

CHAMBER

SAN MATEO COUNTY

2023

ANNUAL REPORT





About Us

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.

Our Priorities

- 1 Serving and supporting members
- 2 Understanding and shaping our political environment
- 3 Developing and using our regional influence
- 4 Advocacy efforts for priority issues

Chamber Committees and 2023 Chairs



Education Committee
Chair: Kathy Parmer-Lohan



Government Relations Committee
Chair: Auggie Torres



Transportation & Housing Committee
Chair: Greg Greenway



Belmont Business Committee
Chair: Mary Morrissey-Parden



Economic Development Committee
Chair: Aaron Aknin



Menlo Park Business Committee
Chair: Diana Bautista

By the Numbers

1,500
members

27%
of members are in Redwood City

25%
of members are in San Carlos

21%
of members are in Menlo Park

15%
of members are in Belmont

12%
of members are elsewhere in San Mateo County and surrounding areas

A Message from Our Board Chair & Our CEO

We are delighted to share this annual report of the many successes and important work of Chamber San Mateo County in 2023. Last year brought about the final step in the creation of what is truly now Chamber San Mateo County, with the integration of the Belmont Chamber of Commerce and Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce into our organization. This critical milestone cements Chamber San Mateo County in its role to advocate for more than 1,500 businesses that make San Mateo County a great place to work, live and visit.

Since our founding in 1897, Chamber San Mateo County has taken on the role of advocate, convener, shepherd, and supporter. During the COVID-19 pandemic, while so many of our member businesses were struggling to chart their path forward, Chamber San Mateo County provided services, support and solutions to help businesses and the communities they serve survive and thrive. Now, with our new service area expanded, we look to the future with the goal of shaping a portfolio of critical outcomes in housing, transportation and taxes that impact the business and economic vitality of our community.

We are proud of the work that Chamber San Mateo County has done over the last year in support of our members and our community. As our region continues to adjust to new economic, workforce, political, social, cultural and environmental realities, Chamber San Mateo County is excited to continue its role in helping shape our collective future. We embrace this mantle with enthusiasm, focus and a spirit of collaboration and with an eye on meaningful results for our members.

Sincerely,



Lennies M. Gutiérrez
Board Chair
Director of Government Affairs
Comcast



Amy N. Buckmaster
President & Chief Executive Officer
Chamber San Mateo County

A Different Chamber

Chamber San Mateo County is not your traditional chamber of commerce. Focused more on 'getting things done' and less on talking about getting things done, Chamber San Mateo County is a convener of all facets of the community to tackle big problems and make a lasting impact on issues that matter – transportation, housing and taxes. We are the voice and support for business, institutions, employees and labor for growth, problem solving and the bettering of the region's quality of life.

A New Footprint

In 2023, the Belmont Chamber of Commerce and Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce successfully transitioned their memberships to Chamber San Mateo County. These two chambers join the San Carlos Chamber of Commerce, which transitioned its membership to the Redwood City-San Mateo County Chamber in October 2020, creating Chamber San Mateo County. With this new footprint, Chamber San Mateo County serves more than 1,500 businesses in four cities and throughout the county.



Our Story

A New Name

We chose to re-brand from the Redwood City Chamber of Commerce to Chamber San Mateo County after the successful transition of the San Carlos Chamber. This new geographical area is the largest of any chamber in San Mateo County and includes the county seat and encompasses 175,000 residents and 100,000 employees.

Increased Potential for Impact

With this new reach, Chamber San Mateo County represents parts of two congressional districts, one state senate district, two Assembly districts, three county supervisor districts, four cities, and seven educational districts, with nearly 65 elected officials, in addition to professional staffs at each governing body. This vast network increases Chamber San Mateo County's ability to advocate for our members on a larger, regional scale.

Signature Programs & Events

35
years strong

61
participants
in the 2022-
2023 class

1,500
participants
over 35 years

Leadership Redwood City-San Carlos-Belmont-Menlo Park

The Chamber's Leadership program is a premier academy that welcomes leaders at all levels and in all organizations and equips them with the knowledge, tools and opportunities to evolve their skills to the next level in service of their community. This year's class participated in ten diverse and dynamic day-long sessions with experts, decision-makers, practitioners, and funders across all spectrums of the business, government, not-for-profit and education sectors.

Government Day

Day Chairs: Congressman Kevin Mullin, Julia Mates and Julie Lind

Transportation Day

Day Chairs: Jim Hartnett and Jessica Epstein

Housing Day

Day Chairs: Don Cecil and Shauntae Bronner

Education Day

Day Chairs: Kim Lopez and Kathy Parmer-Lohan

Economics & Business Day

Day Chair: Rosanne Foust

Public Safety Day

Day Chair: Greg DaCunha

Sustainable Communities Day

Day Chair: Elmer Martinez-Saballos

Healthcare Day

Day Chair: Diana Bautista

Civic Engagement Day

Day Chair: Jonathan Nicolas



Good Morning, San Mateo County! Program

In 2023, Chamber San Mateo County hosted three State of the City Addresses for the City of Redwood City with Mayor Jeff Gee, the City of San Carlos with Mayor Adam Rak and Vice Mayor John Dugan, and the City of Belmont with Mayor Julia Mates.

Community Partners



Progress Seminar

This seminal program convened the region's thought leaders, decision-makers and businesses to tackle some of our region's lasting problems and explore possibilities to harness eminent opportunities, with a focus on housing, jobs and a zero carbon emissions future. The outcome: More San Mateo County leaders fostering relationships, forging partnerships, surfacing opportunities and options to address the problems of today and anticipate the challenges of tomorrow.



“Off the Clock” Networking Events

The “Off the Clock” events, hosted by member companies, provide opportunities for members to connect with other members in a more relaxed environment, after working hours, and celebrate their successes, get advice, form relationships and expand their professional networks.



Birdies for Business Golf Tournament

In partnership with the San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA), Chamber San Mateo County hosted our 10th Annual Birdies for Business. This sold-out event – with 124 golfers – at Stanford Golf Course is a major fundraiser for the Chamber and helps fund important policy, advocacy and leadership programs.

2023 Progress Seminar by the Numbers

54 years

325 attendees

150 organizations

71 first-time attendees

19 mayors & vice mayors from
13 cities attending



Redwood City Improvement Association (RCIA)

2023 was the ninth year of Chamber San Mateo County managing the day-to-day operations of the RCIA. One of the largest projects of 2023 was bringing music and the arts to downtown Redwood City through the installment of three community pianos, each with a mural designed by three local residents of San Mateo County. Each mural is chosen through a rigorous process to ensure the design reflects the Sights, Tastes, and Sounds of Redwood City. For more information about RCIA, visit: www.visitrwc.org.



Thursday Night Lights

Partnering with the City of San Carlos, the Chamber hosted Thursday Night Lights, a program to promote shopping local while celebrating the holiday season. This festive program, which was hosted every Thursday between November 30 and December 21, 2023, featured live entertainment and highlighted nearly a dozen local businesses.

Public Policy & Economic Development Advocacy

Chamber San Mateo County continues to be an advocate for its members and continuously monitors policy and economic development issues relating to housing, transportation and taxes at the city, county and state levels.

In 2023, the Chamber, through its committees, evaluated numerous policies, projects and proposals and made the voice of businesses heard on the items below.

Development Projects Endorsed by the Chamber

Project	City
505 East Bayshore Road - Sares Regis Group	Redwood City
1111-1227 Arguello Project - Hines	Redwood City
Redwood LIFE Evolve - Longfellow Real Estate Partners	Redwood City
803 Old County Road - The Sobrato Organization	San Carlos
11 El Camino Real - SummerHill Apartment Communities	San Carlos
604, 608 & 610 Harbor Boulevard Project - Windy Hill Property Ventures	Belmont
800 Main St. - Hotel Sequoia Project - Sequoia Main Partners	Redwood City
1900 Broadway - Lane Partners	Redwood City
405 - 455 Harbor Boulevard - Beam Reach Partners	Belmont

Community Projects Supported by the Chamber

Project
101/SR 92 Interchange and Multimodal Improvements Project
1111-1227 Arguello Street Project
CDFA Community Resilience Centers Program
2023-2024 Caltrain Sustainable Transportation Grant Application
Port of Redwood City Storm and Clean Water Improvement Project
California High-Speed Rail Authority Application for Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Program
557 East Bayshore Project - SyRES Properties, LLC.
505 East Bayshore Townhouse Project - Sares Regis Group
803 Old County Road Project - The Sobrato Organization
Redwood LIFE Evolve Proposal - Longfellow Real Estate Partners
2023 Multimodal Discretionary Grant Program Request for United States 101/State Route 84 (Woodside Road) Interchange and Port Access Project
Metropolitan Transportation Commission Stakeholder Letter

Community Leaders

Chamber San Mateo County is represented by and partners with nearly 65 elected officials and their staffs at the federal, state, county, city and school district levels.

The relationships and partnerships with these leaders are core to the Chamber's advocacy efforts.

U.S. House of Representatives

Anna Eshoo
Kevin Mullin



California State Senate

Josh Becker



California Assembly

Marc Berman
Diane Papan



San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

David Canepa
Noelia Corzo
Ray Mueller
Dave Pine
Warren Slocum
Mike Callagy, County Executive



City of Redwood City Council

Jeff Gee
Lissette Espinoza-Garnica
Alicia C. Aguirre
Kaia Eakin
Diane Howard
Elmer Martinez Saballos
Chris Sturken
Melissa Stevenson Diaz,
City Manager



City of San Carlos Council

John Dugan
Sara McDowell
Ron Collins
Adam Rak
Pranita Venkatesh
Jeff Maltbie, City Manager



City of Belmont Council

Julia Mates
Gina Latimerlo
Davina Hurt
Tom McCune
Robin Pang-Maganaris
Afshin Oskoui, City Manager



City of Menlo Park Council

Cecilia Taylor
Drew Combs
Maria Doerr
Betsy Nash
Jen Wolosin
Justin Murphy, City Manager



Belmont-Redwood Shores School District Board of Trustees

April Northrup
Jackee Bruno
David Koss
Samuel Leinbach
Jim Howard
Dan Deguara, Superintendent



Menlo Park City School District Board of Education

Francesca Segrè
Sherwin Chen
David Ackerman
Scott Saywell
Jed Scolnick
Kristen Gracia, Superintendent



Ravenswood City School District Board of Education

Mele K. Latu
Jenny Varghese Bloom
Laura Nunez
Tamara Sobomehin
Samuel Tavera
Gina Sudaria, Superintendent



Redwood City School District Board of Trustees

Janet Lawson
Mike Wells
Alisa Greene MacAvoy
David Weekly
Cecilia I. Márquez
John R. Baker, Superintendent



San Carlos School District Board of Trustees

Sarah Cassanego
Neil Layton
Tracy Park
Sarah Johnson Kinahan
Ben Kornell
Jennifer Frentress, Superintendent



Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees

Shawneece Stevenson
Sathvik Nori
Amy Koo
Carrie Du Bois
Rich Ginn
Crystal Leach, Superintendent



San Mateo County Community College District Board of Trustees

Mike Guingona
Richard Holober
Lisa Petrides
John Pimentel
Wayne Lee
Melissa Moreno, Interim Chancellor





Chamber San Mateo County’s annual awards luncheon celebrated the service, contributions and achievements of some of our community’s most deserving leaders and organizations. Congratulations!

2022 Winners



Cornerstone Award
San Mateo County



Woman of the Year
Suzie Hughes, Executive Director - One Life Counseling Center



Tom Mohr “Champion of Education” Award

Redwood City Education Foundation
San Carlos Education Foundation
SchoolForce
THE BELMONT-REDWOOD SHORES PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION

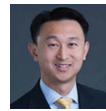


Board Chair’s Person of the Year
Mario Rendon
Past Chair - Chamber San Mateo County, District Director - Office of Congressman Kevin Mullin

Annual Award Winners

Historic Passing of the Gavel

In January 2023, Chamber San Mateo County welcomed Chamber San Mateo County welcomed its first Latina board chair with Lennies Gutierrez receiving the gavel from outgoing board chair Peter Tsai. Lennies has served on the Chamber board for over 10 years and serves as Director of Government Affairs - South Bay and Southern Peninsula for Comcast California.



The Chamber is never afraid to tackle big issues and bring people and organizations to the table to find common ground in solving problems. I am proud of the work we do in being a voice and advocate for our members, and I am excited to get to work as chair of the Chamber’s board of directors.

-Lennies Gutierrez

2023 Winners

Cornerstone Award
Congresswoman Anna G. Eshoo

Woman of the Year
Julie Lind, Executive Officer/Executive Secretary
Treasurer - San Mateo County Central Labor Council

Tom Mohr “Champion of Education” Award
Dr. Jamillah Moore, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management - SFSU
Footsteps Childcare
Arbor Bay School

Board Chair’s Person of the Year
Amy Buckmaster, President & CEO Chamber San Mateo County

Board of Directors

Executive Officers

Chair of the Board

Lennies Gutierrez, Director of Government Affairs, South Bay & Peninsula, Comcast

Vice Chair - Economic Development

Aaron Aknin, Principal & Co-Owner, Good City Living

Vice Chair - Membership, Services, Funding & Communications

Manuel Martinez, Owner, LV Mar / La Viga

Vice Chair - Community Development

Dr. Jamillah Moore, Vice President of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management, SFSU

Vice Chair - Governmental Relations

Don Cecil, Principal, MC2 Bay Area Public & Government Affairs Consulting

Directors

Mitchell Bailey, Owner & Principal Consultant, Mbailey Advisors, LLC

Evan Boyd, General Manager & Assistant Regional Manager, Recology

Andrea Jones, Director of Bay Area Giving, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative

Leah Cowan, Government Relations Manager, Sutter Health

John Fong, President, Kenson Ventures

Samantha Friesz, Development Executive, Google

Greg Greenway, Executive Director, Seaport Industrial Association

Maia Harris, Director, Special Projects & Community Relations, Jay Paul Company

Clay Jones, President & CEO, Heritage Bank of Commerce

Ellen Kamei, External Affairs Area Manager, AT&T

Steve Mincey, CEO, DES Architects & Engineers

Julie Lind, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, San Mateo Labor Council

Kim Lopez, President, Cañada College

Chris Lunny, Global Real Estate and Facilities, Meta

Mary Morrissey Parden, Agent & Owner, The Parden Agency

Kate Mosley, Owner, OrangeTheory Fitness Redwood City

Seamus Murphy, Executive Director, WETA

Mark Murray, Principal, Lane Partners

Simon North, Vice President, BKF Engineers

Laura Parmer-Lohan, Chief of Staff, Amgen SSF

Charles Stone, Partner, Goethals Legal

Chris Weber, Director - Real Estate & Facilities, Oracle Corporation

Chief Financial Officer

Bill Graham, President, Dignity Health Sequoia Hospital

Deputy Chair

Rosanne Foust, President & CEO, SAMCEDA

Past Chair of the Board

Peter Tsai, Vice President, The Sobrato Organization

President & CEO

Amy Buckmaster, President & CEO, Chamber San Mateo County



Past Chair's Council

Larry Aikins, Broker/Owner, Terrace Associates

Frank Bartaldo, Consultant, Heritage Bank of Commerce

Alyn Beals, President & CEO, Beals Martin, Inc.

Steve Elliott, Managing Director - Real Estate Development, Stanford University

Dani Gasparini, Owner, GB Consulting

Jeff Gee, Vice President, Swinerton Management & Consulting

Jim Hartnett, CEO, HJSR Solutions LLC

Ben Paul, Executive Managing Director, Cushman & Wakefield

Josh Pierry, Founder & Former CEO, Pierry Inc., A Wunderman Company

Mario Rendon, District Director, Office of Congressman Kevin Mullin

Stacey Wagner, Director of Public Affairs, Kaiser Permanente



Chamber Team

Alex Arnold, Manager of Programs and Marketing

Felicia Basques, Operations Manager

Nicole Gallosa, Operations and Programs Coordinator

Program Sponsors





CHAMBER
SAN MATEO COUNTY

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