

AUGUST / 2023



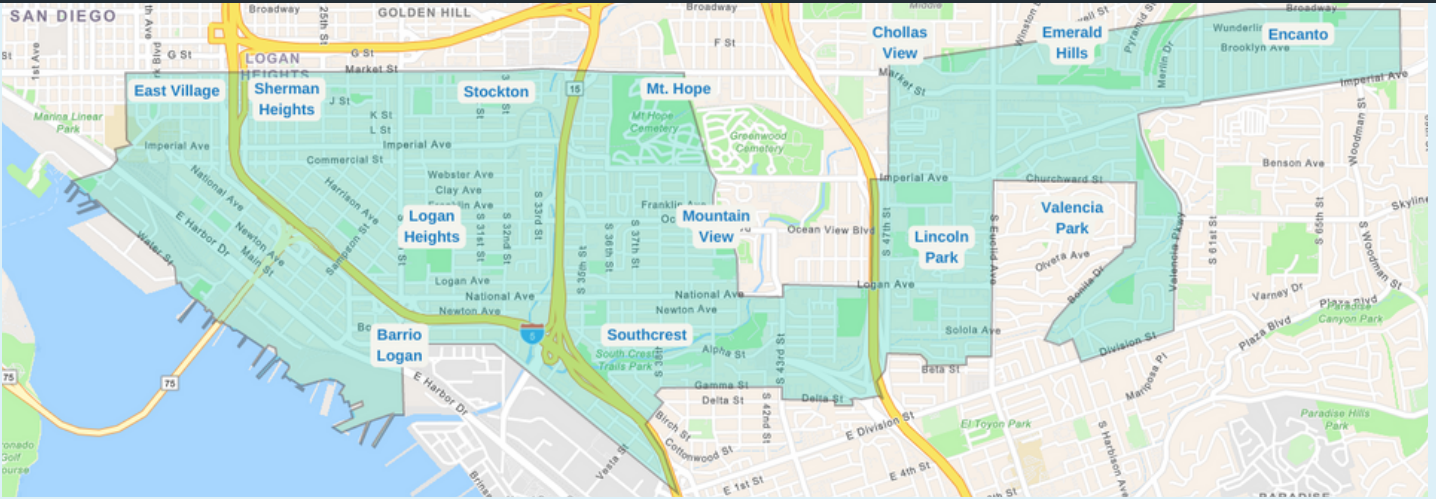
(image: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC))

CONTENT

- ABOUT
- MESSAGE FROM STAFF
- WORKING GROUP UPDATES
- PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
- GRANTS & CAPACITY BUILDING
- CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
- JOB BOARD
- CONTACT US

The Promise /

"To co-create an ecosystem of opportunity and investment through collaboration that addresses systemic racism and inequities to improve the quality of life of Promise Zone residents"



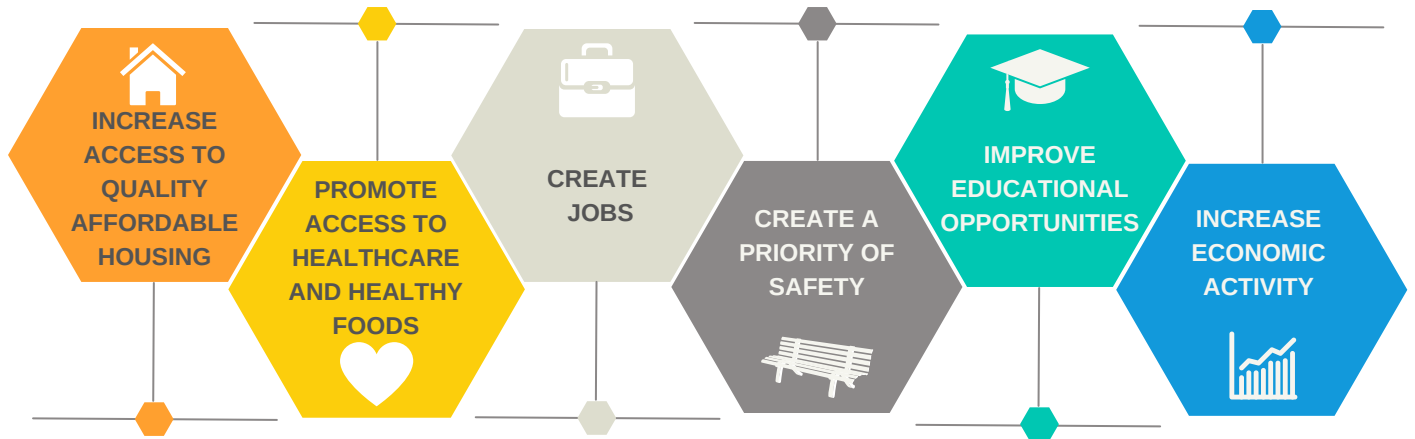
About the Promise Zone

In 2016, the San Diego Promise Zone became one of 22 federally designated Promise Zones in the United States and one of only four in California. The San Diego Promise Zone covers a 6.4-square-mile targeted area with more than 80,000 residents that spans East Village and Barrio Logan east to Encanto. It is home to the City’s most culturally rich and ethnically diverse neighborhoods, but also some of the most under-resourced communities. Through the Promise Zone initiative, community-based organizations, direct service providers, residents, and business owners work with government agencies to enhance collective impact, streamline resources, and deliver comprehensive support.

Since 2016, the unemployment rate has decreased from 14.9% to 6.7%, and the poverty rate has fallen from 38.3% to now 22.1% (ACS, 2016, 2021). We recognize there are many factors that contribute to these numbers. We do know that in the 7 years since the designation, targeted efforts from the city and community-based organizations have supported some improvement in these areas, however, we recognize there is still plenty of work to do to continue improving the lives of our Promise Zone residents.

Working Group Goals

- Increase access to healthy foods
- Improve access to healthcare
- Support opportunities for active transportation and active living
- Dialogue with residents
- Create environments conducive to learning and working
- Improve infrastructure
- Increase and improve access to capital



- Create and preserve affordable housing
- Support renters, first-time homebuyers, and people without housing
- Cultivate opportunities for career exploration, applied learning, and youth leadership
- Create meaningful summer employment experiences for teenagers
- Increase the number of students meeting school readiness and grade-level expectations
- Increase educational and career supports for Opportunity Youth

A MESSAGE TO OUR PARTNERS & MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Dear Partners,

August is National Back to School Month, a time to celebrate the start of a new school year and all the opportunities it brings.

This month's newsletter highlights exciting events, career pathways, community involvement, and capacity building resources to inspire and support students and educators alike. Last month, we introduced a member spotlight, a nomination-based opportunity to recognize the impact of community members' service in the SDPZ. If you know someone who deserves recognition, please fill out the nomination form below.

MEMBER NOMINATION!



FAREWELL ISOBEL!

We are sad to announce that Isobel Varney, our Grants & Research Associate, has completed her year of service with the San Diego Promise Zone. During her tenure, Isobel played a pivotal role in facilitating grant discussions, supporting the Economic Activity and Healthy Communities Working Groups, and conducting the Promise Zone Business Walk earlier this year. We express our sincere gratitude to Isobel for her hard work and dedication over the past year, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

STAY CONNECTED

IN THE NEWS



[City Council Legislative Recess](#)

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[Pet Adoption Fees Waived for Clear the Shelter Month](#)

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[Planning Commission Advances Package of 10 Pro-Housing Policies](#)

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[City of San Diego Completes Repairs on Hundreds of Streetlights in Downtown](#)

MEET OUR NEW VISTAS



Bryan Villegas
Operations Associate

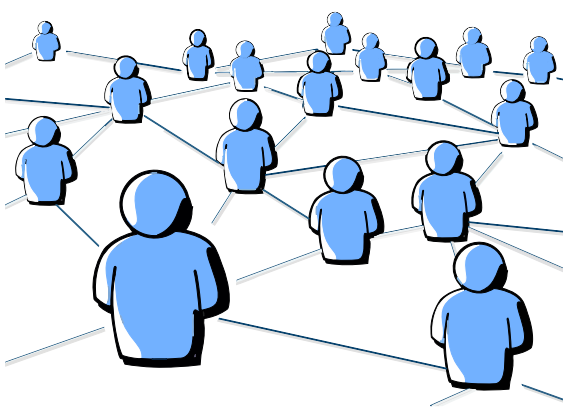
I was born in San Diego but have lived in Maryland for the last 14 years. I completed my Bachelor's degree in Strategic Communications at West Virginia University and also had a minor in Sports Communications. Sports are a major part of my life, as I am always watching, playing, or reading about sports. I have a favorite team in every sport but my absolute favorite team is the Chargers. I chose to do service in VISTA because my mom and aunt both did VISTA service and really enjoyed it, and the way they described it sounded like something that I would also enjoy. I'm excited to be back where I spent the first 10 years of my life, meet new people, and make a positive impact on the community.



Alaysja Clark
Communications Associate

Although I live in Chula Vista, I grew up and spent most of my life here in San Diego. Last year, I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Communication and minor in Digital Media from Seattle Pacific University. Throughout my academic journey, I developed an interest in graphic design and video production. I honed my skills and developed a deep understanding of communication strategies and visual aesthetics. As I continue to channel my creativity into meaningful projects, my main goal is to leverage my skills to connect with audiences, evoke emotions, and inspire change. During my service year, I am looking forward to building meaningful connections with individuals in the SDPZ and supporting them in achieving their personal definitions of success. I aspire to connect community members with better-paying job opportunities and vital resources. I believe everyone deserves to experience happiness and good health, and I am committed to making a positive impact in others' lives.

Bryan and Alaysja are looking forward to working with the **Economic Activity** and **Jobs & Education** working groups during their service year!



SD PromiseZone

2023 Working Group Updates

August 2023

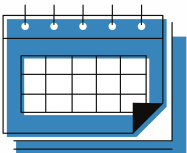
Economic Activity met on August 16, where we heard from the Economic Development Department which gave an update on our Partner Financial Assistance Grant and gave some information on a Capacity Building Grant. We also discussed June's Business Walk and gave a report on our findings.

Housing Affordability will be meeting next week on August 24, where we will be discussing City of San Diego housing policies that are helping to spur development, stabilize rent-burdened households, and assist those at-risk and experiencing homelessness. We will also hear from Communities for Global Sustainability (C4GS) and how they are leveraging visionary green building with emerging solar, electric and data collecting technologies to minimize bills for residents, generate and store clean energy, and truly empower communities.

Healthy Communities will be meeting on August 17, where we will hear updates from the San Diego Promise Zone team on their StoryMaps website and the San Diego Foundation's Community Food Grant. During this meeting we will discuss working group priorities and action items moving forward. We will also hear from the City Planning Department on their Partnering for Progress initiative.

Jobs + Education is meeting next week on August 23, where we will hear from Alex Becker of the San Diego County Office of Education about vocational training and career exploration. Partners who attend will take away valuable resources about the labor market to share with their networks. We will also discuss our goals and priorities in small breakout groups.

Join us at an upcoming meeting!



[Jobs and Education](#): Wednesday, August 23rd, 2:30 - 4:00 P.M.

[Housing Affordability](#): Thursday, August 24th, 2:30 - 4:00 P.M.

[Economic Activity](#): Wednesday, September 20th, 2:30 - 4:00 P.M.

[Healthy Communities](#): Thursday, September 21st, 1:00 - 2:30 P.M.



GET INVOLVED

BECOME A WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIR

Are you interested in creating tangible change in Promise Zone neighborhoods? A co-chair role requires a time commitment of five to eight hours per month, and has a great impact on the working groups advancing shared goals.

- **Housing Affordability** is seeking a co-chair with experience in the creation of affordable housing or supporting renters, the unhoused, and homebuyers in San Diego.
- **Safety** is looking for two co-chairs who can help re-energize the working group and spur the group to meet on a regular basis.

If you are interested, or would like to nominate someone for the position, **email Melissa Elder at melder@sandiego.gov**.

PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS



Aug 24

Outside the Lens (OTL) Open House

Explore OTL's new location in San Diego's East Village, and learn more about media arts programs for youth, teens and young adults. There will be festive food and sparkling beverages, hands-on art projects, and music on vinyl from OTL staff DJs! [RSVP Here](#)

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AUG 25

Second Chance Community Day

Community Day brings together local small businesses and organizations offering resources to the community. There is also a taco food truck and fresh produce available for purchase from Project New Village, fun activities and a DJ! [More information](#)

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AUG 26

Health and Healing Summerfest

Project New Village's Summerfest event is back! This year's event features hands on, mindful movement activities, tasty food, health screenings, and educational information and resources from local community sources. [Purchase tickets here](#)

AUG 18

MEMORIAL PARK BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENT

Join the Memorial Park/Stockton community for a day filled with fun and free giveaways to prepare our young people for their first day of school. They will have backpacks, school supplies, haircuts, manicures, food, event t-shirts, and more. Supplies will be limited but they will serve as many youths as possible. [Learn more](#)

URBAN COLLABORATIVE PROJECT CDC PRESENTS

COFFEE, MUSIC, & COMMUNITY!

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT: C.PAZ@UCPROJECT.ORG

COME MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS OVER A CUP OF COFFEE, SWEETS & MUSIC! TALK ABOUT WHAT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU TO GET AROUND & HELP SHAPE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

VISIT US AT THE FOUR CORNERS OF LIFE
BROOKS HUFFMAN PLAZA, SAN DIEGO, CA 92113
SATURDAY, AUGUST 26 | 9AM - 12PM

PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENTS



We Know Who's

HIRING

JOIN US FOR JRT!
Second Chance Job Readiness Training
Build self confidence & acquire critical skills needed to gain and retain employment in this FREE 4 week program!

Upcoming 2023 Class Schedule

- Class 266 July 5 - July 28
- Class 267 Aug. 7 - Sept. 1
- Class 268 Sept. 11 - Oct. 6
- Class 269 Oct. 16 - Nov. 9
- Class 270 Nov. 20 - Dec. 15

Scott Taylor- JRT Program Manager- 619-234-8888
staylor@secondchanceprogram.org

CAREER PATHWAYS FOR FOSTER YOUTH

The San Diego Workforce Partnership has partnered with Promises2Kids, to help foster youth unlock their potential and explore the careers they're passionate about. This program supports young adults in finding a paid job or internship, occupational training, and/or education. [Learn more here](#)

SAN DIEGO LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM ENDS AUGUST 31

There is still time to sign up and complete the Find Your Voice summer reading program! San Diego residents of all ages are encouraged to [sign up](#) and use their voices to share their stories, express themselves, and spark change. Complete a combination of 10 books, hours of reading or activities to claim your prizes.



SOUTHEAST Farmers Market EVERY 3rd Saturday

11 am - 3 pm
404 Euclid Ave, San Diego
Fresh Food, Entertainment, Resources

LOCAL SELLERS BUILDING UNITY
AROUND FRESH FOOD

WANT TO BE A VENDOR?
CONTACT US AT INFO+PAVINGGREATFUTURES.ORG

PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Financial Wellness Workshops

The Urban Collaborative Project CDC is partnering with Cal Coast Credit Union to provide **FREE** financial education for Southeast San Diego residents!

Workshops will cover financial fitness, emotional spending, and all about credit!

Food and refreshments will be provided at all in-person workshops.

Workshops open to residents of all ages.

PLEASE REGISTER HERE:
bit.ly/ucpccalcoast



For questions, please contact c.olfato@ucproject.org.



Workshop Details

Topic	Date
Financial Fitness	Saturday, September 23 10:30 AM - 12 PM Southeastern Live Well Center
Emotional Spending	Wednesday, October 4 5:30 - 6:30 PM Virtual via Zoom
All About Credit	Saturday, October 21 10:30 AM - 12 PM Southeastern Live Well Center
Financial Fitness	Monday, October 30 5:30 - 6:30 PM Virtual via Zoom
Emotional Spending	Saturday, November 18 10:30 AM - 12 PM Southeastern Live Well Center
All About Credit	Tuesday, November 28 5:30 - 6:30 PM Virtual via Zoom



VEGAN FOOD POP UP BARRIO LOGAN

Vegan Food Pop up is San Diego's biggest outdoor vegan food market. This free event on August 26, showcases the best plant-based food in SoCal, featuring a rotating lineup of diverse vendors from San Diego, Orange County and LA. In between bites, attendees can shop a select group of vegan-friendly, local products and services.

[Learn more](#)

CONGRATULATIONS SAN DIEGO LIBRARY CLASS OF 2022 & 2023!

With a goal of providing access to opportunities and successful careers, the City of San Diego Public Library (SDPL) is celebrated the Career Online High School classes of 2022 and 2023 with a ceremony at the Downtown Central Library. Students walked across the stage of the library's Neil Morgan Auditorium, for the first full graduation ceremony since 2019. Learn more about SDPL's Adult High School Diploma Program [here](#).

PROJECT NEW VILLAGE COMMUNITY WORK DAY

Community Work Days are a great way to connect with like-minded neighbors with fun, meaningful light-duty work at the Mt. Hope Community Garden. Open to all – join, and show up for food justice! Attending this work day makes you eligible for free entry to the Health and Healing Summerfest. [Learn more](#)

PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENTS



Register Today for Open Enrollment for New & Continuing Students

PROJECT READY SAN DIEGO

In-person Free

This program focuses on:

- Mentorship,
- Leadership Development,
- Historical and Cultural Literacy,
- Scholarships and Money for College,
- College Tours,
- National Urban League Youth Summit (Travel out of Town & Stay on a college campus with 300 plus students)
- National Case Competitions, and
- Career Preparation & Exploration
- Social Justice & Public Speaking
- Incentives, Swag, Gift Cards, and Money for College

Contact Kea Hagan at:
619.266.6265; kea@sdul.org

REGISTER TODAY
USING QR CODE



PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

MANDATE RECORDS PRESENTS

Jazz at the Creek 2021
 #J@tC — TWENTY ONE —
 "BACK TOGETHER AGAIN"

BENEFITING MANDATE PROJECT IMPACT'S YOUTH EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

PATRICE RUSHEN AND FRIENDS
 FEATURING
 RAYFORD GRIFFIN • PAUL JACKSON JR. • MICHAEL PAULO • FREDDIE WASHINGTON
 LAMONT DOZIER JR.
 KENDRICK DIAL & LYRICAL GROOVE

TICKETS: \$50/Concert – \$60 At Door
 \$90/ VIP Dinner & Concert – \$100 At Door
 Two 2-Day Pass - \$85

MARKET CREEK AMPHITHEATER: 310 EUCLID AVE, SAN DIEGO CA 92114

For More Information: 858-650-3190 | www.JazzAtTheCreekSD.com
 FOOD AND BEVERAGES AVAILABLE / UPSCALE VENDOR BOOTHS FOR YOUR SHOPPING PLEASURE

Follow us at [JazzAtTheCreek](https://www.facebook.com/JazzAtTheCreek)

The greatest civil rights issue of our time.

The RIGHT TO READ

DEEP invites you to join us for a free community film screening and discussion.

Saturday, September 9 | 1:00 pm

Presented in partnership with the San Diego Unified School District



GRANT OPPORTUNITIES



Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot



The purpose of the Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot Program (VHRMP) is to explore the potential benefits of awarding grants to nonprofit organizations to rehabilitate and modify the primary residence of veterans who are low-income and have disabilities. The funds made available under this program will be awarded competitively.

Application Deadline: August 31, 2023

Primary Care Residence



The Song-Brown Program funds institutions that train primary care health professionals to provide health care in California's medically underserved areas.

Application Deadline: August 31, 2023

Economic Development Department Capacity Building Grant Program



The Economic Development Department is administering Capacity Building Grants to nonprofit organizations that directly support small businesses in under-resourced communities within the City of San Diego.

Application Deadline: September 1, 2023

Accelerate CA: Inclusive Innovation Hub Program Round 2



Eligible organizations can apply to administer a grant program for the State to facilitate the transformation of invention to impact by accelerating the startup and growth of innovation-based firms in key industry areas with a focus on diverse founders, including women, people of color, and underserved geographies and regions.

Application Deadline: September 8, 2023



GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Clean Mobility in Schools (CMIS) and the Sustainable Transportation Equity Project



The California Air Resources Board hopes to fund multiple clean transportation projects in 2 to 4 low-income and disadvantaged communities. These projects, such as active transportation infrastructure, public transit, bikeshare, microtransit, school transportation will work together to increase transportation equity and support a zero-emission transportation future.

Application Deadline: September 8, 2023

FY 2022-2023 Planning and Capacity Building



The California Air Resources Board will fund Planning and Capacity Building projects in 6 to 15 low-income and disadvantaged communities. Planning and Capacity Building projects are intended to increase transportation equity by improving understanding of residents' transportation needs, developing organizational and community capacity, and preparing communities to implement clean transportation projects that fill gaps and improve access.

Application Deadline: September 8, 2023

Reconnecting Neighborhoods and Communities Grant



The Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program provides grants to assist economically disadvantaged or underserved communities for planning and construction activities. The Program supports planning, capital construction, and regional partnership activities that aim to restore community connectivity.

Application Deadline: September 28, 2023

INSIDER TIP!

We can support partners' grant applications by providing a **Letter of Support**.

[REQUEST A L.O.S. HERE](#)

CAPACITY BUILDING



MY TOOLKIT

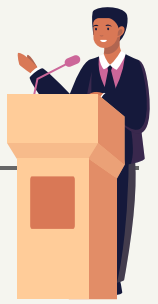
Candid.

[Skills for Overcoming Burnout](#)



[5 Crucial Tips For Managing Volunteers In The Digital Age](#)

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



[WATCH CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS](#)

[WATCH COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETINGS](#)

- **Housing & Community Development Annual Plan Funding Strategy:** The County's Housing and Community Development Services (HCDS) is looking for input on how funding is directed and for the development of the 2024-2025 Annual Plan Strategy. [Click here to take the survey.](#)
- **Proposed Water Rate Adjustments:** Ahead of the Sept. 19 public City Council hearing on proposed water-rate increases, the City of San Diego is hosting community information meetings where you will have the opportunity to hear a detailed presentation about water rates from Public Utilities Department staff and ask questions. Please join so you can voice your opinion: Tuesday, Aug. 22, 6-7pm at Valencia Park / Malcolm X Library, 5148 Market St., San Diego, CA 92114. [RSVPs are encouraged.](#)
- **Partnering for Progress survey:** The newly updated Partnering for Progress website is now live! The heart of this initiative is to increase public infrastructure engagement and streamline community outreach. [Click here to learn more!](#)
- **World Design Capital submission:** World Design Capital San Diego Tijuana 2024 is excited to invite the regional community to participate by showcasing our rich design history and how it is transforming the region. [Submit your artwork here!](#)
- **State Digital Equity Plan:** Digital Equity Ecosystem Mapping / The State of California is requesting all government agencies, nonprofits, researchers, and community organizations to help map what services are being offered regarding Digital Equity. [Learn more.](#)

Get It Done

Simple and easy to connect with the City:

- Report non-emergency problems
- Schedule appointments
- Obtain information

sandiego.gov/get-it-done
or download your mobile app today!
"Get It Done San Diego"

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google play





JOB BOARD

Informal Job Database, solicitation for services

KITCHENS FOR GOOD

APPRENTICESHIP TRYOUTS

Kitchens for good is accepting applications for their tuition-free program which offers paid training (a stipend) and Job Placement with a Kitchens for Good Employer Partner.

[Apply here.](#)



THE GLOBAL ARC
Global Action Research Center

YOUNG ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVOCATES ACADEMY

The Global Arc is looking for high school students who are interested in learning about environmental justice and making their community a better place. **To join the Fall cohort, apply here.**

The City of **SAN DIEGO**

City Jobs

www.sandiego.gov/empopp/current



1200 Third Ave., Suite 300, MS 51P San Diego, CA 92101 (619) 236-7783

Any questions? Email us at: jobs@sandiego.gov

Need assistance applying for a job with the City of San Diego? [Reach out to the Personnel Department](#) for more information.



AmeriCorps

JOIN THE PROMISE ZONE TEAM

The Promise Zone is currently recruiting for its next round of AmeriCorps VISTA's. Join our team to create tangible change in San Diego and gain valuable experience in government. If interested, email [MElder@sandiego.gov!](mailto:MElder@sandiego.gov)

LOOKING FOR A JOB?

CHECK OUT THESE JOB BOARDS FROM OUR PARTNERS

San Diego Workforce Partnership - [Job Board](#)

City of San Diego - [Internship and Work Readiness Job Board](#)

San Diego Regional EDC - [Job Board](#)

STAY CONNECTED TO THE PROMISE ZONE!



Promise Zone Staff

Melissa Elder, **Promise Zone Program Coordinator** / MElder@sandiego.gov

Roosevelt Williams III, **Program Specialist** / RooseveltW@sandiego.gov

Bryan Bello, **Management Intern** / BBello@sandiego.gov

Nathaniel Hillman, **Grants & Research Associate VISTA** / NHillman@sandiego.gov

Alaysja Cark, **Communications Associate VISTA** / AlaysjaC@sandiego.gov

Bryan Villegas, **Operations Associate VISTA** / BVillegas@sandiego.gov

