



The City of



# Economic Development

## MEETING NOTES

### San Diego Promise Zone

#### Jobs and Education Working Group Notes

Thursday, January 16, 2025 | 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** (Tomasa Mauricio) **Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego** (Jessica Barajas), **City of San Diego - Promise Zone** (Zachary Engberg, Daniel Hamilton, Oscar Silva, Donika Moreno, Domanic Riley, Roosevelt Williams III), **City of San Diego – Office of Child and Youth Success** (Brilly Gonzalez, Tara Ryan), **City of San Diego** (Tara Lewis), **Computers 2 Kids** (Cheri Pierre), **Diamond Educational Excellence Partnership** (Allison Ohle), **Elementary Institute of Science** (Sarah Tuakli Cooper), **Fleet Science Center** (Antonio Becker), **Grid Alternatives** (Elisabetta Baratti, Sarah Elhassan), **Home Start, Inc.** (Laura Tancredi-Baese), **Institute of Public Strategies** (Jazzmin Colina), **LEARN Program** (Lee Bardon), **Logan Heights CDC** (William Burties), **Nile Sisters Development Initiative** (Elizabeth Lou), **Outside the Lens** (Jeff Valenzuela), **Paving Great Futures** (Jay Bowser), **Reality Changers** (Ashley Morgan), **San Diego Art Matters** (Michael Angelo Camacho), **San Diego Community College District** (Lillian A. Garcia, Kelly Henwood), **San Diego County Office of Education** (Ernesto Rivera), **San Diego State University** (Andrew Soliz, Susan Pace), **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** (Megan Emme), **University of California San Diego** (Raquel Aparicio), **United Way of San Diego** (Alyssa Abellar), **Workshops for Warriors** (Sarah Verduco Singh), **XplorStem** (Vicki Meadows-Nienaber), **YMCA** (Tya Valentine)

#### Meeting Notes

Welcome, Agenda Review, Culture Share

- Roosevelt Williams III 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**: As we step into the new year, are there any work habits or patterns you'd like to leave behind in 2024 — or new ones you'd like to adopt?

#### Partner Updates

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

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

- **Princeton Prize in Race Relations**

The Princeton Prize recognizes high school students for leadership in advancing racial equity and understanding. Winners receive a \$2,500 prize and an all-expenses-paid trip to a symposium at Princeton University.

- [Apply Here](#)
- Application Deadline: Jan. 31, 2025

- **Aaron Price Fellows Program**

The [Aaron Price Fellows Program](#) is now accepting applications from 9th graders at Hoover, Lincoln, Morse, Point Loma, San Diego, and University City High Schools, as well as African American male students in SDUSD. This free three-year program offers leadership development, civic engagement, and unique learning experiences, including a trip to Washington, D.C.

- [Application](#) (For Lincoln, Morse, Point Loma, San Diego, and University City High School)
- [Joint Application](#) (For Hoover students only)
- [African American Male Cohort Application](#) (See eligible schools [here](#))
- Contact Karla Zuniga Lara at (619) 795-2070 or email at [karla@aaronpricefellows.org](mailto:karla@aaronpricefellows.org) if you have any questions.
- Application Deadline: Feb. 11, 2025

- **Family Child Care Educator Apprenticeship**

United Domestic Workers (UDW) is launching a pilot program for ten youth (ages 20-26) interested in a paid apprenticeship in Early Childhood Education. Participants will gain hands-on experience, take accredited courses at Southwestern College, and receive business management training to start their own childcare businesses. Applications open February 2025.

- **Cash for College: A Countrywide Financial Aid Blitz (Jan. 25, 2025):** Cal SOAP is hosting a FAFSA workshop series to assist students with financial aid applications. If you work with seniors needing FAFSA support, please encourage them to [register](#).

- **Comienza con un Sueño:** A free college readiness conference for Latinx, first-gen families, featuring workshops on college opportunities and financial aid. Contact Raquel Aparicio ([raaparicio@ucsd.edu](mailto:raaparicio@ucsd.edu)) for more details.

- **Spring & Summer 2025 Career Fairs:** Upcoming industry-focused and flagship career fairs are open to all. Reach out to Andrew Soliz ([asoliz@sdsu.edu](mailto:asoliz@sdsu.edu)) for more information.

- **Office of Child and Youth Success (OCYS) - [Join the OCYS contact list](#)** to stay updated on youth outreach and opportunities. If you have any follow-up questions about the [Child and Youth Plan](#), contact Tara Ryan ([tryan@sandiego.gov](mailto:tryan@sandiego.gov)), or for information about how you can apply to the Youth Commission, [click here](#).

- **The LEARN Program:** Access free virtual resources on energy efficiency, electrification, and sustainability at [The LEARN Program](#).

- **Teen Girl Youth Conference (Feb 22, 2025, 9 AM – 3:30 PM):** A day of empowering workshops for middle and high school girls. [RSVP](#) by Feb. 1 or contact Talia Gore-Prince ([tgore06830@gmail.com](mailto:tgore06830@gmail.com)) for more info.

- **Family Fun Day (Feb. 15, 2025, 1 – 4 PM):** The Elementary Institute is hosting a free open house where you can join them in fun science experiments, learn about their

school, and more! RSVP here or contact Sarah Tuakli Cooper ([scooper@eisca.org](mailto:scooper@eisca.org)) for more information.

### Promise Zone Updates

- **Promise Zone Youth-Led Career Expo**  
Save the date! The SDPZ will be hosting the 2025 Youth-Led Career Expo on Tuesday, March 18 at the Balboa Park Club. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks!
- **AmeriCorps VISTA Service Completion**  
Grants and Research Associate, Zachary Engberg, will complete his service in early February and Communications Associate, Bex Nava-McClellan, ended their service on January 2. The [Communications Associate](#) VISTA position is open with interviews being conducted.
- **Employ & Empower Promise Zone Internship**  
Employ and Empower Intern, Ronah Fe Famorcan, will conclude her internship on January 31. With her departure, the City of San Diego is hiring for this hybrid, paid internship, open to undergraduate students with at least 75 semester/112.5 quarter units. Benefits include free MTS transit passes, LinkedIn Learning, and mentoring opportunities. The position is expected to start in February 2025 and lasts approximately 1 year (1,200 hours).
  - [Apply Here](#)
- **Newsletter Update**  
The [January newsletter](#) was published at the beginning of the month, featuring John Tucker, Program Manager at the Partnership for Environmental Progress, as the Community Spotlight. Links to the [newsletter archive](#) and [nomination form](#) were shared.

### Presentation: Office of Child and Youth Success (Tara Ryan)

- **Call to action:** How can your organization support our collective objectives? Use the insights from the presentation to guide breakout discussions.
- Tara Ryan presented on the Child and Youth Plan (CYP) 2024-2026, a roadmap for improving outcomes for children, youth, and families in San Diego. The plan aims to create sustainable solutions and a shared framework among education agencies, public/private partners, and community stakeholders. She highlighted the plan's vision of building trust, transparency, and partnerships to support youth-centered initiatives and align with City of San Diego's strategic plans. Data relevant to the Promise Zone was shared, emphasizing its large child and youth population. Tara also outlined the five focus areas: educational and career pathways, economic and workforce development, youth empowerment, engaging activities, and childcare, along with the goals and frameworks guiding this work.

### Logic Models & Breakout Rooms

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

**Subgroup 1 Objectives:** Mobilize community partners to develop strategies that increase educational and career support for Opportunity Youth

- **Attendance:** Raquel Aparicio, Donika Moreno, Zachary Engberg, Andrew Soliz, Ernesto Rivera, Valenzuela, Kelly Henwood, Megan Emme, Roshawn Brady, Sarah Elhassan, Sarah Verduco Singh, Susan Pace, Tara Ryan, William Burties
- Career Expo – The group focused on the importance of building ongoing, trusting relationships as the key to reaching students, rather than relying on one-time engagements. Kelly Henwood shared their focus to support adults without a secondary school degree. Raquel Aparicio shared that the Career Expo offers a chance to connect students with continuing education partners, employers, and training programs. Roshawn Brady emphasized using feedback from past expos to plan for future expo, while Ernesto discussed the importance of case managers following up with employers after the expo strengthen connections and ensure meaningful opportunities for students. Tara Ryan is gathering details on USD's "playbook" for connecting schools with local businesses and will report back.

**Subgroup 2 Objectives:** *Build an infrastructure to help increase the number of students meeting school readiness and grade-level expectations*

- **Attendance:** Sarah Tuakli Cooper, Roosevelt Williams III, Daniel Hamilton, Oscar Silva, Domanic Riley, Vicki Meadows, Elisabetta Baratti, Allison Ohle, Brilly Gonzalez, Ashley Morgan, Alyssa Abella
- Lincoln High School Engagement - Alyssa emphasized the need for a point of contact at Lincoln High to support the Logic Model. She works closely with the school as Impact Manager at United Way and can connect with the principal if needed. Roosevelt also has a Lincoln High connection and offered to speak with Lori.
- Educational Challenges - Sarah highlighted challenges in promoting STEM when students struggle with reading at grade level. Vicki noted that only 5-8% of Lincoln High students are proficient across subjects, citing state data. She has written a literacy-focused grant and found that test questions are not at grade level, which may contribute to low scores. Allison (DEEP) added that a major challenge is getting educational tools to students, and DEEP currently partners with four schools in San Diego to address this issue.

#### Wrap Up and Adjourn

- 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:** February 20, 2:30-4:00 pm, via Zoom. [Register Here](#)