



D O W N T O W N  
**SAN DIEGO**  
P A R T N E R S H I P

**Downtown San Diego Clean & Safe**

**Media Update**

**Tuesday, July 12, 2016**

## Reality Check: San Diego is no Silicon Valley

By Jennifer Van Grove | June 12, 2016

<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/jun/12/san-diego-startup-scene-reality-check/>



Move over, Silicon Valley. San Diego is technology's new nerve center. That's the rosy narrative appearing in national media outlets, with locals spreading the good news on their favorite social networks. Has this scrappy tech town suddenly morphed into an effervescent startup mecca?

Consider this. Almost \$1.3 billion was funneled into San Diego area companies last year, according to an annual report compiled by the National Venture Capital Association. But the money is still by and large going to biotechnology companies, which collectively snatched 52 percent of local investment dollars in 2015. Even with biotech boosting our profile, San Diego still only accounted for a little more than 2 percent of the \$59.7 billion in capital raised across the nation.

Silicon Valley, meanwhile, collected about 47 percent of the honey pot.

Is there really any comparison?

No, said Howard Lindzon, a serial investor and entrepreneur who lives in Coronado. "Marketing and media are blowing these things out of proportion," he said.

Because he likes living here, Lindzon started his latest company, finance app SparkFin, in town with its headquarters at the startup-friendly co-working space, DeskHub, in which he is also an investor. He also pumps money into early-stage startups on behalf of others through his seed fund, Social Leverage. Still, the candid-as-they-come Lindzon believes there is inconsistency in the marketplace here, meaning periods when seasoned, local founders can't locate enough money, and junctures when those with cash to spend, himself included, can't find the right talent.

"If San Diego's ecosystem is meant to happen, it's just going to happen," he said. "Good founders will come. Good money will come."

So where did the hype originate?

It may have started last fall with a city-funded vanity feature by National Geographic promoting smart cities. The story certainly found its legs when Andrew Gazdecki, CEO of Bizness Apps, which just relocated here, wrote an op-ed in TechCrunch on San Diego as the "tech haven of tomorrow." Then, Mashable picked San Diego as one of the top four metros "luring startups away from Silicon Valley." Most recently, CNBC proclaimed that we are "taking on" the Bay Area as a startup sanctuary. City officials are helping write the story. In May, Mayor Kevin Faulconer attended a press conference celebrating the relocation of Bizness Apps from Silicon Valley to La Jolla. And Jerry Sanders, president and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, told CNBC that San Diego has a "culture of entrepreneurship and a collaborative environment that you don't see in a lot of other cities."

But the rah-rah San Diego cheers are a little perplexing to some of the tech power-players in town — even though the praise is not necessarily unwanted.

"Everybody is prematurely celebrating something and I'm not sure what they're celebrating," said Doug Hecht, a partner in the Seed San Diego fund and the founder of Lymber, which competes with ClassPass in the fitness space. "But I think it's good. You kind of want to dress for success."

And, really, so what if San Diego's startup story is a little overblown? Aren't people — important people — paying attention?

Maybe, but that doesn't change that one San Diego's greatest shortcomings remains keeping and attracting top-tier talent. Not just smart computer science and engineering students, which San Diego has in excess — until the young geniuses graduate. Then, they head up north. No, what this city really lacks, at least in comparison to the Bay Area, are the kind of people who've sold a company or two and are anxious to tackle something new.

"I just don't think we have the experienced entrepreneurs here," said Hecht. "Even our mentor network is not that great."

Raising money is also tricky. There are a handful of local outfits, including Analytics Ventures, Social Leverage and Seed San Diego, that founders can ping for modest sums. But technology and software startups looking to achieve unicorn status — a.k.a. billion-dollar-plus valuations à la Uber or Snapchat — can't find that kind of capital in town.

"Ask any entrepreneur and they're always going to say talent and funding are the two biggest (challenges)," said Andy White, the startup advocate for the Downtown Partnership, a San Diego business group. "We have some amazing organizations here that have pieces of the process, from an EvoNexus to a Connect, it's just a matter of filling in the gaps."

Events including next week's Startup Week are helping bridge a few of the chasms. So, too, is the trumpet-sounding.

"San Diego, for a very long time, has been very good about promoting itself within San Diego," said Mike Krenn, president of the San Diego Venture Group. "But we do a crappy job promoting ourselves outside of San Diego. And I think people are starting to get that. ... You have to start promoting yourself a little bit."

For that reason, Krenn doesn't hate the San Diego-is-Silicon-Valley stories that are getting retweeted as truth. Behind the scenes, he's even devising schemes to raise San Diego's profile — think: billboards on San Francisco highways reminding commuters that San Diego is a sunnier place to be, and not just because of the weather.

Krenn also wants to collaborate with local universities and coordinate a poaching festival that would target Bay Area workers. The idea: Get 10 of San Diego's biggest companies, 40 of our most well-known startups, maybe even a few of the big-guns in craft beer, and host a job fair in San Francisco. The message to attendees: Did you graduate from UCSD, get recruited by Facebook and move to Menlo Park only to find yourself overworked, cold and dissatisfied in a studio in the suburbs? Come back to San Diego, where you can make a reasonable wage, work at a just-as-cool company, get a tan with your stock options, live by the beach and surf before work.

Still, to many, San Diego is just a sleepy beach-side enclave with an overly relaxed work ethic. And that's a perception that may take years to shake.

"I've heard repeatedly that if you're a San Diego startup, you're considered to be YMCA rec-league (basketball), whereas the same startup in the Bay Area is in the NBA," said James Heller, founder and CEO of ad-tech startup Wrapify. Heller, who has kept his company here, moved up north last year, primarily for fund-raising purposes.

"The small VCs (venture capitalists) in the Bay Area trump the biggest VCs in San Diego," he said. Jeff Pomeranz, an executive at San Francisco investment firm Right Side Capital Management, knows his peers in the Valley don't have San Diego on their radar. He uses that to his advantage. His firm prefers what he calls "secondary geographies" such as San Diego, because they're overlooked.

"We prey on that. There are phenomenal teams of founders all over the U.S.," he said. "From an investor's perspective, there's no better opportunity than to be looking at a location like San Diego. You

can take the same San Diego company, plunk it down in the Bay Area and get double the valuation. The way we look at it, we get the company at a discount.”

If there’s another silver lining it’s that many believe the Bay Area is imploding, in part because the absurdly high cost of living makes quality of life a challenge for residents, but also because unfavorable business economics punish startups without massive stockpiles of cash.

“The high cost of living, extreme recruiting competition and lengthy commutes take their toll on companies regardless of their success,” Gazdecki wrote in the TechCrunch piece. “VC-backed companies with irresponsible hiring practices scorch the land for the rest, cultivating an environment where getting ahead means pouring money into areas with little return on investment.”

Silicon Valley’s loss, then, could be San Diego’s gain.

“It’s a house of cards. You have ridiculous valuations that are not sustainable. ... Eventually, that just has to fall,” said Lymber’s Hecht. “When it does fall, it’s good for places like San Diego, Austin and Seattle, where it’s a little more of a realistic community. It’s not shoot-for-the-moon money; it’s just good money. And it’s not engineers getting paid high six figures; it’s engineers getting paid low six figures.”

Of course, there’s a camp who want San Diego to stay uniquely San Diego. People, including SparkFin’s Lindzon and Wrapify’s Heller, believe that if too much of the Silicon Valley ethos migrates here, that it will ruin a good thing.

“I’m worried that if San Diego became a tech mecca, it would change the dynamic here,” said Heller. “I want to conserve San Diego. I don’t want San Diego to lose the magic that it has.”



## ‘Movie Night in the Park’ in Downtown San Diego | Saturday, June 11, 2016



<http://www.kusi.com/Clip/12519444/movie-night-in-the-park-in-downtown-san-diego>

KUSI News reporter Allison Wagner interviews Kris Michell about the Downtown Partnership’s first-ever ‘Movies in the Park’ event in Downtown San Diego. San Diegans from across the region are encouraged to bring their kids and dogs out to Pantoja Park to watch ‘Best in Show’ – a hilarious mockumentary that follows five entrants in a distinguished dog show.



## News in the Morning | Saturday, June 11, 2016



Christina Chadwick, the Downtown San Diego Partnership’s SVP of Communications, and her puppy, Truman, talk to CW 6 reporters about the Partnership’s upcoming “Movies in the Park’ event in the Marina District of Downtown San Diego. The occasion is just one of the many placemaking events hosted by the Partnership’s Clean & Safe program each month.



## San Diego Startup Week Press Conference

Monday, June 13, 2015

Mayor Kevin Faulconer, Downtown Partnership President and CEO Kris Michell, and San Diego Startup Week Co-Founders Austin Neudecker and Tim Ryan joined local entrepreneurs in Horton Plaza Park for a press conference to kick off Startup Week 2016.



## Port of San Diego Holding Open House for Seaport Village, Central Embarcadero Proposals

Monday, June 13, 2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTkXIAyjKLI&feature=youtu.be>

The Port of San Diego is considering six development proposals for Seaport Village and other areas within the Central Embarcadero. The public will have an opportunity to view and comment on the proposals at an open house that begins Monday, Jun. 13 at 3 p.m.

The Port is working to ensure San Diegans have an opportunity to give their input and take part in the development process. The Port of San Diego's open house will be held on Jun. 13 and 14 from 3-7 p.m. at the San Diego Convention Center. Events will be held in Room 2.

Plans are being pitched to alter the 70 acres of land and water that includes Seaport Village, Chesapeake Fish and the surrounding areas between the Hyatt and USS Midway Museum.

The Board of Port Commissioners could select a proposal as early as July 13, so now's the public's chance to have their voice heard.



## Good Morning San Diego

Tech Tuesday | June 14, 2016

<http://www.kusi.com/clip/12527397/san-diego-startup-week-celebrates-tech-industry>

San Diego Startup Week begins today and celebrates San Diego's emerging tech industry. Reporter Brad Perry speaks to local leaders and entrepreneurs about the week-

long celebration.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pf3ai3pPEeQ>

Brad Perry interviews Tim Ryan, Co-Founder of San Diego Startup Week, and Kris Michell, president and CEO of the Downtown San Diego Partnership, to kick off Startup Week 2016.



## San Diego Council Oks Adding 9 Miles of Bike Lanes Downtown

By Claire Trageser | June 21, 2016

<http://www.kpbs.org/news/2016/jun/21/san-diego-adding-bike-lanes-downtown/>

The San Diego City Council on Tuesday unanimously approved a plan for downtown San Diego that will add nine miles of new bike lanes and more than five miles of widened sidewalks. In 10 years, it will also begin eliminating parking spaces.

Called the Downtown Mobility Plan, it will add protected bike lanes on Pacific Highway and State Street; Fourth, Fifth and Sixth avenues; Park, J and C streets; and Broadway and Beech Street. It will also extend the bike lane on Harbor Drive and the bike path along the bay.

The plan would set up so-called "road diets" — meaning reducing a car lane or parking — on several downtown streets, including portions of Kettner Boulevard, India Street and Second through Ninth avenues.

Brad Richter, an assistant vice president of planning at Civic San Diego, which designed the plan, said that it will increase the number of people who walk and bike downtown from 28 percent to 43 percent by 2035. Richter said by the time the plan is fully implemented in 30 years, downtown will also have 477 fewer spaces than it does now.

Some residents and business owners opposed the plan. In particular, those in Little Italy asked the plan be changed to put bike lanes on Ash Street instead of Beech Street and on Kettner Boulevard or Pacific Highway instead of on State Street.

Richter said Ash and State streets were chosen because they have less traffic and slower speed limits, which makes them safer for cyclists. He said the other options were considered but wouldn't work.

The Cleveland National Forest Foundation, an environmental nonprofit, also opposed the plan because it does not add public transit, said Jana Clark, the group's secretary.

"We cannot let this opportunity pass without addressing transit," she said. "The bike and walk is a great start, but we need the critical missing component."

The plan will help downtown exceed the transportation goals laid out in the city's Climate Action Plan, Richter said. The climate plan calls for increasing the number of people who commute by bike from 1 percent to 18 percent by 2035 for people who live within a half mile of existing or planned transit stops, which includes downtown.

**Kris Michell, CEO of the Downtown San Diego Partnership, said she supports the plan over the first 10 years but hopes the City Council will revisit it in a decade to be sure lost parking is mitigated.**

Before the City Council vote, Andy Hanshaw, head of the nonprofit San Diego County Bicycle Coalition, led a rally of cyclists who traced the new bike lanes' route.

Evan Burbridge joined in the ride. He lives in North Park and said he bikes to work in downtown every day. "Cars aren't necessarily aware you're going to be riding right next to them in the lane, especially when cars are stopping, turning, waiting for pedestrians to cross. They're really not aware of you as a cyclist," he said. The \$63 million plan will now go to city staffers, who will design how it will be implemented.



## San Diego Weekend Guide: June 24-26 | By Hoa Quach | June 24, 2016

<http://timesofsandiego.com/life/2016/06/24/san-diego-weekend-guide-june-24-26/>



In the mood for good food, drinks and scenes? You're in luck. This Saturday brings the 37th annual Ocean Beach Street Fair and Chili Cook-Off Festival. The event, which typically attracts more than 70,000 people, features five stages of live music including rock, blues, alternative and Americana, an Artists Alley, a beer garden and community mural.

But, the main attraction is a chili cook-off where local amateur cooks will show off their skills in the kitchen. The tradition, which began in 1984, will award several cooks with awards like "Hottest Chili" and "People's Choice." The free event runs from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the heart of Ocean Beach. For more information, go to [oceanbeachsandiego.com](http://oceanbeachsandiego.com).

Here are some other events happening this weekend:

### Downtown Concerts

The Downtown San Diego Partnership's third annual "Sounds of Summer" pop-up concerts series is set to begin Friday. The pop-up concerts feature local musicians at different locations throughout downtown on Friday afternoons from noon to 2 p.m.

The kickoff event will feature Pat Dowling at the U.S. Bank at Kettner and Ash, the King Taylor Project at the U.S. Bank on the corner of Broadway and India and Sam Bybee at The U.S. Grant. The concert series runs through Sept. 9.

## Good Morning San Diego

Friday, June 24, 2016

<http://www.kusi.com/clip/12549857/sounds-of-summer-pop-up-concerts>



The Downtown

Partnership's placemaking manager Lise Koerschgen, and local musician Sam Bybee, give KUSI a preview of Sounds of Summer, a free concert series presented by THE US GRANT, the Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay Nation, Gig Town, Pacific Records, and U.S. Bank. The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual concert series begins today at noon and runs every Friday throughout the summer at various Downtown locations.

## Sounds of Summer 2016 |

Friday, June 24, 2016

The Fox 5 News crew caught up with the Downtown Partnership and local musician Sam Bybee at the first Sounds of Summer event this season. This free concert series, presented by THE US GRANT, the Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay Nation, Gig Town, Pacific Records, and U.S.



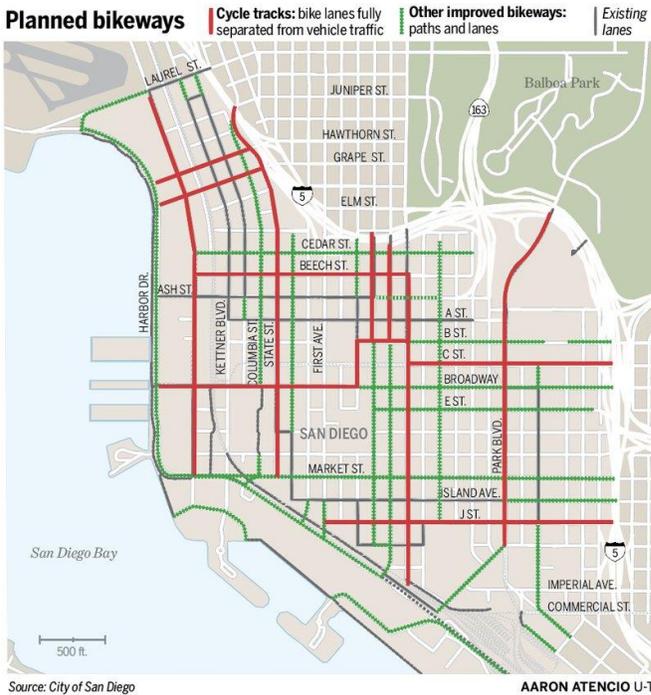
Bank, runs every Friday from noon to 2:00 p.m. throughout the summer at various Downtown locations.

Details are available at <http://www.downtownsandiego.org/sounds-of-summer/>.

## Ambitious Plan Would Transform Downtown Streets

By David Garrick | June 24, 2016

<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/jun/24/mobility-plan-san-diego-bicycle-pedestrian/>



San Diego — Cars will have to share downtown San Diego's streets much more evenly with bicyclists and pedestrians under an ambitious new plan that aims to boost safety and fight climate change.

The long-term plan, which the City Council unanimously approved on Tuesday, would transform many vehicle lanes and some on-street parking into miles of protected cycling lanes and pedestrian promenades.

It aims to reverse an oversight by city planners decades ago, when they designed downtown's streets with travel lanes only for cars and sidewalks only for pedestrians — leaving bicycles out of the equation.

San Diego is joining a growing list of cities trying to revamp their streets to make

cycling safer and more convenient, primarily because more bicycle commuting is considered crucial to reducing the greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change.

"The public owns our streets," said Stephen Haase, vice-chairman of the San Diego Planning Commission. "It's time to give pedestrians and cyclists equal priority with the almighty car."

The plan, called the Downtown Mobility Plan, has met some resistance from community leaders over locations of some protected cycling lanes and lost parking spots.

City officials stress that the routes chosen are the most ideal based on safety, convenience, connectivity and minimizing lost parking.

They also note that the plan actually increases downtown parking spaces in its first 10 years thanks to hundreds of parallel parking spots being converted to angled parking.

Parking would decrease by 477 spots over the 30-year duration of the plan, but that's a relatively small portion of the roughly 9,000 spots downtown has right now.

"Change is quite terrifying to people," Councilman Todd Gloria said during Tuesday's public hearing on the plan. "Hearings like this have happened all across the country as we try to de-carbonize our economy and give people more transportation choices."

The plan, which would cost \$62.5 million over 30 years, is supported by the local business community.

"The efficiency of our transportation network is directly connected to the efficiency of our economy," said Sean Karafin, executive director of policy and economic research for the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The plan would also help the city achieve some goals in the ambitious Climate Action Plan the council adopted last year.

The plan requires the number of people bicycling to work in the city's densely populated neighborhoods to increase from about 2 percent to 6 percent by 2020 and then to 18 percent by 2035. Some skeptics are doubtful that goal can be met.

Nicole Capretz, the primary author of the city's Climate Action Plan and the executive director of the nonprofit Climate Action Campaign, said the mobility plan is a big step because downtown is a crucial part of San Diego that sets the tone for other neighborhoods.

"This is an incredible moment for our city," she said.

Another environmental group, however, said the plan doesn't focus enough on boosting mass transit in downtown, which has several trolley stops and serves as the endpoint of several express bus routes.

"We want to thank you for the fantastic bike and walk components of the plan, but unfortunately this plan is a disaster," said Jana Clark, secretary of the Cleveland National Forest Foundation. "A mobility plan without transit is not a mobility plan."

City officials have said transit upgrades, while important, are not within the scope of the mobility plan.

The focus has instead been on cycling routes, said Brad Richter, assistant vice president of planning at Civic San Diego.

"We have very limited bicycle infrastructure in the downtown area," Richter said. "Either people don't feel safe bicycling or they ride on our public sidewalks, which creates safety hazards."

Richter said the city's plan borrowed concepts tried successfully in New York City, Seattle, Long Beach and Washington, D.C.

Those include cycle tracks, where one lane of the street is segregated from the rest to create a safe space for cyclists that is free of pedestrians and vehicles.

Sometimes cycle tracks are created by converting one travel lane of a street into parking and locating the cycle track between a row of parked cars and the sidewalk. Other times, travel lanes are narrowed to create space for a cycle track.

In downtown, the planned north-south cycle tracks would be on Pacific Highway, State Street, Sixth Avenue and Park Boulevard. The east-west cycle tracks would be on Beech Street, Broadway, J Street and small parts of B and C streets.

Richter said Calgary has quickly seen remarkable results from similar changes it made last summer. There has been a 95 percent increase in daily bike trips and sidewalk cycling has decreased from 17 percent to 3 percent.

Andy Hanshaw, executive director of the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition, said the changes would benefit everyone, not just avid cyclists.

“This network will serve all residents, employees and tourists,” said Hanshaw, noting that the downtown cycle tracks were strategically placed to connect to bike paths in surrounding cities and communities.

The plan also includes some “greenways,” or pedestrian promenades where a road lane previously used for parking or travel would become a landscaped area designed for pedestrians and socializing. One greenway is planned for 14th Street near Broadway, and another would be on Sixth Avenue between downtown and Balboa Park.

Kathleen Ferrier of the pedestrian advocacy group Circulate San Diego praised the plan.

“It will improve mobility choices by what we call ‘right sizing’ the streets — by using the extra capacity that exists now for cars to make way for people walking and biking,” she said. “It will improve safety and get more people out of their cars and on their feet and their bicycles.”

While cars would have less space on many downtown streets, the plan wouldn’t reduce travel lanes on important arterial roads such as Harbor Drive, Market Street, Park Boulevard and streets that directly handle traffic flow from Interstate 5, state Route 163 and state Route 94.

The cycling upgrades would eliminate 331 parking spots during the plan’s first three years, but the number of downtown spots would actually increase by 469 during that time frame because a projected 600 spots will be gained from switching parallel parking spots to angled parking spots and a parking structure planned for the East Village would add 200 more spots.

During years three through 10 of the plan, 242 spots would be lost to the greenways and pedestrian promenades, but the plan would still have a net positive of 227 spots.

In years 11 through 30, another 700 spots would be lost to cycling and pedestrian improvements, making the overall impact of the plan a loss of 477 spots.

Kris Michell, chief executive of the Downtown San Diego Partnership, said the parking loss prevented her group from endorsing the plan beyond the first 10 years. In addition, she said city officials should focus on replacing lost parking spots with new spots in the same general area, not just on downtown’s overall total number of spots.

For details on the plan, visit [downtownsdmobility.com](http://downtownsdmobility.com).



UC San Diego  
Extension

## Downtown San Diego Partnership and UC San Diego Extension launch Collaboratory for Downtown Innovation

Tuesday, June 28, 2016



Today, the Downtown San Diego Partnership and the University of California San Diego Extension announced a two-year initiative designed to support and strengthen Downtown's growing tech ecosystem. The partnership, which will be called the Collaboratory for Downtown Innovation, or CDI, will offer a variety of programs to help entrepreneurs develop the networks critical for future growth as well as provide business support and workforce training.



### Civic Leaders Launch Collaboratory for Downtown Innovation

By Brad Graves | June 28, 2016

<http://sdbj.com/news/2016/jun/28/civic-leaders-launch-collaboratory-downtown-innova/>

In a nod to the estimated 110 startups downtown, San Diego civic leaders took the wraps off the Collaboratory for Downtown Innovation on June 28. The University of California, San Diego Extension and the **Downtown San Diego Partnership** announced plans to work together for two years to support and strengthen downtown's tech ecosystem. The point of the organization, or CDI, is to make connections — particularly between downtown and the research-heavy Torrey Pines Mesa neighborhood to the north. Programs will operate out of the Downtown San Diego Partnership office. The partners plan an ideas forum, a talent accelerator and an entrepreneur exchange.

- To encourage collaboration and the exchange of ideas, CDI will develop a series of roundtables to connect downtown tech entrepreneurs with researchers and scientists at UC San Diego and on the Torrey Pines Mesa. These roundtables will provide participants an opportunity to learn from experts and discover new ways that science and technology intersect and identify new business opportunities.
- In addition, the CDI will leverage UC San Diego Extension's certificate and pre-college offerings to provide a variety of education and training programs, with a special focus on providing computer science and information technology skills to youth in underserved communities.
- To ensure that entrepreneurs at every stage of development have the support and mentorship needed to excel, CDI will offer a wide range of entrepreneurship support and incubation activities including skills development workshops and pre-accelerator programs.

# The San Diego Union-Tribune.

## 'Collaboratory' Brings UCSD Downtown

By Gary Warth | June 28, 2016

<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/jun/28/ucsd-downtown-partnership-collaboratory/>

SAN DIEGO — Seeing downtown as a new hub of innovation in the region, UC San Diego Extension and the **Downtown San Diego Partnership** are collaborating to unite young entrepreneurs with university experts to help startup businesses flourish.

The “Collaboratory for Downtown Innovation” will be a two-year initiative inside the Downtown San Diego Partnership’s head-quarters on B Street. It’s expected to open in mid-August and was called a first step downtown for the university during a Tuesday morning news conference at the site.

“This collaboration for downtown innovation is going to be a great boost for our economy and our startup community, which is thriving and growing in San Diego,” Mayor Kevin Faulconer said.

The “collaboratory” will host workshops where entrepreneurs will meet with researchers and scientists, mentor programs for new entrepreneurs, and educational opportunities in science and technology for middle and high school students in underserved communities.

The new attention to downtown represents a shift from Torrey Pines Mesa — home of the Science Research Park, Qualcomm, the Salk Institute and other entities — which for decades has been considered the center of innovation in the region.

In an April op-ed piece in The San Diego Union-Tribune, Downtown San Diego Partnership President and CEO Kris Michell and UC San Diego Extension Dean Mary Walshok recognized the need to create a stronger tie between the university and downtown.

Research conducted by the partnership and UC San Diego Extension had found that downtown is a magnet for millennials and startups in growing fields, they wrote.

Just as San Diego had once attracted physicists for its growing defense industry, they wrote, it now must focus on recruiting top-notch biologists, chemists and engineers to serve its growing life sciences and wireless communications industries.

“So how do we attract these computer scientists and software engineers?” they wrote. “You create an environment in which they want to live and work.”

The Collaboratory for Downtown Innovation will be a place for the new breed of entrepreneurs to learn from some of the top researchers and scientists from the university and the mesa.

“With more than 110 startups and counting, we know downtown is innovation’s next frontier,” Michell said at the news conference.

“To support the existing cluster, it’s critical we connect the known-how of UC San Diego and the Torrey Pines Mesa to help grow downtown’s emerging startup ecosystem,” she said.

Faulconer said the collaboration could help make San Diego an international hub of innovation.

The innovation center “will help create a tangible place for San Diego’s three defining qualities — talent, collaboration and innovation — to reside,” Faulconer said about the Collaboratory for Downtown Innovation.

Walshok said at the news conference that the collaboration will help UC San Diego’s effort to support and grow the region’s innovation economy and create a pipeline for talented youths.

“Our goal is to create coding academies, boot camps and programs for kids that get them into this wonderful world of innovation,” she said.

Frank Urtasun, chairman of the Downtown San Diego Partnership, said the collaboration also will use UC San Diego Extension’s certificate programs and pre-college classes to provide education and training programs in computer science and information technology skills to youths in underserved communities.

To prepare for the venture, the Downtown San Diego Partnership hired Andy White as its startup advocate. White had been working on the revitalization of downtown Las Vegas before coming aboard eight months ago.

“We want to give everyone an opportunity to earn additional resources to help development themselves,” White said.

Entrepreneurs with a startup, a business plan or just an idea will be able to meet for free with experts for advice on their next move, he said.

The “collaboratory” also will host forums about eight times a year to bring together people from UC San Diego and downtown businesses to brainstorm, White said.

“It will be engaging and interactive, as opposed to just a presentation about technology to business leaders,” he said. “We want to really talk about how this can be applied, where are the advantages, and how can we collaborate to get them from the idea stage in the lab out to a commercialized product,” he said.



## Partners Launch Collaboratory for Downtown Innovation

By David Phillips | June 28, 2016

<http://www.globest.com/sites/davidphillips/2016/06/27/partners-launch-collaboratory-for-downtown-innovation/?channel=markets&section=san-diego&slreturn=20160529150444>

SAN DIEGO—University of California San Diego Extension and the Downtown San Diego Partnership today launched a two-year initiative designed to support and strengthen Downtown’s growing tech ecosystem.

The partnership, which will be called the Collaboratory for Downtown Innovation, or CDI, will offer a variety of programs to help entrepreneurs develop the networks critical for future growth as well as provide business support and workforce training. The Collaboratory for Downtown Innovation, which is made possible by foundation and private funds, will operate from the Downtown San Diego Partnership’s redesigned offices and will serve as a hub for several programs, including:

**Ideas Forum:** To encourage collaboration and the exchange of ideas, CDI will develop a series of roundtables to connect Downtown tech entrepreneurs with researchers and scientists at UC San Diego and on the Torrey Pines Mesa. These roundtables will provide participants an opportunity to learn from experts and discover new ways that science and technology intersect and identify new business opportunities.

**Talent Accelerator:** Because talent is so critical to a thriving innovation economy, the CDI will leverage UC San Diego Extension’s robust certificate and pre-college offerings to provide a variety of education and training programs, with a special focus on providing computer science and information technology skills to youth in underserved communities.

**Entrepreneur Exchange:** To ensure that entrepreneurs at every stage of development have the support and mentorship needed to excel, CDI will offer a wide range of entrepreneurship support and incubation activities including skills development workshops and pre-accelerator programs.

UC San Diego Chancellor Pradeep Khosla said the new initiative will help the university to deliver on its Strategic Plan by strengthening the region’s innovation economy and ensuring educational and economic equity to middle and high school students in urban communities.

“Service to our community is a vital aspect of UC San Diego’s mission,” Chancellor Khosla said. “The Collaboratory for Downtown Innovation enables UC San Diego and the Downtown San Diego Partnership to work together to grow our regional economy and provide the education and training that ensures opportunity for all.”

Kris Michell, president and CEO of the Downtown San Diego Partnership, said the Collaboratory for Downtown Innovation is about tapping into the talent and expertise at UC San Diego and in the research institutions on the Torrey Pines Mesa to better inform the opportunities available to tech companies in Downtown in such growing sectors as cybersecurity, personalized medicine and big data.

“With more than 110 tech startups – and counting – in Downtown, we know that we are innovation’s next frontier,” Michell said. “We must do everything to connect the know-how at UC San Diego and on the Torrey Pine Mesa to help grow Downtown’s emerging tech ecosystem. The Collaboratory for Downtown Innovation is the first step in strengthening that connection with the entire community and the region’s larger economic goals.”

Mary Walshok, UC San Diego’s vice chancellor of public programs and dean of Extension, said CDI will be crucial in addressing San Diego’s skills gap by providing coding academies and other educational programs for middle and high school students, especially in underserved communities, as well as education and certificates relevant to the Downtown tech sector.

“We need to develop an inclusive innovation economy,” Walshok said. “To do that, we must offer cutting-edge educational programs that align with what our tech companies need and make certain that those programs are available to a wide range of San Diegans.”

San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer said the Collaboratory for Downtown Innovation represents the very best of San Diego.

“Our region is defined by our world-changing research and our commitment to collaboration,” he said. “This initiative cements that reputation and lays the foundation for new avenues of excellence, expanding our innovation economy so that when it comes to opportunity, we are all one San Diego. Kudos to the Downtown San Diego Partnership and UC San Diego Extension for working together to help write the next chapter for our region.”

# The Daily Transcript

## UCSD Extension, Downtown Partnership Launch Tech Initiative

Daily Transcript Staff Report | Tuesday, June 28, 2016

The University of California San Diego Extension and the Downtown San Diego Partnership on Tuesday announced an initiative to bolster the burgeoning technology ecosystem downtown.

The Collaboratory for Downtown Innovation (CDI) is a two-year initiative that will offer programs to help entrepreneurs build the necessary networks for growth as well as business support and workforce training.

"Service to our community is a vital aspect of UC San Diego's mission," said UC San Diego chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla.

"The Collaboratory for Downtown Innovation enables UC San Diego and the Downtown San Diego Partnership to work together to grow our regional economy and provide the education and training that ensures opportunity for all."

The CDI will encourage collaboration through a series of roundtables to connect downtown tech entrepreneurs with researchers at UC San Diego and the Torrey Pines Mesa.

"With more than 110 tech startups and counting in downtown, we know that we are innovation's next frontier," said Kris Michell, president and CEO of the Downtown San Diego Partnership. "We must do everything to connect the know-how at UC San Diego and on the Torrey Pine Mesa to help grow downtown's emerging tech ecosystem."

As a talent accelerator, the CDI will provide a variety of education and training programs, with an emphasis on teaching computer science and information technology skills to youth in underserved communities.

"We need to develop an inclusive innovation economy," said Mary Walshok, UC San Diego vice chancellor of public programs and dean of UCSD Extension. "To do that, we must offer cutting-edge educational programs that align with what our tech companies need and make certain that those programs are available to a wide range of San Diegans."

Entrepreneurs will receive mentorship and support via skills development workshops and other programs.

The CDI will operate out of the Downtown San Diego Partnership's renovated offices on B Street.



## UCSD Innovation Coming Downtown By Mindy Tucker Fletcher | July 5, 2016



<http://www.sandiegomagazine.com/HATCH/Summer-2016/Downtown-Buzz-A-Good-Week-for-San-Diego-Kickstarter-Campaigns/>

Acknowledging the innovation hub growing downtown, the Downtown Partnership and UCSD Extension have launched a new two-year effort to foster collaboration between the research cluster on the Mesa and the innovation happening downtown. "With more than 110 startups and counting, we know downtown is innovation's next frontier," said

**Downtown Partnership CEO Kris Michell**, according to the Union-Tribune. "To support the existing cluster, it's critical we connect the known-how of UC San Diego and the Torrey Pines Mesa to help grow downtown's emerging startup ecosystem."



## Addressing the homeless in East Village

By SDCNN Staff | July 1, 2016

<http://sandiegodowntownnews.com/addressing-the-homeless-in-east-village/>

In a letter to East Village residents, Joan Wojcik, president of the East Village Residents Group (EVRG), acknowledged the alarming rise in homeless population in the neighborhood and announced that Mayor Faulconer will meet with Wojcik and EVRG's Social Issues Committee on July 12 to address the problem. San Diego Downtown Partnership's Clean & Safe program conducted a head count in May 2016, which shows a 100 percent increase in homeless since May of 2015, 785 compared to 386, respectively. It also noted a 200 percent increase in the last four years (251 to 785).

The Social Issues Committee compiled an updated report (available here), which includes effects of the recent increase on the residents and also the quality of life of the homeless. It also suggests possible reasons for the increase and recommendations on possible solutions to resolve the issue.

Also in the report, which was approved by the EVRG board and will be provided to the mayor at the July 12 meeting, are photographs of encampments and trash accumulation.

In advance of EVRG's meeting with the mayor, Wojcik is encouraging all East Village residents to write letters to either the mayor, City Councilmember Todd Gloria or Councilmember-elect Chris Ward.

Residents can either write their own letters or use one of the two form letters Wojcik has drafted (which are available here and here)

Download the report and the forms or draft your own letter and send them to Mayor Kevin Faulconer, [kevinfaulconer@sandiego.gov](mailto:kevinfaulconer@sandiego.gov); Councilmember Todd Gloria, [ToddGloria@sandiego.gov](mailto:ToddGloria@sandiego.gov); and Councilmember elect Chris Ward, [Chris@voteforward.com](mailto:Chris@voteforward.com).

Questions, comments and copies of forwarded letters should go to Joan Wojcik, president East Village Residents Group, [eastvillageresidentsgroup@yahoo.com](mailto:eastvillageresidentsgroup@yahoo.com).

## Downtown Calendar – July 2016

<http://sandiegodowntownnews.com/downtown-calendar-july-2016/>

### Third annual 'Sounds of Summer' pop-up concert series | Friday, July 7 – Friday, Sept. 9

This concert series by the **Downtown San Diego Partnership** is already under way with many more dates to come. These free shows feature local musicians at three various Downtown locations on Fridays from noon – 2 p.m. Artists to be featured in July include: Anna Vaus, Ezekiel Jay and Jon Campos on July 8; Neil Selinger, Anna Vaus, and Tony Palkovic on July 15; Ezekiel Jay, David Maldonado, and The Heart on July 22; and Tony Palkovic, Pat Dowling, and Tori Roze with Johnny Alexander on July 29. Visit [bit.ly/293iUE5](http://bit.ly/293iUE5) for specific locations of each performance