



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Downtown San Diego Partnership Recognizes 2022 Create the Future Awards Recipients**

*Annual Awards Program Highlights Doers, Innovators Influencing Future of Downtown and Previews Upcoming 2021 Demographic Study Results*

**SAN DIEGO – March 28, 2022** – Attendees of the 2022 Create the Future Awards received a glimpse into the bright future of Downtown San Diego and what's next for this market on the rise with the recognition of awardees at the 2022 Create the Future Awards. With a changing skyline, resilient neighborhoods, and a community that's innovating, attendees learned more about what some of Downtown's best and brightest are doing to dream big and create a future worth watching.

Inspired by the tradition of excellence demonstrated at The Alonzo Awards, the Create the Future Awards recognized 11 of Downtown's doers, helpers, and innovators thanks to presenting sponsor SDG&E. As in previous years, this included those championing milestone projects, leading groundbreaking initiatives, and finding creative ways to enhance the Downtown experience. New award categories were also added to recognize those who exemplify the Downtown Partnership's mission of advancing an economically prosperous and culturally vibrant urban center and who are taking a page from Alonzo Horton himself to reimagine what our Downtown can be.

In addition to the awards program, attendees received a sneak preview of key highlights from the Downtown Partnership's 2021 Demographic Study which will be available in April.

Awards were presented to the following recipients in each category:

- The **Government Elected Official of the Year Award**, sponsored by ACE Parking, was presented to San Diego County Board of Supervisors Chair, Nathan Fletcher, for his continued effort to lead the region's COVID-19 response and innovative solutions for our unsheltered population.
- The **Government Partner of the Year Award**, sponsored by Intesa Communications Group, was presented to the City of San Diego's Director of Economic Development,

Christina Bibler, for her support in advancing an economically prosperous and culturally vibrant Downtown.

- The **Small Business of the Year Award**, sponsored by Banner Bank, was presented to Old Gallery Coffee House & Swami's Café Downtown for their amazing resiliency to not only survive pandemic-related challenges, but to expand their business due to the loyal support of the Downtown community.
- The **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award**, sponsored by Cox Communications, was presented to David's Harp Foundation for their work to inspire, educate and empower system-affected and homeless youth to achieve academic success through the arts.
- The **Grow Urban Award**, sponsored by Republic Services, was presented to Kilroy Realty Corporation's 2100 Kettner for setting a new standard for sustainable real estate development for the region at large.
- The **Cultural Vitality Award**, sponsored by Rudolph & Sletten and Bergelectric, was presented to the San Diego Symphony's Rady Shell at Jacobs Park for elevating San Diego's vibrant cultural and arts scene with a state-of-the-art concert venue that doubles as a public center for the entire city.
- The **Economic Prosperity Award**, sponsored by Holland Partner Group + NASH, was presented to the Port of San Diego, Protea Properties, and SLP Urban Planning for the Seaport Village Revitalization effort and its successful transformation of Seaport Village into an attractive destination incorporating human-centered design improvements and engaging programming to secure visitor satisfaction and a 95% occupancy rate
- The **Vic Kops Humanitarian Award**, sponsored by U.S. Bank, was presented to the San Diego Convention Center for their work creating a blueprint and serving as a national model as an emergency shelter for unaccompanied migrant children.
- The **Jim Dawe Memorial Volunteer of the Year Award**, sponsored by San Diego State University's Mission Valley Innovation District, was presented to Joe Ciavarella and the Friends of Tweet Street Park for their collective efforts to restore and beautify their local linear park.
- The **Create the Future Award**, sponsored by Procopio, was presented to Park and Market Mixed-Use Development for its creative mix of public and private space to meet the region's critical needs while also paving the way for the future of innovation.
- The **Founders Award**, sponsored by Bank of America, was presented to Dr. Mary L. Walshok, PhD for her career-spanning leadership to further the region's economic growth.

Please [click here](#) to view the Create the Future Awards program for more information about each awardee, sponsors and more.

To learn more about the Downtown San Diego Partnership, visit [downtownsandiego.org](http://downtownsandiego.org).

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*The **Downtown San Diego Partnership** is a nonprofit organization that serves as the principal voice and driving force behind the economic and cultural prosperity of Downtown San Diego through membership, advocacy, and public services. It also serves as the managing organization for several special districts including the Clean & Safe program that provide essential public services in the 275 blocks of Downtown. For more information, visit [downtownsandiego.org](http://downtownsandiego.org).*