



The City of



# Economic Development

## MEETING NOTES

### San Diego Promise Zone

#### Jobs and Education Working Group Meeting Minutes

Thursday, Apr. 16, 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

**California Coast Credit Union** (Angel Nolasco), **City of San Diego - Promise Zone** (Amairany Macias, Amber Weber, Chrisrael Sanchez, Michele Marano, Roosevelt Williams III), **Elementary Institute of Science** (Sarah Tuakli Cooper), **In Good Company** (Armando Sepulveda II), **Logan Heights Community Development Corporation** (William Burties), **San Diego County Office of Education** (Ernesto Rivera), **UC San Diego** (Raquel Aparicio), **United Way of San Diego** (Alyssa Abellar), **Urban Street Angels** (Pedro Estrada Jr.).

#### 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 Pathways Day (Apr. 16), "What is one way your organization supported pathways to success in education and/or the workforce this year?"

#### Partner Announcements

##### **1. Cal Coast Financial Wellness Curriculum**

California Coast Credit Union continues its 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. The next virtual workshop, **Taking the Mystery out of Credit**, will be on **Monday, April 27**.

- View more information [here](#), or access the [flyer](#).

##### **2. San Diego Unified School District's 2026 Showcase of Learning**

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

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



Celebrating student creativity and achievement across San Diego Unified, and featuring projects and selected student work from CTE, Community Schools, and VAPA programs, the showcase highlights learning from all grade levels and invites families and the community to experience student projects and explore the district's diverse program offerings. The Showcase will be on April 29 from 3-6 pm at Lincoln High School.

- o [Flyer](#)

### **3. United Way of San Diego County - Annual scholarship program for high school seniors**

The United Way of San Diego County has opened its annual scholarship program for high school seniors in the County. This year, they are focusing on students who attend high schools in the Promise Zone along with Dream-with-STEAM program schools across the county to help ensure the greatest possible impact.

The scholarship application is open through April 30. A total of 10 scholarships will be awarded, ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000, and funds may be used for any school-related expenses. For more information, see the flyer in the chat.

- o [Flyer](#)

### **4. Bank On San Diego Forum - Collaboration with the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco**

This interactive and informative forum will feature dynamic discussions and meaningful opportunities to connect with professionals from nonprofits, financial institutions, and government agencies.

Topics will include the following: Data on banking deserts, Opportunities to strengthen youth financial education, and Strategies for incorporating banking access into community programs. Lunch will be provided.

- [Bank On San Diego Website & Registration](#)

### **5. Workforce Industry Council Event**

San Diego Job Corps is hosting a **Workforce Industry Council Event** on May 6 from 9:30-11 a.m. in the Job Corps Gymnasium for employers to connect with emerging talent, strengthen industry collaboration, and help share the future workforce with the San Diego Job Corps program.

- o [Flyer](#)

### **6. Sustainable 'Hood Leadership Pop Up**

In Good Company's **"Sustainable 'Hood"** is designed for students and community members who want to deepen their understanding of environmental justice, build leadership skills, and



explore real pathways into climate-related education, careers, and community action. The event is on Saturday, May 9 from 9-2:30 at the San Diego Made Factory.

- o [Register Here](#)

### **7. Paddle for Peace - Rising Tides Youth Leadership Program.**

Paddle for Peace has opened the application for the **Rising Tides Youth Leadership Program**. This year-long mentorship program provides leadership training in surfing, ocean healing, career exploration in marine science, program development and hands-on experience mentoring for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) youth. Students selected to be in Rising Tides will attend this program free of charge and will have opportunities to apply to paid internships with Paddle for Peace.

- o Apply for the Paddle for Peace Youth Leadership Program [here](#).

### **Promise Zone Updates**

- **Our April Community Spotlight** featured Jon Rios. Jon has been actively involved over the years with the Housing Affordability working group and Steering Committee. Jon has a wealth of experience on Housing related matters through his early position as Director of Integrated Strategies with the San Diego Housing Commission but he has stayed as co-chair for the last 4.5 years because of his personal connection to the neighborhood and the impact the resources have on residents living in the communities. For Jon, the Promise Zone is very personal. He grew up in Logan Heights across the street from Logan Elementary School, in communities where opportunity was not always easy to see or access, and where housing stability could make a huge difference in a family's future. As a result Jon has always felt a responsibility to stay connected to these communities where people are working hard to build better futures for themselves and their children. His career has centered around creating opportunities for young people and families. Links to learn more about Jon are included in the [newsletter](#).
- **Community Perception Survey (CPS):** The 2026 Community Perception Survey was finalized following working group feedback and translated into Spanish. Survey outreach is taking place in March and April at various locations throughout the Promise Zone, including Northgate Gonzalez Markets (Barrio Logan and Logan Heights) and Food 4 Less (Encanto). Residents are receiving a \$5 grocery gift card for their participation. As of now we have already surveyed over 500 individuals, exceeding our goal! We continue to survey next week with the revised goal of reaching 750 residents. Overall, the surveying has gone very well, and it has been discovered that the experience has been rewarding both to the residents and to the SDSU students. The residents have expressed appreciation at having an opportunity to share their thoughts, and they were appreciative of the grocery gift card incentive. The idea to offer a grocery card came as a result of community partner's suggestion at the December All-Partner Meeting, which



was a reminder of how incredibly important network is to collaborate with each other. The SDSU students as fellow volunteers have been terrific to work with. It is evident that this experience has been rewarding for everyone involved.

- o An [Online Survey](#) was created to reach more residents.
- **Partner Impact Survey:** All Promise Zone partners with an MOU on file were invited to complete a brief online Partner Impact Survey to share how their organization has impacted residents of the Promise Zone over the 10-year designation as well as how the organization has been impacted by the Promise Zone initiative. Only a few questions were required. Although the majority of questions were optional, we encouraged partners to answer as many questions as they could. As an incentive, we have many event tickets available through a drawing. The survey is intended to capture organizational impact on Promise Zone residents and the effects of participation in the 10-year designation. The results are set to be compiled into an Impact Report, which will then be shared at the All-Partner Celebration at the end of the designation.
  - o [Partner Impact Survey Flyer](#)
  - o Partner Impact Survey [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. The event will include testimonies from partners, data from the Partner Impact Survey, the Community Perception Survey, and census data, remarks from government officials, and a beautiful charcuterie table. Invitations were sent to invitation to MOU partners.
  - o [All-Partner Celebration flyer](#)

### **Career Expo Debrief:**

Sarah and Raquel led a debrief of the **Promise Zone's 4th Annual Youth-Led Career Expo:**

- Held on Tuesday, Mar. 3, 2026, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. at the Balboa Park Club & Recital Hall, the Promise Zone's 4th Annual Youth-Led Career Expo featured resume reviews, mock interviews, professional headshots, a young professionals panel, and raffle prizes. Employers hiring youth and organizations offering job training or apprenticeship opportunities were encouraged to participate. Sponsorship opportunities, including swag bag items and raffle donations, were supplied to lucky students who attended.
- The Career Expo had the following stats:
  - o ~250 participants
  - o 81 professional headshots
  - o 51 vendors (employers, apprenticeship programs, job training)
  - o Over 60 volunteers from 12+ organizations and 4 City departments (including Employ & Empower interns)
  - o 16 sponsors resulting in over \$7,000 of in-kind gifts, including 20 raffle prizes, lunch, snacks, and swag bags



- o Expo included a panel of young professionals, resume review, mock interviews, professional headshots, professional clothing to wear for headshot, elevator pitch practice, vendor fair, art station, and the kick-off to the SDPZ's Community Perception Survey
- o Of 123 youth who completed the participant survey after the event:
  - ♣ 52% said yes, they plan to apply for a job or apprenticeship program they learned about at the career expo, and 35% said maybe.
  - ♣ Health sciences and medical technology is the sector in which students are most interested (39%).

### **Promise Zone Working Group Transition Activities:**

Sarah and Raquel both then led a final discussion on partner engagement and the future of the Jobs & Education working group with the San Diego Promise Zone Alliance. Partners were asked to consider ways to engage within the new San Diego Promise Zone Alliance structure.

Participants were also asked 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 [promiszone@sandiego.gov](mailto:promiszone@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>
- Remember to RSVP for the [All-Partner Celebration](#) which will be held on Thursday, June 4, 2026 from 1- 4 p.m.