



BETSY BRENNAN (06 & 18)

President & CEO

Downtown San Diego Partnership

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Since February 2018, Betsy Brennan has led the Downtown San Diego Partnership as President and CEO. The Downtown Partnership is a member-based organization whose mission is to promote Downtown as the economically prosperous and culturally vibrant heart of the San Diego region.

The Downtown Partnership proudly serves more than 400 member businesses, representing thousands of residents, employees, and Downtown property owners. Betsy leads a professional staff of 14, a homeless outreach team of almost 10, and a maintenance and safety staff of 100. In addition to the advocacy and membership functions you might be familiar with, she and her team are also responsible for administering the Clean & Safe Program, a \$9 million Property and Business Improvement District of the City of San Diego which offers enhanced maintenance and safety services across 275 blocks in the heart of Downtown San Diego. She also leads and serves on the boards of the Downtown Partnership's related entities including the Center City Business Improvement District, the Columbia District Foundation, and the Foundation for Public Spaces that bring innovative ideas and programs to benefit Downtown's neighborhoods.

Betsy obtained her Juris Doctor, with a specialization in land use, at the University of San Diego (2003). After law school, Betsy served as Chief of Staff for the City of San Diego's first-ever City Council President, Scott Peters, and was integral in the transition to a strong-mayor form of government, as well as in the establishment of the roles and policies for the San Diego City Council (2002 to 2008).

Betsy has a proven track record of leading civic engagement, grassroots community involvement, external relations, economic development, and innovative programs for institutions such as the Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina (VP of Development, 2016-2018), Tahoe Forest Health System in Lake Tahoe (Executive Director, Foundation, 2015-2016), Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (Chief of Staff to President, 2011-2015), and San Diego State University (Chief of Staff to President, 2008-2011).

She holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in International Politics and Spanish from the University of Richmond in Virginia (1998). Betsy is a proud graduate of several statewide leadership programs - including Lead San Diego (Impact Class of 2006 and Influence Class of 2018) and Leadership CA (2011) - and has served on several local nonprofit boards of directors, including her current positions on the boards of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, the San Diego Regional EDC, the University of San Diego School of Law Board of Visitors, and the Columbia Community Foundation. Betsy is also a member of *Lambda Alpha International*, an honorary and selective group of professionals who have distinguished themselves in various disciplines that relate to the use and economics of land and real estate.

Betsy has received several noteworthy acknowledgements of her community commitment, including *San Diego Business Journal's* "500 Most Influential Business Leaders" (2019), *San Diego Magazine's* "50 People to Watch" (2008), *San Diego Metropolitan Magazine's* "Top 40 Under 40" (2010), *San Luis Obispo Tribune's* "Top 20 Under 40" (2013), and SDSU's Associated Students Presidential Leadership Award for working alongside students to better serve the greater San Diego community (2011).

Betsy, her husband, Eli, and their children are grateful to enjoy living in and discovering San Diego.