



San Diego Regional Policy & Innovation Center



September 2022

We live in an increasingly complex and intersectional world. The problems we face today – the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, the disparities in community wealth, achieving equity in a diverse culture, the lack of housing affordability – require a massive collective effort to address and extend far beyond the reach of any single agency, municipality, or department.

Such challenges require us to listen; to think beyond our existing structures; and to reach across boundaries. And they require new collaborations to catalyze transformational changes and to bring resources to the region.

We are grateful to our founding partners, San Diego Foundation, County of San Diego, and the world’s leading think tank, The Brookings Institution, for their support and commitment to the region. Together, we identify national best practices, advance federal and state funding opportunities, provide intellectual capital, build enduring partnerships, deploy applied research, and assist in attaining transformative impact.

Thank you for your support and partnership. We invite you to review this inaugural annual report to learn more about the San Diego Regional Policy & Innovation Center and celebrate our first year together.

With gratitude,

Susan Guinn, Esq.

President
& CEO



P. Kay Coleman

Chair, Board
of Directors



Strategic Plan

The San Diego Regional Policy & Innovation Center envisions a future where strong alliances have brought about a thriving and equitable region.

Our mission is to unlock the region's potential by cultivating and building partnerships.

Our niche is to address intractable issues that can only be solved with cross-sector, multi-jurisdictional collaborations.



VALUES

We are stronger
together.

- We believe in teaming up to achieve shared goals.
- We work to build and support our partners.
- We believe in helping the region succeed together.

We act with
integrity.

- We hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards and take pride in our actions.
- We do the right thing, especially when no one is looking.
- We can only build trust with our stakeholders by being trustworthy.

We are driven
by *impact.*

- At the Policy & Innovation Center, we don't just talk: we do.
- We are driven to create measurable change.
- We never lose our focus on who we serve.

We champion
innovation.

- We believe in bringing a better region to life.
- We are open to new ideas and new practices.
- We foster creativity and innovative thinking.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



People working together
Forging strong alliances that will stand the test of time.

Research for the common good
Applying equity-focused research to our region's most pressing challenges.

Resources for the region
Adding and activating capital to strengthen the region.

Ideas brought to life
Using research and resources to develop creative, effective, and equitable solutions.

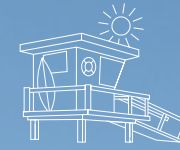
FOCUS AREAS

In our first few years of existence, we will work to:

- Build strong and diverse partnerships
- Deploy equity-centered applied research
- Bring and unlock significant resources to the region
- Develop a strong pipeline of projects and pilots
- Challenge systemic inequities
- Build a healthy organization with strong and effective systems
- Make progress on our four focus areas to improve the lives of people in the region

Climate

Taking action to mitigate and adapt to climate change.



Housing

Increasing quality and quantity of housing stock to improve access and affordability.



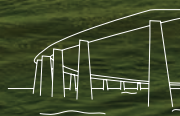
Community

Building power and prosperity for historically disinvested communities.



Infrastructure

Increasing and leveraging infrastructure investments for the public good.



“One of our region’s greatest strengths is collaboration, and the Policy & Innovation Center is an example of how we’re stronger and more competitive when we’re together.”

SCOTT PETERS
Congressman

IDEAS BROUGHT TO LIFE

Our Partnership with The Brookings Institution

Our partnership with The Brookings Institution helps our region understand national trends, and in turn, these insights influence local and national policy conversations.

In September, Brookings Metro will release a first-of-its-kind report highlighting the shortfalls in current decarbonization planning across 50 different cities nationally, to identify steps toward building greater technical, financial, and programmatic capacity—and ultimately toward supporting emissions reductions across the country. In addition to conducting interviews with San Diego and other national leaders, our Brookings colleagues—with support by the Policy & Innovation Center—led an analysis to score the level of detail in these city plans across 25 individual criteria, including overarching plan goals, sector strategies, ownership, funding/finance, and equity. The Policy & Innovation Center team will use this analysis to inform regional recommendations to improve decarbonization and implementation plans.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE:

- Curating 135 climate-relevant funding opportunities from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
- Developing a regional decarbonization opportunities assessment
- Providing decarbonization implementation pathways and programs for the County
- Creating a decarbonization strategic partnership and engagement plan
- Offering state and federal funding workshops to local government leaders

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PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

“San Diego is one of the country’s most distinct and important regions—a unique assembly of diverse cultures, globally competitive industries, and treasured natural resources. Brookings Metro is honored to work with regional partners and alongside the San Diego Regional Policy & Innovation Center to use those distinct assets to deliver even greater prosperity for years to come.”

AMY LIU

Interim President of Brookings



IDEAS BROUGHT TO LIFE

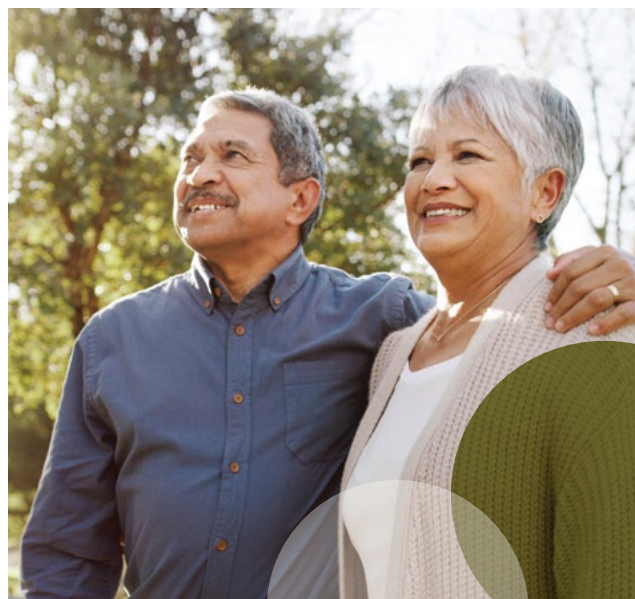
Our Partnerships with Local Government

UNLOCKING OUR REGION'S POTENTIAL

In close collaboration with the County of San Diego Land Use and Environmental Group, to leverage \$4.5M in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, Policy & Innovation researchers are gathering data and working on combined solutions to stormwater infrastructure and broadband capacity expansions, wildfire data collection and monitoring, new entry points for retrofitting aging, multi-family buildings with climate-smart water, and energy efficiency upgrades. And, we have taken significant steps towards creating an infrastructure launchpad to attract world-class companies to the region.

“The most complex issues can be turned into tremendous opportunities for positive outcomes when we engage, collaborate, and unite public, private, labor, and non-profit partners around policy and evidence-based solutions. The Policy & Innovation Center has provided this forum for our region.”

SARAH AGHASSI
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer and Group General Manager for the County's LUEG



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PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

03.

“The Policy & Innovation Center serves as an invaluable hub for coordinated government and agency relationships, policy discussions, and leveraged resources. In its first year, its Government & Agency Council has become a trusted, regional treasure.”

NATHAN FLETCHER
Chair of the County Board of Supervisors and Policy & Innovation Center Government & Agency Council



IDEAS BROUGHT TO LIFE

Government & Agency Council

In our first year, we established a robust Government and Agency Council comprised of the County, 18 municipalities, and core agencies, delivering three workshops and several small group meetings on national funding opportunities, housing elements, policy conversations, and innovative financing models. The willingness of local government and agency leaders to work collaboratively on major issues is unprecedented nationally.

Government and Agency Advisory Council

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| County of San Diego | City of Oceanside |
| City of San Diego | City of Poway |
| City of Carlsbad | City of San Marcos |
| City of Chula Vista | City of Santee |
| City of Coronado | City of Solana Beach |
| City of Del Mar | City of Vista |
| City of El Cajon | San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) |
| City of Encinitas | Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) |
| City of Escondido | Port of San Diego |
| City of Imperial Beach | San Diego Airport Authority |
| City of La Mesa | |
| City of Lemon Grove | |
| City of National City | |

BUILDING ENDURING PARTNERSHIPS

Supporting Enduring Collaborations

To compete for the various state and federal funding opportunities, our region must align on cross-sector, equitable, and collaborative solutions to the challenges ahead. At the Policy & Innovation Center, we work to ensure the region is best positioned to obtain and implement these funds.

A recent example is the Southern Border CERF Collaboration. In July 2022, we filed the region's application in collaboration with over 70 entities to California's Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF), a \$5 million dollar planning grant that could lead to a \$50 million dollar funding opportunity to support economic recovery in Imperial and San Diego counties. If successful, the Policy & Innovation Center will serve as the fiscal agent providing state and federal compliance expertise to partner organizations.

While we await the State's decision on our region's application, we thank the communities, entities, and people who shared their visions for our region's future, drafted governance documents, and contributed to the proposal work. We are excited by the impact these partnerships will yield for years to come.

"The San Diego Regional Policy & Innovation Center represents the finest attribute about San Diego County and its member cities: our ability to come together and collaborate on finding innovative solutions to address issues that permeate municipal boundaries such as homelessness, affordable housing and climate change."

ERIC CROCKETT

Deputy City Manager for the City of Chula Vista

04.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS





A Special Thank You to Our Partners

Leadership Council Members

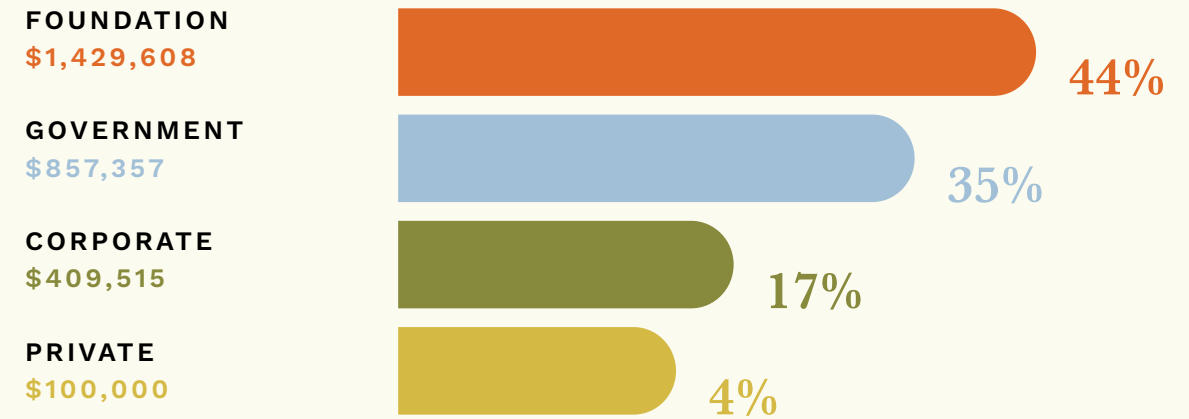
Alliance Healthcare Foundation
 San Diego & Imperial Small Business Development Center
 David C. Copley Foundation
 Health Net Community Solutions

Funders

County of San Diego
 City of Chula Vista
 San Diego Foundation
 Hervey Foundation
 Spring Point Partners

Financials FY22 Since Inception - July 2022, Unaudited

REVENUES



TOTAL REVENUE
\$2,796,480

EXPENSES



TOTAL EXPENSES
\$3,034,025

BALANCE SHEET ITEMS

CASH
\$5,159,277

DEFERRED REVENUE
\$4,344,108

The Brookings Institution Collaborators

Adie Tomer
Senior Fellow

Jenny Schuetz
Senior Fellow

Joseph W. Kane
Fellow

Caroline George
Senior Research Assistant

Policy & Innovation Center Staff

Susan Guinn
President & CEO

Andrew Bourne
Fellow, *Research & Analytics*

Tedi Doychinova
Officer, *Network Engagement*

Josh Jacobsen
Officer, *Government Relations & Policy*

Niloufar Nasrollahzadeh
Associate, *Research & Analytics*

Jamal Russell Black
Senior Officer, *Analytics & Impact*

Michelle Zaloom
Controller

Victoria Vasquez
Executive Assistant

Policy & Innovation Center Board of Directors

Kay Coleman
CHAIR & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR
President & CEO, *Del Mar Venture Group*

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Chancellor Emerita, *San Diego Community College District*

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Chief Financial Officer, *San Diego Foundation*

Ben Haddad
SECRETARY
Partner, *California Strategies*

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AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR
President & CEO, *Casa Familiar*

Mel Katz
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR
Co-founder & Executive Officer, *Manpower Staffing Services*

Ernest Rady
Chairman & CEO, *American Assets Trust & Philanthropist*

Mark Stuart
President & CEO, *San Diego Foundation*

Susan Guinn
President & CEO, *San Diego Regional Policy & Innovation Center*

san diego harbor

“Philanthropy can take on ‘super powers’ when supported with research findings and public policy change. Philanthropy, public policy, government interventions, and public support empower community improvement and are the heart of the Policy & Innovation Center. We are proud of its first year accomplishments, and even more excited for its future.”

MARK STUART
President and CEO, San Diego Foundation

