



The City of



Economic Development

MEETING NOTES

San Diego Promise Zone

Healthy Communities Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 9, 2024 | 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM | [via Zoom](#)

Healthy Communities Goal: *Promote access to healthy food, healthcare, and active living*

In Attendance:

Family Health Centers of San Diego (Nazanin Abbaspour), **Leah's Pantry** (Christina Abuelo), **Urban Collaborative Project CDC** (Alix Aceituno), **I Love to Glean** (Karen Clay), **Kate Sessions Commitment** (Anne Fege), **San Diego City Council – District 8** (David Huerta), **Sherman Heights Community Center** (Daniela Kelly), **City of San Diego – Urban Forestry** (Olivia Mabee), **City of San Diego – Economic Development** (Michele Marano), **Groundwork San Diego** (Brian Midkiff, Ramon Uribe), **Project New Village** (Diane Moss, Izzy Rosado), **County of San Diego** (Cassandra Muniz), **UCSD – CCH** (Lan Nguyen), **Via International** (Molly Porth Cabrera, Elisa Sabatini), **San Diego Parks Foundation** (Imani Robinson), **San Diego Food Bank** (Kayla Thompson), **San Diego Foundation** (Kelly Wilkinson)

Meeting Notes:

Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review:

- Co-chairs welcomed partners, reviewed the agenda, and led a culture share activity.
- The Promise Zone team will be holding an in-person, all-partner meeting on Tuesday, May 14 from 10am-12pm. It will be held at the Elementary Institute of Science.
- Promise Zone Coordinator Melissa Elder decided to pursue other opportunities, and her last day with the City of San Diego was May 7, closing her tenure with Prosperity in the Promise Zone: A Cooperative Convening. *Thank you, Melissa, and we wish you the best!*
- Likewise, grants and research associate VISTA Nathaniel Hilman will be ending his year of service later this month, and this is his last working group meeting. *Thank you for your work and best of luck, Nathaniel!* Three more VISTAS, including another grants and research associate, will join the Promise Zone in June/July.
- Finally, co-chairs Meghan Murphy and Hugo Salgado will be stepping down after 2 years of dedicated service to the Promise Zone. Please reach out to Meghan, Hugo, Amber Weber, or Roosevelt Williams III if you wish to take advantage of the opportunity to chair the Healthy Communities Working Group. *Thank you, Meghan and Hugo!*

Partner Announcements:

- **Anne Fege:** Urban Forestry advisory met last night, community needs being shared; feedback: City needs to advertise tree-planting contracts, initiatives to the community.

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- **Olivia Mabee:** A quick debrief on our Arbor Day event at Memorial Community Park in Logan Heights - 246 volunteers planted 114 trees, exceeding our goal of 100.
- **Alix Aceituno:** [Registration is open](#) until May 21 for [UCP & Maxx Moses Shine 4ever](#) program for youth, ages 16-24, creatives and artists; [May 16 is Bike Anywhere Day](#), UCP is partnering with City San Diego – Sustainability and Mobility Department for a pit stop at Malcom X Library, free SANDAG shirt and raffle for 3 e-bikes, [can also sign up online](#); UCP will host a Regional Decarbonization Framework workshop on Thursday, June 13 from 5:30-7:30 pm at Malcolm X/Valencia Park Library.
- **Elisa Sabatini:** Logan Barrio Crawl on Saturday, May 11, 3 pm - evening, to celebrate opening of the Bread & Salt building, new art opening, other great activities.
- **Felix Lopez:** Logan Heights CDC is working with LiveWell SD to bring mobile pharmacy to Logan Heights. We need to find locations as our parking lot is just barely too small, looking at the old LiveWell building and 3 empty parking lots as potential first spot. Please share experience or tips with us, felix@loganheightscdc.org.

Guest Presentation

Kelly Wilkinson from the San Diego Foundation joins with representatives from five Promise Zone partner orgs to give updates on the community food production projects that SDF funded. You can view the [entire presentation in a PDF through the shared google drive folder here](#).

→ **Call to action:** As we did not have time for questions, please reach out to any of the presenters via e-mail with questions about their SDF-funded food production projects.

Kelly Wilkinson: San Diego Foundation, kwilkinson@sdfoundation.org

- Received \$6 million from ARPA to support communities most impacted by COVID-19. In March 2023 we awarded 43 grants to CBOs, incl. nine projects serving the San Diego Promise Zone. Based on recommendations from the County, community engagement sessions, and steering committee with FSA, \$\$\$ allocated for food production, community gardens, and parks with the goal to strengthen and scale community-led strategies to address food and nutrition insecurity with local solutions.

Christina Abuelo: Leah's Pantry, School Garden Equity Initiative, garden@leahspantry.org

- Goals: Install or upgrade 15-20 school gardens, including 14 in the Promise Zone, and “backbone” support garden maintenance i.e. irrigation, growing beds (working with co-harvest), provide garden education to students, “Swiss Chard in Your Yard” backyard gardening initiative, trainings for classroom teachers and garden educators.
- Elements: systems-thinking framework, deep engagement with schools, volunteer coordination, partnerships, unsexy back-end work.

Izzy Rosado: Project New Village, Growers Network, izzyrosado@projectnewvillage.org

- Moving away from the current health systems to a collective. The Growers Network has monthly meetings where experts share information with community and neighborhood members and focus on climate-friendly practices, i.e. soil blocking.

- Mobile pantry truck has given away 2,120 pounds of hyper-locally grown food thus far in 2024. Opening up three garden spaces and greenhouse to add capacity for mobile pantry.

Elisa Sabatini: Via International, Food Security, Elisa@viainternational.org

- 50 years of nutrition programs along border; this is the first time we have had funds accessible in San Diego. We are hosting a Spanish culinary course with Mountain View K-8 School done through outreach with mothers, partnered w/ Sherman Heights. Fifty parents registered, could only accept 15, expect to have another cohort soon. Many participants wanted to learn to open small businesses, started a business course.
- Pan y Paz Bakery Collective at Bread & Salt building, target April 2025, can create pipeline from culinary class to bakery.

Karen Clay: I Love to Glean, Chef De Cuisine – Education Foundation, info@ilovetoglean.org

- Commercial kitchen at 3708 Ocean View Blvd, expected completion date in Summer 2025. Will create holistic food hub, can store food, incl. for Fish to Families program, purchasing \$35,000 flash freezer and specialized cleaning to rapidly store and process fish to get to people who need it.

Kayla Thompson: San Diego Food Bank, kthomson@sandiegofoodbank.org

- Collective action, funding local food producers, esp. farmers and fishers. Focus is on sustainability and creating more sustainable food systems, e.g. the cold chain. Get food in the hands of our community members and get direct feedback at distribution events, including Food Shed co-op.

Meeting Conclusion:

- Next meeting TBD in August 2024
- Digital Comment Box: <https://us16.list-manage.com/survey?u=e913b9d30ca18b3436360cf47&id=62c8f5dc2f>