

CHAMBER
SAN MATEO COUNTY

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

*Connecting Business, Government, Education, Labor and
Nonprofits to Create a Stronger San Mateo County*

www.chambersmc.org



FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Chamber Members, Partners and Community Leaders:

As we reflect on 2025, I am proud of the strength, resilience and innovation demonstrated by our business community. This year has been marked not only by economic challenges, but by deeper collaboration, stronger partnerships and a renewed commitment to sustainable growth in San Mateo County.

Together, we advanced policies that support a competitive business climate, expanded workforce development initiatives and created new opportunities for small businesses and entrepreneurs to thrive. Our events, advocacy efforts and member programs connected leaders across industries and reinforced the vital role Chamber San Mateo County plays as a convener, catalyst and champion for business and workers.

We also focused on the future, investing in leadership development, embracing emerging technologies and strengthening regional partnerships to ensure our community remains well-positioned in an evolving global economy.

None of this progress would be possible without the dedication of our members, board of directors, volunteers and staff. Your engagement and leadership continue to drive meaningful impact for business, government, education, labor and nonprofits.

As we look ahead to this new year, we remain committed to fostering economic vitality, supporting our members' success and building a thriving, inclusive business environment that keeps our community connected, prosperous and innovative.

Sincerely,

OUR FOCUS

Organizational Commitments



SERVING AND SUPPORTING
MEMBERS



UNDERSTANDING AND
SHAPING OUR POLITICAL
ENVIRONMENT



DEVELOPING AND USING OUR
REGIONAL INFLUENCE



ADVOCACY EFFORTS FOR
PRIORITY ISSUES

Our Purpose

We support businesses and everyone they serve to build a brighter future for San Mateo County.

Our Promise

We are the forum where business voices are heard, engaged, supported, and elevated.

Our Difference

The Chamber uses effective engagement, diverse perspectives, and strong leadership to be a collaborative force in San Mateo County.

Policy Priorities



TRANSPORTATION



HOUSING



BALANCED GOVERNMENT
REGULATIONS AND TAXES



ECONOMIC VITALITY FOR
ALL SEGMENTS OF
OUR COMMUNITY

PROGRAMS REVIEW



The Progress Seminar continues to be an essential forum to delve into challenging issues, debate complex solutions, and provide for thoughtful and civil discussion of some of the most pressing issues and opportunities facing our community. The 2025 Progress Seminar highlighted critical topics such as the realities and impacts of our national political environment, travel and tourism as drivers of our local economy, climate resiliency, the vulnerabilities of our healthcare system, and embracing and strengthening our shared values. With nearly 300 attendees participating – including elected officials and business, education, nonprofit, government and labor leaders – the 56th annual Progress Seminar was one for the books!



THANK YOU to our Amazing Co-Chairs!

	<p>Rosanne Foust Progress Seminar Co-Chair President & CEO, San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA)</p>
	<p>Julie Lind Progress Seminar Co-Chair Executive Officer/Executive Secretary Treasurer, San Mateo County Central Labor Council</p>
	<p>Mike Callagy Progress Seminar Co-Chair County Executive, County of San Mateo</p>
	<p>Dr. Jamillah Moore Progress Seminar Co-Chair Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, San Francisco State University</p>

Principal Sponsors



Saturday Evening Dinner Sponsor



Premier Sponsors



General Session Sponsors



Media Sponsor



Mid-Morning Break Sponsor

Badge Sponsor



Corporate Sponsors



The Leadership program welcomed and graduated its 37th class with 55 participants who had the opportunity to:

- Gain a broader understanding of their community and how it functions by interacting with influential community leaders.
- Acquire valuable information and access to resources, which will aid them in their professional work and civic engagement.
- Join a network of more than 1,500 program graduates which will connect them and their work with professionals and leaders across all segments of San Mateo County.



From our Graduates...

"Today was fantastic! Very informative and engaging."

"Super high caliber of speakers! Thank you for such an interesting and informative session!"

"Great presentation, I learned so much. I can tell that the planners put so much hard work into organizing everything."

"I really enjoyed the panel discussions and information provided. Excellent venue."

"Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to learn from our wonderful speakers!"

THANK YOU to our Day Chairs!

Orientation Day – Mario Rendon, Mitch Bailey and Lennies Gutierrez

Government Day – Nicole Fernandez and Julie Lind

Transportation Day – Don Cecil and Amy Linehan

Housing Day – Aaron Aknin

Education Day – Jamillah Moore

Economics and Business Day – Rosanne Foust

Public Safety Day – Greg DaCunha

Sustainability Day – Elmer Martinez Saballos

Healthcare Day – Jennifer Torai and Diana Bautista

Civic Engagement – Dani Gasparini and Lauren Berman



Congratulations to our Honorees!

Cornerstone Award

BKF Engineers

Women of the Year

Alicia Aguirre and Davina Hurt

Tom Mohr "Champion of Education" Award

Joan Dentler

Impactful Non-Profit Organization Award

HIP Housing



Good Morning San Mateo County!

with Assemblymember Diane Papan and Supervisor Lisa Gauthier

Two Years in Sacramento:
My Report Back as Your
Assemblymember



Diane Papan
Assemblymember, District 21
California State Assembly

San Mateo County's
Newly Elected Supervisor



Lisa Gauthier
Supervisor, District 4
San Mateo County
Board of Supervisors



Moderated by:
Rosanne Foust
President & CEO, SAMCEDA

Good Afternoon San Mateo County!

Belmont State of the City Address

with Mayor Julia Mates,

BELMONT STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

*Belmont's Journey to 100: Strength In Community,
Vision for Tomorrow*



Mayor Julia Mates
City of Belmont





Chamber San Mateo County prides itself on championing its members and highlighting the diverse businesses within our community. In 2025, the Chamber partnered with several new businesses to officially cut the ribbon on their new ventures, including:

- Learn And Play Montessori School (San Carlos)
- Ocean Oyster Bar and Grill (Redwood City)
- San Carlos Art Circles
- Jolly-Old Fashioned Teas Cream (Belmont)
- Rouge Lounge (San Carlos)
- Amara Restaurant (Belmont)
- MegaMart (East Palo Alto)





A signature Chamber program is **Off the Clock**, which provides for professionals from across the community to network with other professionals and industry peers. In 2025, the Chamber proudly partnered with members to host these great networking opportunities, including:

- Oakmont (Redwood City)
- Amara (Belmont)
- Left Bank Brasserie & Cirque du Soleil (Menlo Park)
- Domenico Winery (San Carlos)
- Sports Basement (Redwood City)
- Limón (Redwood City)
- LV Mar in Redwood City
- Rouge Lounge in San Carlos
- Monterra Credit Union
- Port of Redwood City



Meta AI Training for Small Businesses

Chamber San Mateo County, SAMCEDA and the Burlingame Chamber was honored to partner with Meta as they launched their Community Accelerator - Discovering AI for Small Businesses on June 18th. This opportunity provided valuable insights, tools, and connections to educate our members.



In partnership with SAMCEDA (San Mateo County Economic Development Association), Chamber San Mateo County proudly hosted our 12th Annual Birdies for Business Golf Tournament at the beautiful Stanford Golf Course in September.

We are incredibly grateful to our sponsors, golfers and volunteers for making this year's tournament a great success! **THANK YOU!**



COMMITTEES REVIEW



Committee Co-Chairs:
Kathy Parmer Lohan &
Elmer Martinez Saballos

In 2025, the committee hosted presentations and discussions including:

- San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council Report and Childcare Blueprint
- NAMI San Mateo County

Along with legislative and district updates from:

- Joan Dentler, Senior Field Representative for Senator Josh Becker
- Dave Burruto, District Director for Assemblymember Diane Papan
- Elise Lester, Field Representative for Assemblymember Marc Berman.
- Cañada College President Kim Lopez
- San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools Nancy Magee
- Sequoia Union High School District Superintendent Crystal Leach
- Redwood City School District Superintendent John Baker
- Belmont-Redwood Shores School District Superintendent Dan Deguara
- San Carlos School District Superintendent Jennifer Frentress



Committee Chair:
Don Cecil

In 2025, the committee hosted presentations and discussions regarding tax, regulatory, housing, transportation and other business-related matters with the following policy leaders:

- Mario Rendon, Office of Congressman Kevin Mullin
- Joan Dentler, Office of Senator Josh Becker
- Marisol Escalera, Office of San Mateo County Supervisor Ray Mueller
- San Carlos Mayor, Sara McDowell
- Belmont Mayor, Julia Mates
- Redwood City Mayor, Elmer Martinez Saballos
- Menlo Park Mayor, Drew Combs



Committee Co-Chairs:
Greg Greenway &
Jessica Epstein

In 2025, the committee hosted presentations and discussions including:

- California High-Speed Rail Updates
- Regional Transportation Tax Measure Update
- El Camino Real Complete Streets Study (Atherton)
- The 2025 State of Housing: Local, State & Federal Perspectives
- The Central El Camino Real Multimodal Plan
- Yes in Redwood City Launch



Committee Chair:
Aaron Aknin

In 2025, the committee hosted presentations and discussions including:

- Redwood LIFE Evolve
- Overview of County's Local, Local Small and Local Micro Business Preference Ordinance
- Greater Downtown Area Plan Update (Redwood City)
- Harbor Industrial Area Update (Belmont)
- Northeast Area Specific Plan and Downtown Specific Plan Update (San Carlos)
- Engagement & Growth (Redwood City)
- Future & Current Development (Belmont)
- Holiday Passports & Downtown Plan (San Carlos)
- Downtown Projects & Land Use (Menlo Park)
- Reimagining Cancer Care and Innovation - Stanford Medicine Cancer exploration of a new Cancer Center in Redwood City
- Downtown Redwood City Entertainment Zoning Discussion

Along with economic development updates from:

- Fran Dehn, Interim Economic Development Manager, City Menlo Park
- Tobi Lieberman, Housing and Economic Development, City of Belmont
- Sajuti Haque, Economic Development and Housing Manager, City of San Carlos
- Amanda Anthony, Economic Development Manager, City of Redwood City

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chamber San Mateo County is led by a dedicated group of diverse volunteer members representing large, medium and small businesses, sole proprietors, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, government agencies and labor groups. The Board sets the strategic priorities for the Chamber and serves as a champion for members and business issues.

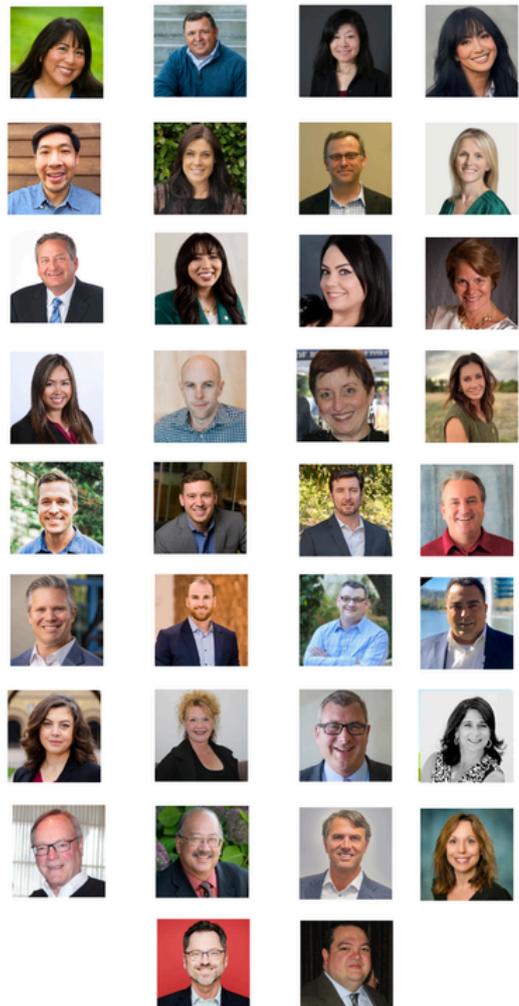
Chair of the Board (2023, 2024, 2025)
 Vice Chair - Economic Development
 Vice Chair - Membership Services, Funding & Communications
 Vice Chair - Community Development
 Vice Chair - Governmental Relations
 Chief Financial Officer
 Deputy Chair
 Past Chair of the Board (2022)
 President & CEO

Lennies Gutierrez, Director of Gov't Affairs, South Bay & Peninsula, Comcast
 Aaron Aknin, Principal, Good City Company
 Manuel Martinez, Owner, LV Mar, La Viga, & San Angus
 Dr. Jamillah Moore, VP of Student Affairs & Enrollment Mgmt, SFSU
 Don Cecil, Principal, MC2 Bay Area Public & Government Affairs Consulting
 Bill Graham, Healthcare Consultant
 Rosanne Foust, President & CEO, SAMCEDA
 Peter Tsai, Principal, Cadence Investments
 Amy Buckmaster, President & CEO, Chamber San Mateo County



Directors

Diana Bautista, Government Relations Manager, Stanford Medicine Children's Health
 Evan Boyd, General Manager & Assistant Regional Manager, Recology
 April Chan, General Manager/CEO, San Mateo County Transit District
 Leah Cowan, Government Relations Manager, Sutter Health
 John Fong, President, Kenson Ventures
 Samantha Friesz, Development Executive, Google
 Greg Greenway, Executive Director, Seaport Industrial Association
 Dawn Jedkins, Co-CEO, DES Architects + Engineers
 Clay Jones, President & CEO, Heritage Bank of Commerce
 Ellen Kamei, Dir. Gov. Relations and PIO, Foothill/De Anza Community College District
 Julie Lind, Executive Officer/Exec. Secretary Treasurer, San Mateo Labor Council
 Kim Lopez, President, Cañada College
 Rhovy Lyn Antonio, Senior Vice President, California Apartment Association
 Chris Lunny, Director of Real Estate and Facilities, Meta
 Mary Morrissey Parden, Agent & Owner, The Parden Agency
 Kate Mosley, Owner, OrangeTheory Fitness Redwood City
 Seamus Murphy, Executive Director, San Francisco Bay Ferry
 Mark Murray, Principal, Lane Partners
 Simon North, Vice President, BKF Engineers
 Rich Sacher, Executive Vice President & District Manager, Graniterock
 Charles Stone, Partner, Goethals & Stone, PC
 Robert Tersini, Senior Vice President, The Sobrato Organization
 Jason Webb, Vice President, Real Estate and Operations, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative
 Chris Weber, Director - Real Estate & Facilities, Oracle Corporation
 Lucy Wicks, Assistant Vice President, Government Affairs, Stanford University
 Kristine Zortman, Executive Director, Port of Redwood City



Past Chair's Council

Jim Harnett, CEO, HJSR Solutions LLC (1995 & 2002)
 Dani Gasparini, Owner, Hotel Sequoia (1997)
 Alyn Beals, President & CEO, Beals Martin, Inc. (2001 & 2010)
 Jeff Gee, Vice President, Swinerton Management & Consulting (2008)
 Ben Paul, Vice Chairman, Cushman and Wakefield (2011)
 Stacey Wagner, Director of Public Affairs, Kaiser Permanente (2012 & 2013)
 Steve Elliott, Managing Dir. Real Estate Development, Stanford University (2016 & 2017)
 Mario Rendon, District Director, Office of Congressman Kevin Mullin (2020 & 2021)

THANK YOU

Thank you to our amazing members, sponsors, partners, board members and volunteers for making 2025 a great year for Chamber San Mateo County! We look forward to the potential that 2026 offers to elevate our members and showcase the vital work our business community does to keep San Mateo County vibrant.



Chamber San Mateo County Board of Directors

Contact Us



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