



CHAMBER
REDWOOD CITY
SAN MATEO COUNTY

2020 ANNUAL REPORT





ABOUT THE CHAMBER

The Chamber membership includes nearly 1,000 businesses and organizations, including almost 60 non-profits and over 40 educational institutions representing over 75,000 employees throughout Redwood City, San Carlos, and San Mateo County.

The Chamber members are involved in many important issues, including education, housing, infrastructure, transportation, economic development and governmental initiatives — bringing together a wide spectrum of Redwood City and San Carlos Community members that help move the mid-Peninsula region forward in a positive way.

The Chamber's Board of Directors also represents a diverse mix of industries such as healthcare, education, financial services, small business, non-profit organizations, real estate professionals, technology companies, and public agencies.

The mission of the Redwood City - San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce is to promote economic prosperity for our community through business representation and advocacy with emphasis on information, communication and education.



2020 CHAMBER'S IMPACT SUMMARY

51st Annual Progress Seminar

This was a unique year for the Chamber's flagship event, the Progress Seminar. Originally scheduled for the weekend of April 24-26, 2020 at the Hyatt Regency Sonoma Wine Country and rescheduled to October, the decision was made to hold the Seminar on a virtual platform.

We were delighted to offer our registered attendees an incredible lineup of speakers to discuss to the most important and crucial concerns facing San Mateo County this year. With the help of Peninsula Television, the Chamber conference room was transformed into a studio where the filming and recording took place. Held as a series over the course of three Fridays in November, and included keynote presentations from Fiona Ma, California State Secretary, Dr. Shashank Joshi, Professor of Psychiatry, Pediatrics, & Education at Stanford University, and Steven Herman, White House Bureau Chief for Voice of America. Panel discussions covered such critical topics as: the future of office in San Mateo County, San Mateo County Strong and the response to crisis, and reimagining government.



Business • Government • Community





51st Annual Progress Seminar

Like many other events, our 51st Annual Progress Seminar was moved to a virtual platform this year. The success of this event is not possible without the efforts of the Planning Committee and its co-chairs: Assembly Speaker pro Tem Kevin Mullin, San Mateo County Supervisor Carole Groom, and President & CEO of SAMCEDA Rosanne Foust.

Thank you to our generous and supportive sponsors, whose belief in our flagship event, ensures we continue to provide a forum for our decision makers and interested parties so they can continue to collaborate on key issues.

Proud Progress Seminar Sponsors Include:

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Principal Sponsor

Comcast

Saturday Night Sponsor

Recology San Mateo County

Premier Sponsors

Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital

San Mateo Credit Union

Jay Paul Company

Google

Notebook Sponsor

Provident Credit Union

General Session Sponsors

W.L. Butler Construction

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Dignity Health Sequoia Hospital

Program Sponsors

San Mateo County Transit District

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The Sobrato Organization

Badge Sponsor

California Apartment Association

Mid-Morning Break Sponsor

Stanford Health Care

Corporate Sponsors

Sares Regis

Motorola

Stanford University

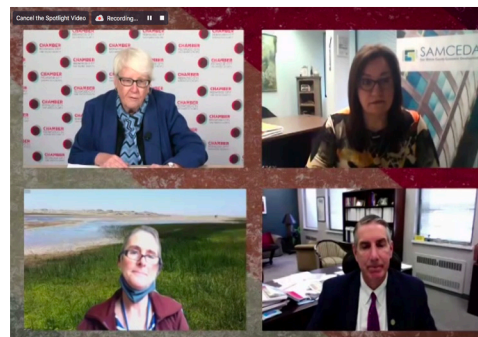
Swinerton Management & Consulting

South San Francisco Scavenger, Inc.

Greystar

Tishman Speyer

Heritage Bank of Commerce





Birdies For Business

The Chamber partners with SAMCEDA annually to host the Birdies for Business Golf Tournament. Due to the the health and safety protocols enforced at the Stanford Golf Course, we were able to safely hold this annual fundraiser supporting the two organizations. Thank you to longtime Chamber partner, Provident Credit Union, for their support as the Title Sponsor, enabling over 80 golfers to play on this pristine course for a great cause. The funds raised support the Chamber and SAMCEDA in their efforts to advocate on behalf of their business members, while promoting economic prosperity in the region.

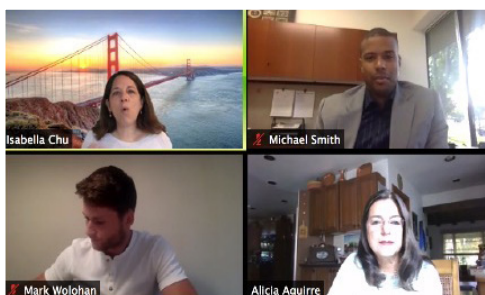
Title Sponsor



Good Morning Redwood City - San Mateo County

The goal of Good Morning Redwood City - San Mateo County is to provide insight into business, community, and legislative issues and share the stories of those making a difference. Good Morning is our platform for sharing ideas, news, and inspiration. In 2020, it was more important than ever to hold a forum where connect community leaders, business owners, non-profit executives and staffers can connect and learn from each other.

We were excited to host three virtual Good Morning programs this year: the Redwood City City Council Candidates Forum, the San Carlos City Council Candidates Forum, and the State of San Mateo County and State of Redwood City updates.



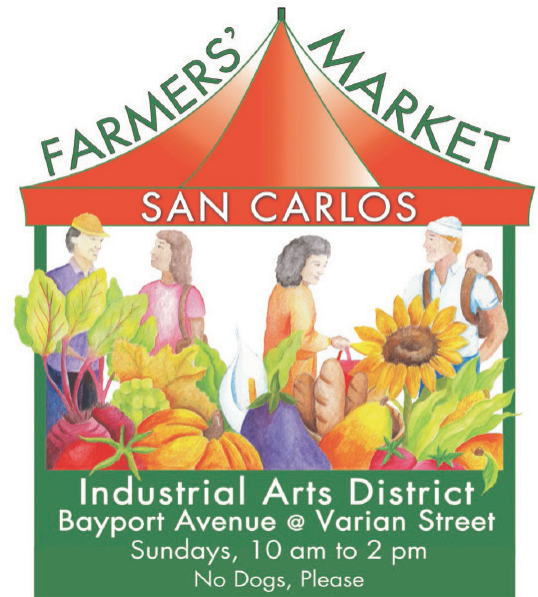


San Carlos Chamber of Commerce Partnership

The San Carlos Chamber of Commerce became part of the Redwood City-San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce as of October 1, 2020. This historic move made our Chamber one of the largest Chambers in the Bay Area. We were honored to welcome their members, and extend our memberships benefits to them, such as committee participation and business promotion. The newly formed San Carlos Advisory Committee has been instrumental in ensuring a smooth transition for the organization and its members.

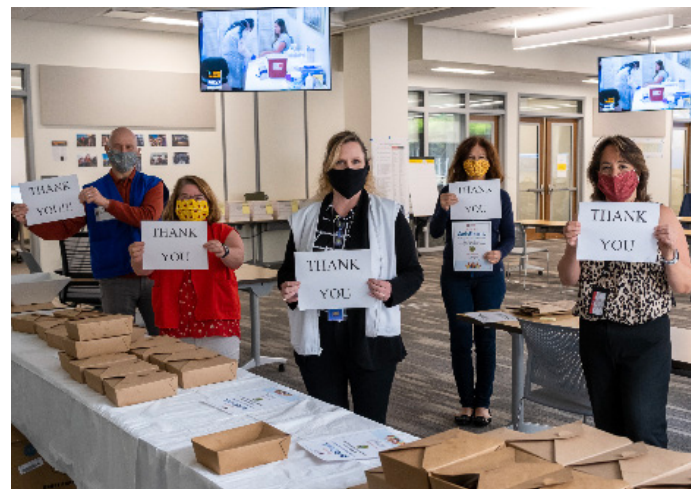
In August, we reopened the San Carlos Farmers' Market in a new location, bringing patrons to the up-and-coming Industrial Arts District in the eastside of San Carlos.

We look forward to continuing this partnership and bringing the communities of both cities and the surrounding region together.



Feeding Our Local Heroes Program

In response to the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, Chamber Vice Chair Dani Gasparini developed a program to support local eateries and frontline workers. Businesses and individuals were invited to sponsor meals from Chamber restaurants for hospital staff, first responders, emergency personnel, and organizations providing support services for those in need. Over the course of six weeks, over \$35,000 was raised to provide over 2000 meals to essential workers at thirteen different organizations. We were proud to be a small part of the recovery and support efforts in our community.





Leadership Program Redwood City • Belmont • Menlo Park • San Carlos

Since 1989, Leadership has been successfully educating participants on issues of vital concern to their communities. This year was no exception as our Leadership session day chairs did a fantastic job organizing excellent speakers and class activities, in partnership with local businesses and organizations that donated their conference rooms to our program, including Electronic Arts, Google, and Cañada College.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Leadership class closed out their final sessions virtually via Zoom, with the help of Peninsula Television. Thanks to the dynamic day chairs ensuring the topics and content remained relevant and important, the program did not miss a beat engaging and educating the County's future leaders. In June 2020, the Chamber was honored to graduate 58 students from the Leadership Program's largest class!

In keeping up with the momentum of the successful virtual sessions, the decision was made to start the 2020-2021 program remotely. By September of 2020, the Chamber had recruited 42 new Leadership students from diverse backgrounds, eager to learn how they can make a difference in their community.

Industries represented in our 32nd class include city government, education, banking, engineering, technology, public safety, and labor.





PUBLIC POLICY

The Chamber took the following active and ongoing Rolls in Public Policy and Advocacy throughout the year:

- Support: Dignity Health - University of California Partnership
- February 5, 2020 Letter to City Redwood City Council on the City of Redwood City's Consideration of Reach Codes
- Letter of support to San Mateo County Board of Supervisors allowing Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) to have Authority to consider placement of a Three County Measure to impose 1/8 of percent retail tax on November 3, 2020 Ballot
- Support: Measure RR - passed, CEO of Chamber was a signer on the Ballot Measure
- Letter of Support to WETA acceptance of the Redwood City Ferry
- Letter of Support for City of Redwood City's CityWide Transportation Plan (RWCmoves) for a 2020 APA California Transportation Planning Award.
- Letter of Support for Port of Redwood City's Bay Area Zero Emission Hydrogen Foil Ferry
- Signed onto Letter to the Governor of California with SAMCEDA, four other San Mateo County Chambers and the SMC Convention and Visitors Bureau in regards to the State Blueprint for Safer Economy Hotels & Lodging asking for the allotment of up to 50 or more people for organized meetings.
- Signed onto Letter to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors for Emergency Regulation to Cap Fees Charged by Food Delivery Services
- Ongoing Chamber Representation at Redwood City Council Meetings, and now San Carlos City Council Meetings

Chamber Community Engagement & Partnerships

- California Chamber of Commerce
- Western Association of Chambers Executive Annual Conference
- US Chamber of Commerce
- Cañada College President's Luncheon
- State of the Valley
- Peninsula Structures
- Home for All
- BUILD Up Build Up for San Mateo County Children
- Stanford In Redwood City Entrepreneur Boot Camp Program
- San Mateo County Recovery Initiative
- San Mateo County Strong

President & CEO Active Community Participation

- Chan Zuckerberg Initiative CZI Advisory Board
- Cañada College President's Advisory Group
- Home for All - Housing and Climate Readiness Task Force
- Build Up for San Mateo County Children Advisory Committee
- President of the San Mateo County Chamber Executives Group
- Redwood City Education Foundation Board Member
- California Preschool Business Advisory Council
- Dumbarton Rail Corridor Stakeholder Advisory Group - Cross Bay Transit Partners & SamTrans
- TA Strategic Plan Advisory Group
- Caltrain Business Plan: Stakeholder Advisory Group
- US-101 Mobility Action Plan
- New San Carlos Economic Advisory Committee
- New Board Member - Council for A Strong America



SAN MATEO COUNTY
Transportation
Authority



San Mateo County
TRANSIT DISTRICT





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COMMITTEE REPORTS

The success of our Chamber is due in part to the dynamic committees and their members who are informed and engaged participants.

Economic Development Committee

In 2020, the Economic Development Committee chaired by Dani Gasparini, consistently packed our conference room with a standing-only crowd, invited local and regional economic development drivers such as the Port of Redwood City, Sares Regis, Cushman & Wakefield to present, as well as many others.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee hosted virtual discussions with Redwood City's Economic and Community Development officials along with SAMCEDA, to address the financial impacts of the Shelter-in-Place order, as well recovery efforts working to support and restore the local business community.

The Committee was proud to offer their full endorsement for two critical projects in Redwood City: Greystar's 1304 & 1601 El Camino Real Project and Sares Regis's 505 East Bayshore Road Project. Both developments will bring a host of benefits to Redwood City, including affordable housing, public green space, and child care facilities. The committee also voted unanimously to conceptually endorse Tishman Speyer's 2300 Broadway Street Project in Downtown Redwood City, which will also include new public green space and off-site low-income housing units.

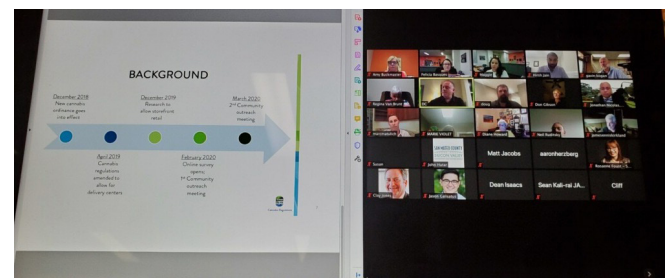
To spotlight the expanding retail cannabis industry in San Mateo County, the Chamber hosted its first ever "Coffee Talk" with business owners who have made Redwood City their home and others looking to do so.

Education Committee

Our Education Committee, co-chaired by Jason Galisatus, is well attended throughout the year with all local Superintendents as well as Canada College's President Dr. Jamillah Moore present at each meeting.

The offices of Assembly Speaker pro Tem Mullin, Assemblymember Berman, and Senator Hill provide monthly legislative updates to committee members. The committee also heard from educational organizations such as Upward Scholars, One Life Counseling, and Build Up for San Mateo County's Children. Several meetings also focused on the important discussions of student equity - socially, racially, and economically, as well as the plans to reopen schools and the future of education through COVID-19.

In December, the Committee remembered their longtime chairman, Tom Mohr, who passed away in November 2020. A lifelong educator, Tom mentored many of our County's leaders and worked diligently alongside them to ensure students had access to the best education and opportunities possible. He will forever be remembered as a champion of students in San Mateo County.





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Transportation and Housing Forum

Our Transportation and Housing Forum, chaired by Greg Greenway, provides its committee members with a quarterly update on key Transportation and Housing projects and hears from advocacy groups that are continually in the works to improve our County commute patterns and housing issues.

Here is a list of Transportation and Housing project updates and topics presented to the committee in 2020:

- Redwood City Transportation Demand Management Program
- Sares Regis 505 East Bayshore Project - *Received Conceptual Endorsement*
- HIP Housing Essential Housing Services and Below-Market Rate Compliance Program
- Redwood City Ferry Feasibility Study
- Caltrain Modernization & Business Plan
- Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County Affordable Housing Month
- MTC's Road for the Bay Area's Future
- California High Speed Rail
- Measure RR
- AB 3088 - COVID-19 Tenant Relief Act
- Redwood City's RV Safe Parking Program

Business and Governmental Relations Committee

Our Business and Governmental Relations Committee, chaired by Stacey Wagner, is the perfect way to stay informed of the current legislative issues. These quarterly meetings provide members of the business and non-profit communities legislative snapshots from local, county, state, and federal representatives. Issues covered included the 2020 Election, State and county ballot measures, Council for a Strong America, Dignity Health-UC Partnership, and much more.

Carol Marks, the Chamber's Public Policy Associate, updates a Legislative Tracking Matrix and quarterly report for our members to stay on top of legislation that impacts our communities and San Mateo County as a whole.





LEGISLATIVE BUS TRIP

Sponsored by



The Chamber’s 6th Annual Legislative Bus Trip to Sacramento was a huge success! Organized by Chairman Mario Rendon, and held right before the State’s Shelter-in-Place order went into effect, this bus trip gave participants an informative and highly accessed look into our state and local government, as well as a chance to meet with our local state legislators. Assembly speaker pro Tem Kevin Mullin, Assemblymember Marc Berman, and Assemblymember Phil Ting hosted a candid Q&A session for our participants.. Lunch at the historic Sutter Club included an insightful panel of lobbyists, moderated by former California Assemblymember Rich Gordon, who shared their insider views on current legislation.





CHAMBER
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REDWOOD CITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION (RCIA)



REDWOOD CITY
IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION



The Chamber has successfully administered the Non-Profit Redwood City Improvement Association in contract with the City of Redwood City for the past 5 years. With a very involved, all volunteer Board of Directors made up of Property Owners, Business Professionals & Community Members from the Redwood City community, many improvements in the downtown district have occurred.

In 2020, downtown Redwood City benefitted from the following improvements:

- Launched the “Eat, Sip, & Be in RWC” campaign to promote business in Downtown Redwood City. In partnership with the City of Redwood City and the Downtown Business Group, this campaign closed traffic on certain roads to allow for business to safely operate outdoors while maintaining social distancing. New branding, messaging, and signage, including banners, flags, A-Frames, and stickers were placed Downtown and shared on social media to further publicize that the area was open for business and following the most up-to-date health and safety guidelines. From this campaign emerged a new “Be Local” effort to further encourage residents and visitors to patronize the local businesses.
- Worked with Olive PR to provide weekly communication to update business owners and neighbors on the most current State, County, and local health and safety mandates.
- Continued the partnership with Fung Collaboratives to keep the extremely popular Art Kiosk Installation project in Courthouse Square. The shows rotate to showcase new top local and international artists and their unique exhibits curated by Fung Collaboratives.
- Partnered with the City of Redwood City Public Works Department to bring Christmas decorations and lighting to the Downtown corridor.
- Developed a Placemaking Task Force to activate public spaces within the district for community building.





2020 Board of Directors

Executive Officers

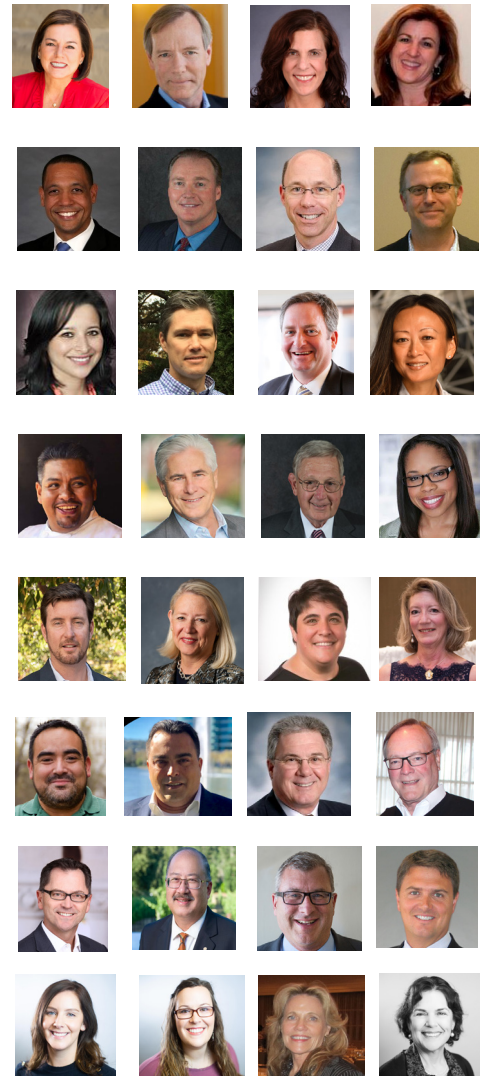
Chairman of the Board
 Vice Chairman - Economic Development
 Vice Chairman - Community Development
 Vice Chairman - Membership Svcs. & Funding
 Vice Chairman - Communications & Technology
 Vice Chairman - Governmental Relations
 Chief Financial Officer
 Deputy Chairman
 Past Chairman of the Board
 President & CEO

Mario Rendon, District Director, Assemblymember Kevin Mullin's Office
 Dani Gasparini, Owner, GB Consulting
 Peter Tsai, Vice President, The Sobrato Organization
 Don Cecil, Principal, MC2 Bay Area Public & Gov't Affairs Consulting
 Aaron Aknin, Principal & Co-Owner, Good City Company
 Stacey Wagner, Director of Public Affairs, Kaiser Permanente
 Larry Aikins, Owner/Broker, Terrace Associates
 Rosanne Foust, President & CEO, SAMCEDA
 Josh Pierry, CEO & Founder, Pierry Inc., a Wunderman Company
 Amy Buckmaster, President & CEO, Redwood City-San Mateo County Chamber



Directors

Alicia Aguirre, Professor, Cañada College
 Jeff Birdwell, President - Commerical Division, Sares Regis Group of N. California
 Janette D'Elia, Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Jay Paul Company
 Tammy Del Bene, Administrative Manager, Recology San Mateo County
 Jonathan Fearn, Senior Director - Development, Greystar
 Ron Galatolo, Chancellor Emeritus, San Mateo County Community College District
 Bill Graham, President, Dignity Health Sequoia Hospital
 Greg Greenway, Executive Director, Seaport Industrial Association
 Lennies Gutierrez, Director of Gov't Affairs, South Bay & Peninsula, Comcast
 Gary Johnson, Vice President, The Acclaim Companies
 Clay Jones, President - Community Banking Group, Heritage Bank of Commerce
 Eileen Kong, Vice President - Asset Management, Kilroy Realty Corporation
 Manuel Martinez, Owner, LV Mar / La Viga
 Steve Mincey, CEO, DES Architects & Engineers
 Tom Mohr, Former Trustee, San Mateo County Community College District
 Jamillah Moore, President, Cañada College
 Simon North, Vice President, BKF Engineers
 Nancy Olson, Chief Government & Community Relations Officer, Stanford Health Care
 Rebecca Prozan, Senior Manager - Gov't Affairs & Public Policy, Google
 Nancy Radcliffe, Planning Commissioner, City of Redwood City
 Agustin Torres Jr., Community Engagement Manager, Facebook
 Chris Weber, Director - Real Estate & Facilities, Oracle Corporation



Past Chairmens Council

Larry Aikins, Broker/Owner, Terrace Associates
 Frank Bartaldo, Executive Vice President, Heritage Bank of Commerce
 Alyn Beals, President & CEO, Beals Martin, Inc.
 Steve Elliott, Managing Director of Real Estate Development, Stanford University
 Rosanne Foust, President & CEO, SAMCEDA
 Dani Gasparini, Owner, GB Consulting
 Jeff Gee, Vice President, Swinerton Management & Consulting
 Jim Hartnett, CEO and General Manager, SamTrans
 Ben Paul, Executive Managing Director, Cushman and Wakefield
 Josh Pierry, CEO & Founder, Pierry Inc., a Wunderman Company
 Stacey Wagner, Director of Public Affairs, Kaiser Permanente

Chamber of Commerce Team

Maggie Fahey, Marketing, Communications, & Programs Manager
 Felicia Basques, Office Administrator
 Wendy Schettino, Program Coordinator
 Carol Marks, Public Policy Associate





2020 CHAMBER AWARD RECIPIENTS

Cheers to a Successful Year!

Chairman's Person of the Year

Steve Elliott

Managing Director of Real Estate, Stanford University

Business Woman of the Year

Rebecca Prozan

Senior Manager, Government Affairs & Public Policy, Google

Cornerstone Award

Recology San Mateo County

Golden Apple

Jay Paul Company



A LOOK AHEAD TO 2021...

These award winners, along with our 2020 Chairman's Person of the Year recipients from Redwood City and San Carlos, will be announced at our Annual Luncheon, taking place virtually on Friday, March 5, 2021

Cornerstone Award

San Mateo Credit Union

Tom Mohr "Champion of Education" Award

Large Company: Alexandria Real Estate Equities • Premia Capital

Small Company: Harvest Furniture • LV Mar & La Viga

Individual/Family: Jan Kang & Jim Kirchner • Kathy Kwan

Business Woman of the Year

Kate Comfort Harr, Executive Director, HIP Housing



NEW YEAR, NEW PARTNERSHIPS, NEW BRAND!

In October 2020, it was announced that the San Carlos Chamber and the Redwood City-San Mateo County Chamber would join together to form one regional chamber. As part of our effort to unify our two organizations and collaborate for the benefit of all businesses in the region, we have a new name - **Chamber San Mateo County** - and a new logo and tagline that reflects our vision for the future:

CHAMBER
S A N M A T E O C O U N T Y

Elevating business. Engaging community. Empowering the future.

The Chamber is where San Mateo County organizations, businesses, and communities come together to create a brighter future. Through events, advocacy, and opportunities to connect, we ensure business voices are heard, diverse perspectives are shared, and leadership is fostered.

The new brand both visually and in the messaging reflects this new vision, which extends our continued deep commitment to our businesses and our community. It aligns with the core of our organization and our Chamber goals for the 21st Century.

The new logo consists of logotype with an original treatment that provides a distinct identity for the organization. The “A” letterform is inspired by the architecture of the courthouse which is the very symbol for the center of the county. Using the arch to integrate into the logo provides context to the new mark. This arched window shape gives us a “glimpse” into the businesses, the lifestyle, and the community of San Mateo County. The arch shape itself becomes an expressive brand conveyor for use in marketing and communications materials.

We remain committed to keeping you connected to San Mateo County’s most important economic issues and opportunities. As a member, you continue to play an active role in advocating for policies and legislation that reflect the needs of our community and our businesses. And when you engage with the Chamber, you reap the rewards of connecting with interesting, informed colleagues, participating in business-building programs and development opportunities, and being a part of bringing local progress to life.



A TRIBUTE TO TOM MOHR

In October 2020, the San Mateo County community lost a friend, mentor, and champion of students, Tom Mohr. He was a dear friend to the Chamber, serving as the Education Committee chair and co-chair for many years, allowing us to bring to light not only the many issues facing our students and educators, but a place to spotlight their tremendous successes as well.



Tom's Education Committee co-chair, Jason Galisatus, had the following to say in honor of Tom: "Tom was the most honorable person involved in San Mateo County politics. His distinguished career of service included serving as Superintendent of the San Mateo Union School District, as the President of Cañada College and as a Trustee of the Community College District.

Far ahead of his time, Tom was a champion of the idea that our system of education should serve each of its students equitably. He lived by the creed that all are born equal, and he treated everyone he encountered with the deepest level respect."

In his memory, the Chamber renamed their annual Golden Apple Award to the Tom Mohr "Champion of Education" Award, which is bestowed to local businesses and individuals who exemplify Tom's values and work in education. A donation was made in his name to the Cañada College Promise Scholarship Fund, a program Tom was passionate about, which ensure access to quality post-secondary education for students of all socioeconomic levels.