
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEAD SAN DIEGO HONORS COMMUNITY LEADERS AT 21ST ANNUAL VISIONARY AWARDS

Five awards presented to those whose passion and commitment are improving the San Diego region.

SAN DIEGO (September 14, 2023) – Today, LEAD San Diego brought together nearly 600 business, community, and elected leaders for the 21st annual Visionary Awards, San Diego’s premier leadership recognition event. The event celebrated the work of five honorees whose passion and commitment to our community are leading the region forward.

"Tonight, we celebrate local leaders who continue to shape a future filled with limitless possibilities," said **Kerri Verbeke Kapich, LEAD San Diego 2023 Board Chair, and Chief Operating Officer for the San Diego Tourism Authority**. "Our honorees are a reminder of the potential for change-making leadership that each of us holds. I hope that by celebrating their achievements, everyone at the Visionary Awards is inspired to find ways they can make a difference as well."

"LEAD has a long history of inspiring and equipping civically minded community leaders ready to bring their skills and passions to positively impact our region," said **Jerry Sanders, President & CEO, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and LEAD San Diego**. "Tonight’s honorees embody that mission and through their innovative ideas, collaborative approaches, and commitment to the greater good are making our community a better place."

Five local leaders and organizations were recognized for their contributions to the region’s growth and potential through their time, talent, and innovation. This year’s Visionary Award honorees include:

The Neil Morgan Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement – [Alan Ziter, former Executive Director, NTC Foundation](#)

The Ronald Kendrick Memorial Award for Regional Collaboration – [USS Midway Museum](#)

The Charles Nathanson Memorial Award for Cross-Border Region Building – [Rady Children’s Hospital International Outreach Project](#)

Innovation & Economic Opportunity Award – [San Diego Wave FC](#)

2023 Community Spotlight Award - [Dr. Teresa Smith, Dreams of Change](#)

[Click here for 2023 Visionary Awards Media and b-roll.](#)

The 2023 Visionary Awards are sponsored by U.S. Bank, ABC 10News San Diego, Wells Fargo, Alaska Airlines, Qualcomm, SDG&E, Shipyard, Southwest Airlines, SDSU Mission Valley Innovation District, Cox Communications, Marsh McLennan, UCSD, National University, Manpower, Buford Alexander, Blair Search Partners, Hunter Industries, Kaiser Permanente, San Diego Foundation, Rady Children's Hospital, Moss Adams, PNC Bank, San Diego Tourism Authority, SDSU, USD Knauss School of Business, Armed Services YMCA, Asian, Business Association, California State University San Marcos, Clark Construction, Comic-Con International, Intesa Communications Group, MAAC, Nikki Clay, Nuffer, Smith, Tucker Public Relations, Port of San Diego, Promises2Kids, Reality Changers, Junior Achievement San Diego County, Republic Services, San Diego Wave FC, Alan Ziter, San Diego Zoo & Wildlife Alliance, UPAC, The Antorge Group, The Old Globe, Torrey Pines Bank, USS Midway Museum, YMCA of San Diego County

About LEAD San Diego

LEAD is 501 (c)(3) affiliate of the San Diego Regional Chamber. LEAD San Diego aims to create a network of leaders equipped with the skills, insight, and passion needed to work collaboratively across industries and issues to transform their communities and country.

As the nonpartisan, leadership development arm of the San Diego Regional Chamber, LEAD San Diego offers a diverse suite of programs designed to mobilize leaders by enhancing knowledge of key regional issues, strengthening personal leadership skills, and establishing strong community connections. For more information, please visit sdchamber.org/lead.

About the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

The San Diego Regional Chamber is the hub for connections and collaboration among the regional business community and uses that clout to advocate for public policies and candidates that support economic growth and the creation of jobs for all businesses. As the largest local Chamber on the West Coast, representing approximately 2,500 businesses and an estimated 300,000 jobs, the San Diego Regional Chamber is working to make the San Diego region the best place to live and work. For more information, please visit SDChamber.org or call 619-544-1300.

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