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CHAMBER NAMES 2026 SMALL BUSINESS AWARD WINNERS

Five local small businesses were honored for their contributions to the San Diego region's economy and communities.

SAN DIEGO (July 10, 2026)— Yesterday, the [San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce](http://www.sdchamber.org) honored five local, small businesses for their significant contributions to our communities and regional economy through the annual [Small Business Awards](#).

“Small businesses are the heart of our economy: fueling innovation, creating jobs, and defining the character of communities across the San Diego region,” said **Chris Cate, President and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce**. “We celebrate the resilience, ingenuity, and community impact of our small business leaders. They are the very spirit behind our purpose to champion business and empower leaders. Congratulations to all of this year’s finalists and winners; we are proud to support and celebrate you today and every day!”

Chamber member businesses with 100 or fewer employees were eligible to apply or be nominated for awards in four categories: Community All-Star, Customers First, Nonprofit Leader, and Outstanding Diversity-Owned Business. In addition, Chamber leadership and staff selected one member to receive a fifth award, Legacy Partner.

This year's winners are:

- [Pro Kids, First Tee – San Diego](#) — Winner of the **Community All-Star Award**, which recognizes a small business that is dedicated to helping others and making a positive impact in the community.
- [Intesa Communications Group](#) — Winner of the **Customers First Award**, which recognizes a small business that makes customer service its top priority and sets itself apart from the competition.
- [Youth Empowerment](#) — Winner of the **Nonprofit Leader Award**, which recognizes a nonprofit organization contributing to meaningful change and helping to make our region the best place to live and work.
- [Valerio's Bakeshop](#) — Winner of the **Outstanding Diversity-Owned Business Award**, which recognizes the success of a small business contributing to the growth and diversity of San Diego's economy.
- [Buckboard Catering & Events](#) was honored with the **Legacy Partner Award**, which recognizes a long-standing Chamber member small business that exemplifies outstanding engagement and partnership.

All award nominations (excluding Legacy Partner) were evaluated by a panel of Chamber members who reviewed applications and scored them based on how well they met the award category criteria. Winners were selected based on the highest score in each category.

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce is the largest local chamber on the West Coast serving approximately 2,000 members, 70% of which are small businesses.

To set up an interview with the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce President and



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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 more than 2,000 businesses and an estimated 300,000 jobs, the San Diego Regional Chamber is working to champion business and empower leaders. For more information, please visit SDChamber.org or call 619-544-1300.