

Media Highlights

Downtown San Diego Partnership Clean & Safe Program

JUNE 13 - JULY 7, 2017



Hundreds Take Part In Free Downtown Workouts

June 17, 2017



A local gym and the **Downtown San Diego Partnership** teamed up to shut down a block in downtown this morning – all in the name of fitness. Hundreds of people showed up to take part in workouts that included crossfit, yoga, and even a spin class. Event organizers says it’s all about encouraging San Diegans to live healthy, fit lifestyles.

A Visualization Of The Top Players In San Diego's Innovation Economy

June 20, 2017

<https://www.ventureapp.com/blog/visualization-san-diegos-innovation-economy/>

A few months ago, I spoke on the phone with **Andy White, a startup advocate with the Downtown San Diego Partnership**. He came across our network visualization of Boston's tech ecosystem and wanted to discuss creating a similar visualization for San Diego's innovation economy. So we connected, while he was at a coffee shop on the beach no less, and quickly realized a great opportunity to launch VentureMap San Diego.

From that coffee shop, Andy told me all about the city's burgeoning tech community and specifically, the money pouring into tech and biotech startups from local investors keen on developing a competitive tech hub on the west coast. Now, taking a look at the finished network visualization, he was right.

We timed this launch with San Diego Startup Week – five days of more than 250 events taking place this week. As is always the goal with VentureApp's network visualizations, we hope VentureMap San Diego will help professionals and founders navigate their community, illuminating mutual funding connections and pathways for startups to connect with new investors. Specifically, we're staying focused on local investors funding local startups.

Here are a few key players making big investment moves in San Diego – on both the startup and investor side.

EvoNexus is a tech startup incubator in San Diego with the goal of empowering entrepreneurs to turn their ideas into commercially viable companies. They've made 48 investments into San Diego startups – close to 18% of total investment activity in the city. Some of their well-known investments include LoanHero, Edico Genome, CourseKey, Aira, AttackIQ, and more.

Domain Associates is a venture capital firm with \$2B in capital, founded in 1985 with an exclusive focus on life sciences. They've made 26 investments into San Diego startups – close to 10% of total investment activity in the city. Some of their well-known investments include Syndax, TargetRx, ReVision Optics, Otonomy, Benvenue Medical, and more.

Mission Ventures is focused on building successful enterprises in Southern California by investing in the most promising early-stage companies in high growth, emerging markets, and providing significant assistance to those companies as they develop. They've made 19 investments into San Diego startups – around 7% of total investment activity in the city. Some of their most notable portfolio companies include Oracle, Eveo, Alpine Data Labs, Enevate, Nirvanix, and SodaHead.

Qualcomm Ventures is the corporate venture capital arm of Qualcomm, Inc., the public company known for its 3G, 4G, and wireless technologies. With 11 investments into San Diego startups, it's responsible for around 4% of investment activity in the city. Notable investments include Digital Orchid, AttackIQ, Edico Genome, Playdek, and more.

And, if we learned one thing looking at the investments these local funds are making – it's the sheer dominance of biotech in San Diego. So we created VentureMap San Diego Biotech – close to 100 investments into 74 businesses by 34 investors. Explore the businesses that are raking in funding from local investors.



San Diego Mayor Pushing One Of State's Most Aggressive Packages For Addressing Housing Crisis Justin Ewers | June 21, 2017



<http://caeconomy.org/reporting/entry/san-diego-mayor-pushing-one-of-states-most-aggressive-packages-for-addressi>

San Diego mayor Kevin Faulconer unveiled one of the most aggressive--and comprehensive--approaches in the state for tackling his city's growing housing affordability crisis on Wednesday, following up on a pledge earlier this year to address rising prices by accelerating housing approvals and expanding supply.

"The state's housing shortage and the unaffordable housing market it spawned has left the dream of homeownership out of reach for the majority of San Diegans," Mayor Faulconer said in a press conference today. "The only way to change that is to build more housing that people can actually afford. Hardworking folks who love San Diego and want to live in San Diego should not be priced out of San Diego."

Faulconer's housing package includes a dozen different proposals for bringing building costs down--and getting more homes built more quickly. Many of these ideas first emerged in a 2015 San Diego Housing Commission study and have been working their way through the City Council's Smart Growth and Land Use Committee this spring.

The CA Economic Summit wrote about the effort this spring, highlighting the city's unique focus on workforce housing needs, the breadth of the policy concepts under consideration, and the diversity of the coalition rallying behind the need for more housing:

Faulconer's call to arms may not sound that dissimilar from the rhetoric emerging from other parts of the state, as rising prices make living in California increasingly unaffordable. But the San Diego mayor's framing of the problem—and the solutions the city is developing with a unique coalition of business associations, labor groups, environmentalists, and builders—are fundamentally different.

The mayor's proposals, which Faulconer said he hoped to see implemented over the next year, include specific code amendments to streamline the development review process, provide greater incentives to builders to develop denser projects with below-market units, and change municipal rules to make it easier for existing homeowners to build second dwellings on their property. The mayor has also prioritized increasing funding for low-income housing and revising parking standards to lower development costs.

Among the mayor’s most far-reaching ideas is a provision to allow projects to take advantage of existing CEQA streamlining processes in infill areas. The package also includes plans to reduce the impact of developer fees, calling for a revised methodology based on square footage, instead of the number of units in each proposed development.

Perhaps most importantly, the mayor has also asked the city to begin providing an annual report on the city’s housing inventory. “What gets measured gets managed,” as a fact sheet released by the mayor’s office puts it. “Currently, the City of San Diego does not do a comprehensive report of its housing inventory and greater housing outlook.” In his housing plan, the mayor calls for a report of existing inventory, the number of units approved, as well as vacancy rates and other metrics—all beginning this summer.

Faulconer’s actions, many of them derived from years of work by other local leaders, are drawing praise from across the broad coalition that has emerged in the last few years to push for solutions to the city’s housing crisis.

“The lack of middle-class housing is a major consideration for businesses and young talent looking to relocate to San Diego,” **Kris Michell, president & CEO of the Downtown San Diego Partnership**. “The Mayor’s proposal to slash permitting times for entry-level housing, affordable to young millennials and working families, is critical to attracting talent and building a stronger economy.”

While selling the mayor’s proposals across the sometimes growth-wary region remains a political challenge, Mary Lydon, executive director of the Housing You Matters coalition, believes the foundation has been laid locally to achieve something few other big cities in California have accomplished: Moving ahead with a major new push to increase housing supplies.



Affordable Housing Plan For San Diego

Fox5 Morning News | June 22, 2017



Kris Michell, president and CEO of the **Downtown San Diego Partnership**, joins the morning news team to discuss the Mayor’s recently unveiled plan to provide more affordable housing for middle income San Diegans.



**Mayor Faulconer Unveils a Dozen Proposals To Address Lack Of Affordable Housing
Good Morning San Diego | June 26, 2017**



<http://www.kusi.com/clip/13443007/mayors-housing-affordability-plan>

Good Morning San Diego host Carlos Amezcua sits down with **Kris Michell, president and CEO of the Downtown San Diego Partnership** to discuss the affordable housing proposals recently unveiled by Mayor Kevin Faulconer.



Sounds of Summer Launch | June 30, 2017



Vice President of External Affairs Lise Koerschgen highlights the successful launch of Sounds of Summer on the FOX5
1:00 p.m. news.