schools, emphasizing the need to not only invite but actively engage schools by offering tangible resources and support. They acknowledged that expanding the focus to include other Promise Zone schools would better address the needs of a larger youth population.

Wrap Up and Adjourn

- Digital Comment Box: <https://forms.gle/JSYK67jo28YRVQ7R6>
- Nominate community leaders for recognition in Promise Zone newsletters here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSehhcidTURu9Xb6lywuyh4z4y9JgqDCFxmXdNgSheNjaDp8Hw/viewform?usp=sharing>

Next Meeting: May 15, 2:30-4:00 pm, via Zoom. [Register Here](#)