



The City of



Economic Development

MEETING NOTES

San Diego Promise Zone

Jobs and Education Working Group Meeting Minutes

Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026 | 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 (Roshawn Brady, Aneeshah Powell), **Access 4 All** (Stephanie Swift), **Black Tech Link** (Dominic Riley), **City of San Diego - Promise Zone** (Amairany Macias, Amber Weber, Chrishael Sanchez, Daniella Salgado, Michele Marano, Roosevelt Williams III), **Core 6** (Jay Bowser), **Elementary Institute of Science** (Sarah Tuakli Cooper), **Father Joes Villages** (Thomas Lovell), **Fleet Science Center** (Eric Meyer, Antonio Becker), **International Rescue Committee** (Roz Butani), **Junior Achievement** (Madeline Bowen), **Logan Heights Community Development Corporation** (William Burties), **National University** (Danielle Stephen), **Monarch School Project** (Roberta Sutton), **Neighborhood House Association** (Ernesta Johnson), **Paddle for Peace** (Aiyana Reissman, Risa Bell), **Reality Changers** (Brooke Nurse, Tya Valentine), **Resource Innovations** (Sarah Strametz, Sarah Kennedy-Lopez), **San Diego Workforce Partnership** (LaTanya Runnells), **SD Wesley House** (Maria K), **Urban League of San Diego County** (Kea Hagan), **YMCA of San Diego County** (Shiwani Lata), **Workshops for Warriors** (Ashley Morey)

Meeting Notes

Introductions, Culture Share and Agenda Review

- Co-chair Sarah Tuakli Cooper 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.
- Raquel Aparicio led our culture share: In recognition of National Leadership Day (Feb. 20), What's one way you try to lead by example?

Partner Announcements

1. Cal Coast 2026 Summer Internship (See attached flyer.)

Help spread the word! Cal Coast is offering a resume-building, paid summer internship. California Coast Credit Union is offering multiple opportunities in various departments for students to choose from. \$18/hour.

- Visit [the website](#) or scan the QR code on the attached flyer.

2. Cal Coast Financial Wellness Curriculum (See attached flyer.)

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

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



California Coast Credit Union is launching a six-month **Financial Wellness Curriculum** designed to benefit those served by local nonprofit organizations. Through monthly interactive webinars and expert guidance, community members will learn practical strategies to improve personal financial habits, plan for the future, and expand financial independence. This is an opportunity designed for Promise Zone partners based on community and partner input, and may be shared with staff, volunteers, clients, as well as other organizations.

- Visit calcoastcu.org/financial-wellness-curriculum or scan the QR code on the attached flyer.

3. Logan Heights CDC Emergent Entrepreneur Program (See attached flyer.)

LEEP (LHCDC Emergent Entrepreneurship Program) is a Small Business Development program to cultivate economic growth in the Greater Logan Heights neighborhoods by motivating community members to pursue their passions. LEEP provides the opportunity to attend a free 10-week workshop that includes educational topics such as entrepreneurship, bank lending, intellectual property, market research/analysis, financial profitability, and more.

- Visit: <https://www.loganheightscdc.org/non-profit-organization-workshops>

4. Urban League of San Diego County - Golden Pyramid Scholars Program (See attached flyer.)

The Urban League designed this program to identify, recruit, cultivate, and support students striving to achieve academic and economic excellence.

- Visit: <https://sdul.org/golden-pyramid-scholars-program/>

5. Urban League of San Diego County - Financial Literacy Workshop (See attached flyer.)

Learn how to be financially responsible with lessons on budgeting and savings, brought to you by a HUD certified Housing Counselor from the San Diego Urban League.

- Date: Wednesday, Feb 25
- Time: 12:00pm - 2:00pm
- Location: KUP Unity Village (I4-201)

6. UCSD 2026 Outreach Guide Summer (See attached flyer.)

Reality Changers is seeking community members to serve as mentors for its Alumni Mentorship Program, which pairs mentors with college-aged alumni who are first-generation college students. This program provides ongoing guidance and support to help students succeed in their academic and professional journeys.

7. File Your Taxes for Free (See attached flyer.)

Individuals and families earning less than \$70,000 per year may qualify for FREE tax filing assistance! Expert tax preparers will check if you qualify to claim the following tax credits to put more money back in your pocket.

- Visit: myfreetaxes.org or Call 2-1-1.

8. Comienza Con Un Sueno (See attached flyer.)



Comienza brings together thousands of students and families for a bilingual college fair, STEM fair, hands-on workshops, and cultural celebration that inspires students to see themselves in higher education.

- Date: Saturday, March 14
- RSVP: [HERE](#)
- Volunteers are needed! See flyer for info.
- Visit: <https://eaop.ucsd.edu/comienza/index.html>

Promise Zone Updates

- **Community Perception Survey (CPS):** The 2026 Community Perception Survey has been finalized following working group feedback and translated into Spanish. Survey outreach will take place in March and April at locations throughout the Promise Zone, including Northgate Gonzalez Markets (Barrio Logan and Logan Heights, pending) and Food 4 Less (Encanto). Residents will receive a \$5 grocery gift card for participation.
- **Partner Impact Survey:** All Promise Zone partners with an MOU on file will receive a brief online Partner Impact Survey in the coming months. The survey will capture organizational impact on Promise Zone residents and the effects of participation in the 10-year designation. Results will be compiled into an Impact Report and shared at the All-Partner Celebration.
- **February's Newsletter Spotlight** is Ernesto Rivera. Ernesto was born and raised in Tijuana, Mexico, but later moved to the South Bay (San Ysidro). His involvement in the Promise Zone first arose out of a need to serve underserved communities, having come from one himself. Ernesto has served the Promise Zone for seven years, both as a Steering Committee member and as a loyal proponent of the initiative. Presently, Ernesto works at the San Diego County Office of Education as a Project Specialist for Work-Based Learning, a role that allows him to assist SDPZ with our annual Youth-Led Career Expo. Read more about Ernesto [here](#).
- **All-Partner Celebration:** Save the Date! Thursday, June 4, 2026, 1–4 p.m. at Workshops for Warriors' new Barrio Logan location. This event will serve as the final All-Partner Meeting of the federal designation and the launch of the community-led San Diego Promise Zone Alliance.

Youth-Led Career Expo:

- **Sarah Tuakli Cooper and Raquel Aparicio** announced that the Promise Zone's 4th Annual Youth-Led Career Expo will take place on March 3, 2026, at the Balboa Park Club & Recital Hall, highlighting youth-informed programming based on 90+ survey responses, free career readiness services, a young professionals panel, remaining employer/vendor spots, and ongoing opportunities for sponsorship and in-kind support. Sponsor the event with raffle prizes or items for swag bags. We expect ~300 students and young adults to attend.

- o Career Expo website: <https://www.sandiego.gov/youthcareerexpo>
- **AmeriCorps VISTAs Daniela Salgado, Amairany Macias, and Chrishael Sanchez** shared additional information about their involvement in planning the event, what they're looking forward to, and how working group members can engage the day-of.

Presentation: Shawn McClondon - Sister Cities Project, Workforce Development

Shawn McClondon, Founder and CEO of Sister Cities Project, delivered a presentation on its (ECO)SYSTEM to create a jobs-first workforce that is employer-driven, AI-integrated, and placement-focused. The program offers paid work experience for opportunity youth to be mentored and trained in digital marketing by local industry professionals, located in San Diego and North County.

- 12-week, paid, hands-on training program: Students receive training in digital marketing from industry professionals while providing digital marketing services for a small business located within their local communities (e.g. City Heights).
- 12-week paid internship program: Students provide digital marketing services for a small business located within the Sister City partner communities (e.g. Encinitas).

Workforce Development: [\(Eco\)Agency Program](#)

Community Connections: [\(Eco\)Exchange Program](#)

Business Growth Program: [\(Eco\)HUB](#)

Promise Zone Working Group Transition Activities:

Sarah and Raquel led a discussion on partner engagement in the next phase of the San Diego Promise Zone Alliance using [Mural](#). Partners were asked to consider ways to engage within the new San Diego Promise Zone Alliance structure, including:

- Hosting meetings
- Providing guest speakers
- Sharing newsletter
- Securing in-person sites
- Participating in sub-committees

Participants were also asked, using [Mural](#), how they will support the continuance of the Youth-Led Career Expo post-designation:

- Organize volunteers
- Provide raffle prizes
- Support marketing efforts
- Organize vendors

A Development Sub-Committee has been formed to pursue grant funding and provide operational support. A Communications Sub-Committee will be formed next. If you are



interested in getting involved, please reach out to Sarah, Raquel, or promisezone@sandiego.gov.

Wrap Up and Adjourn:

- Co-chairs thanked those who attended the meeting and encouraged them to leave any feedback through the Digital Comment Box: <https://forms.gle/FAbFjw4ZUuAd3Uiy6>
- Next Jobs & Education Working Group meeting will be held on Thursday, April 16, 2026 from 10-11:30 a.m.