



The City of



Economic Development

MEETING NOTES

San Diego Promise Zone

Jobs and Education Working Group Notes

Thursday, September 19, 2024 | 2:30 – 4:00 PM

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

Working Group Goals: *To create jobs and improve educational opportunities in the Promise Zone.*

In Attendance

Access, Inc. (Roshawn Brady), **Barrio Logan College Institute** (Jessica Bernal), **City of San Diego – Economic Development Department** (Michele Marano), **City of San Diego - Promise Zone** (Zachary Engberg, Daniel Hamilton, Ian Hembree, Donika Moreno, Bex Nava-McClellan, Domanic Riley, Brandon Tran, Roosevelt Williams III), **Digital Promise** (Bianca Alvarado), **Elementary Institute of Science** (Sarah Tuakli Cooper), **Forever Balboa Park** (Meki Terefe), **Good Neighbor Project** (John Alvarado), **Lincoln High School** (Lori Williams), **National University** (Danielle Stephen), **Paving Great Futures** (Jay Bowser), **Property Owner** (John Stump), **San Diego Community College District** (Lillian A. Garcia), **San Diego State University** (Andrew Soliz), **Sherman Elementary School** (Adrielle Ayers, Ava Thompson, Jay Tran), **SLATE-Z Promise Zone** (Tyresa Jackson), **University of California San Diego** (Raquel Aparicio), **XplorStem** (Vicki Meadows), **YMCA of San Diego County** (Tya Valentine), **YouthWill** (Liliana Soriano Garista), **United Way of San Diego** (Share' Johnson), Shana Piñar

Meeting Notes

Welcome, Agenda Review, Culture Share

- Jobs and Education co-chair, Sarah Tuakli Cooper, kicked off the meeting by welcoming partners, reviewing the agenda, and leading a culture share.
- Guidelines for a respectful and effective meeting were shared and posted in the chat.
- **Culture Share:** “In what ways do you think the change in seasons impacts your focus and work?” Participants discussed in breakout rooms of 2-3 people.
- Sarah announced that co-chair Ernesto Rivera would be resigning from the co-chair role but will still remain actively involved in the working group. Raquel Aparicio, Director of Student Outreach and Engagement at UCSD, was welcomed as the new co-chair.

Partner Updates

- **Raquel Aparicio:** UCSD is holding a CAL Soap College and Career Fair on October 23 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at San Diego Mesa College for high school and community college students.

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

- **Jay Bowser:** Core 6 is hosting a financial literacy class called FLIP in partnership with US Bank starting next week. There is one week left to register, but spots are filling up fast. Course is 10 weeks long with a once-a-week virtual meeting. Link to website: <https://core6.org/flip/>.
- **Mecklit Terefe:** Forever Balboa Park is hosting a free educational program for grades K – 3 on environmental literacy. Classes will be 45 mins and be held in both English and Spanish on Monday – Thursday from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM. Looking for partner schools and/or individuals interested in free field trips (responsible for chaperones and arranging transportation but it will all be paid for or reimbursed by Forever Balboa Park).
- **Bianca Alvarado:** Digital Promise will be holding [workshops](#) for a week and will be opening a pavilion in Balboa Park to facilitate event. Contact balvarado@digitalpromise.org for more information.
- **Andrew Soliz:** All SDSU career fairs are open to everyone. Contact asoliz@sdsu.edu for more information.
- **Liliana Soriano:** YouthWill will be focusing on assisting opportunity youth and college students aged 16 – 25 in the South Bay and North County areas. Contact liliana@youthwill.org for more information.
- **Roshawn Brady:** Access Inc, in partnership with San Diego Workforce Partnership and LiveWell, is looking for interns who live in the Southeastern area of San Diego.
- **John Stump:** The Knights of Peter Claver & Columbus is hosting a free Pumpkin Patch event on Saturday, October 5 at 4425 Home Avenue. Free family pumpkins and entertainment. Community clean-up will be from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Vendors and yard sale spaces available for \$15.
- **John Alvarado:** The Good Neighbor Project is providing training in flying drones to Barrio Logan residents. Participants will have the opportunity to earn a certificate in Drone Piloting by taking the course. Contact John@gnpsd.org for more information.
- **Zachary Engberg:** HIRE Minds Coalition is hosting their first annual Mental Health at Work Conference on Friday, October 18, at Logan Heights Library, in the Promise Zone.

Lincoln Heights Presentation (Lori Williams)

→ **Call to action:** How can your organization help provide essential resources and support to the students and teachers at Lincoln High School?

- Lincoln High School has recently been named a Community School and received the Community School Grant.
- The school is structured around the four pillars of Community Schools: Integrated Student Support, Expanded Time and Enriched Learning Opportunities, Active Family and Community Engagement, and Collaborative Leadership and Practices. The aim is to provide students with choice-filled lives instead of choice-starved ones.
- 1,498 students are currently enrolled at Lincoln (slight decrease from pre-pandemic numbers of 1,500+).
- Career Readiness Focus: Thinking/Problem-Solving, Communication, and Constructive Collaboration.

- The school is shifting away from traditional lectures and note-taking, emphasizing experiential learning to prepare students for real-world scenarios.
- Lincoln has returned to a small school focus: Engineering and Design, Health Sciences, and Media Arts & Entertainment. This structure enables students to explore interests and develop skills within focused learning communities.
- Advisory boards with industry partners offer job shadowing and field trip opportunities.
- Lincoln is currently looking for opportunities for students such as Fire Construction for students to learn Fire Abatement techniques.
- Students have access to clubs such as Robotics, Mock Trials, BioMed Club, and the United Way STEAM on Careers program.

Q&A Highlights:

- The Community School grant has enabled the hiring of a reading intervention teacher for 9th graders.
- Lincoln is introducing a Financial Math class in partnership with Junior Achievement.
- Math intervention teacher was hired to address gaps in students' skills, which often start in middle school.
- CASI or California Exit Exam is not required anymore, which may have increased graduation rates.
- A notable opportunity was mentioned by John Stump, who is willing to offer a law internship to a Lincoln student.

Sherman Elementary Presentation (Adrielle Ayers, Ava Thompson, Jay Tran)

→ **Call to action:** How can your organization provide valuable resources and support to the students and teachers at Sherman Elementary School?

- Sherman received the Community School designation in 2023.
- Sherman Elementary has 581 students enrolled, with 42% learning English, 86% being socio-economically disadvantaged, and 22% requiring an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP).
- The school operates as a 50/50 Dual Immersion/Bi-Literacy program, with instruction half in English and half in Spanish.
- The school is structured around the four pillars of Community Schools: Integrated Student Support, Expanded Time and Enriched Learning Opportunities, Active Family and Community Engagement, and Collaborative Leadership and Practices. The aim is to provide students with choice-filled lives instead of choice-starved ones.
- The school emphasizes addressing the unique needs of their students, families, and staff by conducting a needs/assets assessment with stakeholders. Many stakeholders wanted expanded opportunities like taking part in Forever Balboa's environmental literacy classes.
- Mental health is also a priority, recognizing the stress on teachers working in a dual-language environment. Teachers handle 50 students a day compared to the usual 25, and staff are seeking additional support.

- Jay Tran discussed Phase 2 of their Community School plan, which will focus on understanding the sources of behavioral issues affecting attendance, mental health, and other harmful behaviors.
- Sherman is seeking assistance from Promise Zone partners to volunteer and donate resources. Examples include supporting field trips, sponsoring uniforms, and funding transportation.

Q&A Highlights:

- The need for more resources was emphasized, and the Community School grant will allow Ava Thompson to take on the role of forming partnerships with the wider community.

Promise Zone Updates

- **P.O.W.E.R. Hour** – Night 1 workshop, "Put Your Best Foot Forward - How to Present Yourself to Potential Employers," will be held on October 17, 2024, from 5:00 – 7:00 PM at Outside the Len's Wonder Lab. Event will have interactive resume building, online portfolio assistance, interview tips and tricks, professional headshots, and light refreshments. If interested in being a vendor or sponsor, reach out to Zach at zengberg@sandiego.gov, or if interested in attending you can RSVP [here](#). Please help spread the word!

Logic Models & Breakout Rooms

- Participants were divided into breakout rooms based on objectives.

Subgroup 1 Objectives: 1) Increase educational and career supports for Opportunity Youth and 2) connect Opportunity Youth, aged 16-24, to employment 3) Increase the number of college/career readiness programs for middle school children.

- **Attendance:** Zach Engberg, Donika Moreno, Brandon Tran, Bianca Alvarado, Andrew Soliz, Roshawn Brady, Liliana Soriano
- Zachary: Reminded everyone that we would be discussing what each organization could provide/contribute to the P.O.W.E.R. Hour series and how we could amend what we have planned. He shared that we are looking for sponsorships and vendors.
- Donika: Asked for assistance with spreading the word.
- Andrew: Invited P.O.W.E.R. Hour team to come to SDSU career fairs to get connected with potential sponsors.
- Roshawn: Invited everyone to the Access Inc. job fair in October as well.
- Bianca: Included a sign-up form to have events showcased in future San Diego STEM Pathways Initiative newsletter: <https://form.asana.com/?k=Md9Aj12IPt2YjQ2SO9LH7Q&d=9197763205495>. She also offered to connect P.O.W.E.R. Hour team with a local magazine (Fabiola Galvez from Gente Bonita Magazine) that can help get prizes from local businesses.
- Liliana: Suggested that Youthwill and Outside the Lens coordinate to promote the P.O.W.E.R. Hour on social media. Requested that Zach set up a meeting.
- Andrew: Offered to share flyer on Career Services Instagram.

Subgroup 2 Objectives: *Create meaningful summer employment experiences for young adults while increasing educational and career supports for Opportunity Youth*

Notes:

- **Attendance:** Daniel Hamilton, Share Johnson, Mecklit Terefe, Michele Marano
- Michele: Encouraged participants to submit relevant information by the first week of each month and noted that items on lines 6, 7, and 8 in the Logic Model (highlighted in green) have been completed.
- Share J: Highlighted a partnership between United Way and Lincoln High School that offered a paid work experience for young adults, providing realistic career exposure.
- Daniel: Discussed the implementation of a survey for students to assess the impact of these services.
- Share J: Emphasized tailoring programming to meet needs and suggested that each organization share brief summaries of their summer activities, particularly those providing high-paying STEAM career experiences.

Subgroup 3 Objective: *Increase the number of students meeting school readiness and grade level expectations*

Notes:

- **Attendance:** Domanic Riley, Roosevelt Williams III, Rebeca Nava-McClellan, Sarah Tuakli Cooper, Vicki Meadows, John Stump, Jessica Bernal
- John Stump: Suggested including non-public schools in future meetings and expressed concerns about the focus on enrichment over core subjects like English and math. Recommended more focused agendas with less emphasis on introductions and culture shares.
- Sarah: Clarified that the Logic Model is a refined version of the Tactical Plan and that some listed goals have been achieved.
- Vicki: Highlighted that foundational educational issues start in elementary school and shared challenges in providing STEM education at Lincoln, including a lack of resources and large class sizes.
- Bex: Emphasized the importance of empathy and lived experience in teaching.
- Sarah: Responded to John's points by stressing the importance of developing the whole person, not just focusing on test scores.

Wrap Up and Adjourn

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

Next Meeting: Jobs & Education: Thursday, October 17, 2:30-4:00 pm, **via Zoom**