



The City of



Economic Development

MEETING NOTES

San Diego Promise Zone

Jobs and Education Working Group Notes

Thursday, October 17, 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

City of San Diego - Promise Zone (Zachary Engberg, Daniel Hamilton, Ian Hembree, Donika Moreno, Domanic Riley, Roosevelt Williams III, Amber Weber), **City of San Diego – Office of Child and Youth Success** (Tara Ryan), **Diamond Educational Excellence Partnership** (Allison Ohle), **Digital Promise** (Bianca Alvarado), **Elementary Institute of Science** (Sarah Tuakli Cooper), **Good Neighbor Project** (John Alvarado), **LEARN Program** (Lee Bardon), **Paving Great Futures** (Jay Bowser), **San Diego Community College District** (Lillian A. Garcia), **SLATE-Z** (Stephanie Wilson), **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** (Megan Emme), **University of California San Diego** (Raquel Aparicio), **Workshops for Warriors** (Lauren Welch), **YouthWill** (Liliana Soriano Garista)

Meeting Notes

Welcome, Agenda Review, Culture Share

- Jobs and Education 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.
- Jobs and Education co-chair, Raquel Aparicio, led our **culture share**: What are some ways in which you and your family celebrate fall cultural events such as Halloween or Día de los Muertos?

Partner Updates

- **Raquel Aparicio:** UCSD will now be offering a Career Pathways program for 9 to 12th graders interested in engineering, business, health, and computer science. Kids will be able to converse with students who are currently in those majors either in-person or through Discord. Visit eaop.ucsd.edu/services/career-pathways/index.html for more information.
- **Lee Bardon:** The LEARN Program is a workforce education and upskilling program that provides no-cost energy efficiency, electrification, and sustainability courses for the broader San Diego community. The program provides complimentary virtual training,

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webinars, on-demand courses from industry leaders, and free certifications for qualifying individuals in the San Diego area. Visit sandiegolearn.com to learn more.

- **John Alvarado:** The Good Neighbor Project is helping address the issue of over 80,000 people flying drones illegally in the San Diego area by offering a free recreational pilot certificate training program, which is now mandatory for legal drone flying. Without this certificate, individuals could face fines of up to \$27,000. Visit gnpsd.org for more information.

Promise Zone Updates

- **Upcoming Focus Group:** In November, the Jobs and Education working group will host a focus group in collaboration with Access 4 All to gather input on improving broadband access and digital equity in the Promise Zone. The meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2024, from 2:30 to 4:00 PM, and participants must [RSVP](#) due to limited capacity.
- **AmeriCorps VISTA Service Completion:** Ian Hembree, the Civic Engagement Associate, will be finishing his year of service on November 4. Amber highlighted Ian's significant contributions, including his work with the Housing Affordability working group and steering committee, along with the success of various events and programs he helped organize. Ian expressed his gratitude to the team; please let Ian or the other AmeriCorps VISTAs know about full-time employment opportunities.
- **Newsletter Update:** The October newsletter was recently published, featuring Daniela Kelly, executive director of the Sherman Heights Community Center, as the Community Spotlight. Links to the [newsletter archive](#) and [nomination form](#) were shared.
- **Board Vacancies:** The City of San Diego is seeking applicants for the Consolidated Plan Advisory Board ([CPAB](#)). Community members with expertise in areas such as affordable housing, homelessness, and social services are encouraged [to apply](#). For any additional questions, please contact CPAB liaison Nadine Hassoun (nhassoun@sandiego.gov).
- **Grant Opportunities:** The annual [CDBG](#) Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was released on October 7, 2024, with a Request for Qualifications deadline on November 8, 2024. Nonprofit organizations are encouraged to apply.
- **P.O.W.E.R. Hour:** Zachary Engberg shared details about the first event in the P.O.W.E.R. Hour series, titled "Put Your Best Foot Forward – Presenting Yourself to Potential Employers," happening at Outside the Lens, right after the Jobs and Education meeting. The series is designed to build career skills for youth ages 15-25 and will lead up to the Youth-led Career Expo in March 2025.
- **Prebys Sparx Challenge:** Domanic Riley announced the [Prebys Sparx Challenge](#), an initiative aimed at improving youth mental health and well-being across San Diego County. The challenge offers \$1.1 million in prizes, including a \$1 million grand prize and four \$25,000 honorable mentions. Nonprofit organizations based in or collaborating with local San Diego nonprofits can register until November 7, 2024, with applications due by December 4, 2024. Winners will be announced in Spring 2025.

Logic Model (Raquel Aparicio and Sarah Tuakli Cooper)

- **Call to action:** How can your organization support our collective objectives? Use the insights from the presentation to guide breakout discussions.

- Discussed the importance of engaging actively, not just listening.
- Asked to reflect on what we're trying to accomplish and share what progress has been made in our respective organizations.
- Encouraged to focus on what can realistically be achieved before the end of the academic year.
- Emphasized taking ownership of different objectives to drive progress.
- Highlighted the goal of showcasing existing accomplishments rather than introducing new tasks.
- Asked that remaining tasks and the strategies for completing them be discussed in the breakout rooms.

Logic Models & Breakout Rooms

- Participants transitioned 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, Bianca Alvarado, Liliana Soriano, Tara Ryan, Raquel Aparicio
- Tara Ryan shared the [Child and Youth Plan | City of San Diego Official Website](#).
- Liliana offered to connect the team with someone from the San Diego Workforce Partnership. Raquel knows Claudia Estrada and asked that they triangulate communications; they agreed to initiate communications by the next meeting.
- Focused on getting into contact with different organizations for marketing the Career Expo.
- Group wants to build better connections with the schools in the Promise Zone. Raquel will attend a meeting with Bianca, Amber, and Donika about how to explore partnerships/relationships with Digital Promise since they work with superintendents in the Promise Zone area. Want to think about best ways to engage with parents as well.
- Tara Ryan will circle with Amber about resources that the City already has in regard to best practices for employers offering employment to students.
- Raquel shared that she knows someone from UCSD who could do a networking blitz to help students network at the Career Expo.
- Agreed to add deadlines to tasks that will help us achieve objectives, specifying what, who, and by when, somewhere in our logic model.

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

Notes:

- **Attendance:** Daniel Hamilton, Domanic Riley, Amber Weber, Lillian Garcia, Stephanie Wilson, Megan Emme
- Lillian mentioned community college contributions through GED, ESL, and apprenticeship programs, including preparing students for interviews and providing professional clothing. She also highlighted a Black Student Success Workgroup focused on internships and career exploration, including career counseling and interview skills.

- Amber would like to have further discussion with Lillian about SDCCD's participation in the Career Expo regarding a professional clothing fashion show or other resources to help students access affordable, professional clothing.
- Amber discussed UCP's Shine Forever summer program's efforts to educate and reduce barriers for students—this is an example of adding work that is already being done by partners into the logic model.
- Megan emphasized the need for clear goals and data-driven outcomes, focusing on career retention. Outputs should be measurable, and outcomes should be the overall result. It's OK if multiple activities/lines have the same outcome.

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

Notes:

- **Attendance:** Roosevelt Williams III, Sarah Tuakli Cooper, Allison Ohle, Ian Hembree, John Alvarado
- Since Allison is new, she shared about DEEP, which is a small organization focused on improving literacy rates at four elementary schools in the Diamond district (Johnson, Encanto, Chollas Mead, Webster) and is seeing progress compared to surrounding areas.
- The group discussed how to collect and analyze data through the logic model and how organizations can support activities in the logic model.
- Sarah agreed to brainstorm how EIS can contribute and added a section for 2025.

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: November 21, 2:30-4:00 pm, via Zoom [RSVP Here](#)