



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Downtown Partnership Announces Alonzo Award Winners**

*Event celebrates people, places and projects helping to fuel  
Downtown's ongoing revitalization*

Before a crowd of nearly 800, the Downtown San Diego Partnership tonight will honor the very best of Downtown at its 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Alonzo Awards Dinner. The Alonzo Awards, named after Alonzo Horton considered the father of modern San Diego, are designed to recognize the people, places and projects responsible for fueling Downtown's revitalization with innovative programs and projects.

Kris Michell, president and CEO of the Partnership, said the Alonzo Awards highlight the great things happening in Downtown and highlight the importance of a vibrant urban core for the entire region.

"From our growing reputation as an innovation hub, to our thriving arts and culture scene, to our skyline praised for its architectural distinction, Downtown continues to deliver a new era of prosperity for the entire region," said Kris Michell, president and CEO of the Downtown San Diego Partnership. "Tonight's honorees are playing a leading role in Downtown's ongoing renewal. We are thrilled to recognize them."

#### **The 2015 Alonzo Awards winners are:**

##### **Sustainable Business Practices Award:**

BRIDGE Housing's Celadon at 9th & Broadway isn't just named after a shade of green, it's the embodiment of "going green." With its best-in-class environmental design, this affordable housing project covers a portion of its own electrical costs with the use of a 143-foot-tall photovoltaic system – the tallest of its kind in North America. A 2,400-gallon rooftop solar water heating system is expected to cover about half of its hot water heating needs. Celadon also features an eco-roof and drought-tolerant landscaping. Located at 9th and Broadway, Celadon's proximity to a robust set of public transit options encourages residents to reduce their carbon footprint and limits car trips. Celadon is expected to receive LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program. Beyond its sustainable design, this 17-story development offers 250 units of affordable family housing, 88 are designated for permanent supportive housing.

### **Vic Kops Humanitarian Award:**

Inspired by the need to provide services to homeless individuals with dignity and respect, Cox Communications, Father Joe's Villages, The Rock Church and Loving Spoonfuls have worked together to help communicate and coordinate services to better meet the needs of Downtown's homeless population. This multi-phase effort to transform the way we provide meals to the homeless in Downtown has culminated in the creation of The San Diego Meal Service Program, a volunteer web portal and a public service campaign educating the region about how to effectively donate their time and energy to those in need. As respected leaders in the homeless services and faith-based communities they serve, Deacon Jim Vargas of Father Joe's Villages and Pastor Miles McPherson of The Rock Church, generously donated their time and platform to speak on behalf of the program and its mission. Elaine Therrien of Loving Spoonfuls and the Downtown Partnership's Clean & Safe program created the San Diego Meal Service Program website, which is a centralized community platform designed to connect public feeding groups with local service providers. Cox Communications has been instrumental in this effort by providing the resources necessary to produce and air Public Service Announcements (PSAs). Together, this coalition of community leaders is redirecting good intentions into positive outcomes for the betterment of Downtown and the entire region.

### **Build Your Business Award:**

San Diego-based Cisterra Development invites you to experience Downtown's East Village. Responsible for the development of a new 16-story facility located at 8<sup>th</sup> and J Street, Cisterra has created an iconic and distinctive structure fitting for its new tenant, Sempra Energy. The Sempra Energy Headquarters Building includes 330,000 square feet of office space, 500 parking spaces, and green building features designed for LEED Gold certification. The headquarters is also credited with breathing new life into the streets of East Village during business hours with its more than 700 employees frequenting restaurants and shops in the area. The Sempra Energy Headquarters Building marks the second successful development for Cisterra in East Village. Opening in 2007, DiamondView Tower served as a benchmark for Class A office space in the area and has achieved record rental rates ever since.

### **Made to Move Award:**

The San Diego County Regional Airport Authority (SDCRAA) understands that people want to not only get Downtown, they want to easily move around Downtown. With a series of capital improvements at San Diego International Airport, SDCRAA is making it easier than ever to access the airport and its services while reducing traffic flow on surrounding roadways. Specifically, the highly anticipated rental car center will house most rental car companies serving the airport in a single location on the north side of the airport, just off Pacific Highway. Customers will ride from the facility to the terminals in new, alternative-fuel airport shuttles on an all-new interior airport roadway. This will remove all rental car shuttles and most rental cars from Harbor Drive, dramatically reducing traffic. To further optimize efficiency, construction will soon begin on a state-of-the-art parking plaza next to Terminal 2, which will provide much-needed parking and will offer smart technology designed to reduce total vehicle trips and reduce circulating and idling times. Whether you are visiting Downtown, traveling around Downtown, or getting out of town, the SDCRAA keeps you moving.

### **Innovation Award**

Fab Lab is more than a co-working space; it's a birthplace of invention and ingenuity. Located in Makers Quarter, this nonprofit makerspace is helping to shape Downtown's future as a hub for innovation. More than \$100k worth of professional manufacturing equipment, low cost workshops and STEM curriculum enable Fab Lab to position Downtown for the 21st century. With its commitment to celebrating the art of what's possible, Fab Lab is becoming a magnet for makers, artists and doers – anyone looking to give

form to their ideas. If you haven't been to Fab Lab, it's time to visit and get a glimpse of the exciting work that is helping East Village make a name for itself as Downtown's most innovative neighborhood.

### **Downtown Hero Award**

To ensure that Downtown San Diego will be the choice for a new generation of residents, it must offer clean and safe streets and attractive parks and open space. That is why the Downtown Partnership's Clean & Safe property and business improvement district has worked around the clock for the past 15 years to provide enhanced safety and maintenance services and a robust beautification program. In June of 2015, the program was set to expire and Downtown needed a hero. The City of San Diego, together with thousands of property owners, stepped up to overwhelmingly support the program's 10-year extension. Because of that support, Clean & Safe launched its new program on July 1, 2015 with a renewed sense of purpose and enthusiasm for ensuring the urban center looks its very best for years to come. Mayor Kevin Faulconer, Councilmember Todd Gloria and City Attorney Jan Goldsmith are receiving the 2015 Downtown's Hero Award on behalf of the City of San Diego and all those involved.

### **Make Your Place Award:**

Welcome to Urban Discovery Academy (UDA): Downtown's first K-8 charter school. This \$10.5 million state-of-the-art school in the heart of I.D.E.A District embraces the spirit of learning and innovation in this emerging neighborhood. UDA's student body represents more than 450 students from around the region. Amenities include a performing arts space, a visual arts studio complete with a kiln, silk screening, paper making equipment and a darkroom, topped off with a dramatic rooftop playground with spectacular views of Downtown. The school's design combines the renovation of an existing classic structure with new construction that is designed to inject modern, architectural elements into the East Village streetscape. School begins each morning with the ringing of a 100-year-old cast bronze bell. Located on the west side of 14th street between E and F, Urban Discovery Academy is preparing students for the demands of the 21st century workplace today.

### **Founder's Award:**

When Sempra Energy's lease was set to expire, the Fortune 500 company had to decide – would they stay in Downtown San Diego or move to another part of town? There were many options. But in the end, they knew that Downtown provided the perfect place to grow their global business. Fast forward two years and Sempra Energy is accentuating the Downtown skyline and elevating employment culture in East Village. More than 800 employees work to meet customer needs and develop energy infrastructure each day from their new 300,000-square-foot facility located between Seventh and Eighth avenues in the Ballpark District. The company's proximity to restaurants, nightlife and local businesses has helped integrate their employees into the urban community and created the perfect setting for Sempra to recruit innovative millennial talent. Relocating to East Village would not have been possible without the visionary leadership of the Sempra management team. Their determined work with community organizations like the Downtown Partnership helped their 16-story headquarters become a reality.

### **Volunteer of the Year Award:**

Some volunteers give time. Some give money. Others give knowledge or professional expertise. David Hazan gives it all, and has been for the past 40 years. His passion for East Village began long before the neighborhood had an official name, working in sales for Ratner Clothing -- a men's clothing manufacturer whose factory and headquarters are now occupied by the New School of Architecture. As the co-founder of the East Village Business Improvement District, a longtime member of the East Village Association and the organization's current president, David is the very definition of a vocal community champion. He has been a catalyst for change during the most transformational years in East Village's history, pushing for

the end of neighborhood blight, advocating for business attraction and comprehensive solutions to ending homelessness. David has left an indelible mark on East Village and Downtown, and for that we are deeply grateful.

The event is being held at the **Manchester Grand Hyatt**, which is located at **1 Market Place in Downtown**. The reception begins at 5:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m.

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