



Project Title/Subject: Building NGO Networks Proposal

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NPA: World Learning

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#### Why San Diego:

San Diego is a vibrant center of innovation and social impact, where a growing network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) drives progress on local and global issues. Ranked as one of the top cities for social entrepreneurship in the U.S., San Diego's NGOs focus on a broad range of causes, including education, environmental sustainability, public health, and human rights. The city's diverse demographic—encompassing communities such as immigrants, refugees, youth of color, and the LGBTQIA+ community—provides a rich tapestry for inclusive, grassroots initiatives.

The synergy between local government, academia, and NGOs has created a dynamic ecosystem of collaboration, enabling San Diego to be recognized as a leader in fostering social change and sustainable development on both a national and global scale. Whether addressing urgent community needs or shaping international policy, San Diego's NGOs are helping to set a global standard for impactful philanthropy and activism.

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## **NGOs Influence on Legislation**

### **The International Rescue Committee San Diego**

<https://www.rescue.org/united-states/san-diego-ca>

The International Rescue Committee provides opportunities for refugees, asylees, victims of human trafficking, survivors of torture, and other immigrants to thrive in America. Each year, thousands of people, forced to flee violence and persecution, are welcomed by the people of the United States into the safety and freedom of America. These individuals have survived against incredible odds. The IRC collaborates closely with government bodies, civil society actors, and local volunteers to support refugees, asylum-seekers, and other immigrants in San Diego, as they work to rebuild their lives.

*Meeting Focus: Meet with their media team to understand how they structure their advocacy and campaigns for maximum effectiveness at the state, and federal level.*

### **Alliance San Diego**

Mobilizing for Change <https://www.alliancesd.org/>

Alliance San Diego is a community organization whose mission is to build collective power for an inclusive democracy. By working together to engage effectively in the civic process, they mobilize systemic change and shape a future that belongs to all. Their work is to develop leaders, engage communities, shape narratives, change policies, and protect rights while standing on the core values of inclusion, compassion, justice, collaboration, and integrity.

*Meeting Focus: Understand how Alliance San Diego is influencing legislation by building community power and civic participation to create a powerful tool for social change.*

### **San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium**

<https://www.immigrantsandiego.org/>

Immigrants and refugees are our family, neighbors, classmates and friends, and are an integral part of our region. They should be welcomed and treated with dignity and respect. The San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium (SDIRC) advocates for policies that advance the human and civil rights of immigrants and refugees on the local, state and federal levels, and monitors the implementation of local and state policies in San Diego County.

*Meeting Focus: Learn how the SDIRC monitors immigration policies and advocates for more humane treatment of immigrants at local, state, and federal levels.*

## **Government Resources Advancing NGOs**

### **City of San Diego, Economic Development, Non-Profit Programs**

<https://www.sandiego.gov/economic-development/nonprofit-programs>

The City of San Diego provides grants to a diverse portfolio of NGOs. To encourage contracts with the city, the city hosts several programs that help accelerate nonprofit development: The San Diego Nonprofit Academy, The San Diego Nonprofit Academy Workshop series, and the Nonprofit Accelerator.

#### **The San Diego Nonprofit Academy**

<https://www.sandiego.gov/cdbg/nonprofit-academy>

An award-winning partnership between the City of San Diego and The Nonprofit Institute at the University of San Diego, the City of San Diego Nonprofit Academy is a free, two-day training program designed to strengthen nonprofits' effective management and organizational capacity in San Diego.

The academy aims to grow existing nonprofits and increase the quantity, quality, and diversity of nonprofits competing for City contracts to perform valuable social services. The program also hosts several workshops.

#### **The City of San Diego Nonprofit Accelerator**

<https://www.sandiego.gov/cdbg/apps>

Administered through the Community Development Block Grant, the City of San Diego Nonprofit Accelerator assists small and emerging organizations that would otherwise be unable to apply for funding. The program provides training and consultation in governance, financial management, grant writing, program evaluation, and change management. NGOs that complete this program are awarded fifty thousand to complete a project to serve low- and moderate-income clientele in San Diego.

*Meeting Focus: Discuss how the city works in strengthening nonprofit management through accelerators, academies, and grants creating pipelines to accelerate nonprofit collaboration and serve diverse communities.*

### **City of San Diego Our Climate Our Future**

<https://www.sandiego.gov/climatefuture>

The City of San Diego's "Our Climate, Our Future" initiative is a plan to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions citywide by 2035. This initiative focuses on equitable and sustainable solutions, aiming to enhance economic opportunities, protect vulnerable communities, and improve both urban and natural environments. Key strategies include increasing the use of renewable energy, expanding green infrastructure, promoting sustainable transportation, and building climate resilience. The plan underscores the city's commitment to addressing climate change while ensuring a healthy, thriving future for all residents.

*Meeting Focus: Explore how the "Our Climate, Our Future" initiative collaborates between local governments, civil society, and nongovernmental organizations in tackling climate change. Understand the implementation of climate policies and initiatives in San Diego and how different stakeholders work together to achieve these goals.*

## **Environment NGO**

### **Climate Action Campaign**

<https://www.climateactioncampaign.org/mission>

Climate Action Campaign's mission is to stop the climate crisis through effective policy action. Climate Action Campaign (CAC) was founded in San Diego in 2015 by their Executive Director, Nicole Capretz to ensure the City of San Diego's draft landmark Climate Action Plan (CAP) became law, which Nicole authored while working in the Mayor's office. A broad-based and non-traditional coalition of elected officials, businesses, community planning groups, civic organizations, labor unions, and environmental and social justice organizations emerged, unified behind the trailblazing plan. Through the lens of equity and justice, they are fighting for a Zero Carbon future with all-electric homes, world class transit, resiliency, 100% clean energy, and bike-able, walkable neighborhoods. They believe change happens from the group up.

*Meeting Focus: Learn about CAC's strategies for addressing the climate crisis through effective policy action and the extensive coalitions formed under its leadership. Engage in discussions on how civil society is shaping local government agendas and driving change on climate-related issues.*

## **The Maritime Alliance**

<http://www.themaritimealliance.org/>

The Maritime Alliance (TMA) is a leading non-profit industry association dedicated to advancing the San Diego maritime technology sector. As a cluster organizer, TMA focuses on promoting innovation and economic development within the Blue Economy. Their mission centers on fostering BlueTech and advancing sustainable, science-based practices within ocean and water industries through education, policy advocacy, and technology resources.

*Meeting Focus: Explore how The Maritime Alliance facilitates collaboration between civil society and international organizations to tackle climate change issues. Discuss the role of these partnerships in promoting sustainable practices and innovations within the maritime sector. Gain insights into how the BlueTech community is working together to address environmental challenges and advance climate resilience in ocean and water industries.*

### **Grid Alternatives**

[www.gridalternatives.org](http://www.gridalternatives.org)

Grid Alternatives is a non-profit solar installer that leads teams of volunteers and job trainees to install solar electric systems exclusively for low-income homeowners. Through their core program, the Solar Affordable Housing Program, they have installed more than 12 mega-watts of clean, renewable power for over 4,000 families, preventing the release of 340,000 tons of greenhouse gasses over the systems' lifetimes and providing more than \$110 million in energy cost savings. More than 15,000 volunteers and job trainees have also received hands-on solar installation experience to-date.

*Meeting Focus: Examine the social, economic, and environmental impacts of solar power programs in the United States. Learn about Grid Alternatives' strategies for mobilizing volunteer networks and targeting communities to expand access to affordable solar energy.*

### **Human Right NGO**

#### **Via International**

<https://www.viainternational.org/>

Rooted in the California/Baja California region, Via International is a non-profit organization with extensive relationships of trust across Mexico, Central America, and beyond. They promote asset-based community development. Instead of developing a strategy based on a community's needs, as perceived by those from outside the community, they support local leaders from within the community to build off already present strengths and assets. This encourages a participatory process where people identify their own needs and take action to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families, and their communities.

*Meeting Focus: Learn how Via International promotes sustainable development by engaging and supporting leaders in emerging communities and how they are advancing migrants rights.*

#### **San Diego Pride**

<https://sdpride.org/youth/>

San Diego Pride is a nonprofit organization with deep roots in the San Diego community. Funds raised through their annual festival supports San Diego Pride's community philanthropy which has distributed more than \$2.5 million in advancement of its mission to foster pride, equality, and respect for all LGBTQIA+ communities locally, nationally, and globally. A critical component of their work includes building community partnerships and delivering robust programs to advocate and empower LGBTQIA+ youth. Their youth programming includes coalition meetings, youth-led events, a Youth Leadership Academy and weekly online 'Power Hours'. San Diego Pride also offers trainings on cultural humility, inclusivity and skills, and provides resources for the community to remain civically active.

*Meeting Focus: Explore how San Diego leverages its annual festival, fundraising, and network to advocate and empower LGBTQIA+ youth in the San Diego community.*

**American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of San Diego & Imperial Counties**

<https://www.aclu-sdic.org/en>

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of San Diego & Imperial Counties is a leading advocate for civil rights and human liberties in Southern California. With a mission to protect and expand individual freedoms, the ACLU works to safeguard constitutional rights through legal advocacy, policy reform, and grassroots activism. The organization focuses on issues such as racial justice, immigrant rights, free speech, LGBTQ+ equality, reproductive rights, and police accountability. By leveraging both legal expertise and community engagement, the ACLU strives to ensure that everyone, regardless of background or identity, can enjoy the full protections afforded by the U.S. Constitution.

*Meeting Focus: The upcoming meeting will center on advancing human rights in the San Diego region, particularly the challenges faced by marginalized communities. Protecting the rights of immigrant and refugee populations, particularly in the context of immigration reform, border policies, and detention conditions. Promoting full equality for LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly in relation to discrimination in healthcare, employment, and public accommodations. Defending access to reproductive healthcare, including abortion services, in the face of changing state and federal policies.*

**At-Risk Youth NGO**

**Mid-City CAN Advocacy Network – Youth Council**

[https://www.midcitycan.org/youth\\_council](https://www.midcitycan.org/youth_council)

Mid-City Community Advocacy Network is a community collaborative based in City Heights, a dense and diverse urban community of about 95,000 people and home to the San Diego Diplomacy Council office. Their mission is to create a safe, productive, and healthy community through collaboration, advocacy, and organizing. The most pressing issues are raised by the people themselves and are then addressed through Momentum Teams, which are councils made up of residents from City Heights. Mid-City CAN is invested in developing leaders in City Heights. The Mid-City CAN Youth Council exists to create change in their “local Black, Indigenous and Communities of Color”. They envision a world where young people thrive and everything is possible when we invest in education, not incarceration. Youth Council’s current campaign is to dismantle institutional policies designed to criminalize and incarcerate youth. By giving youth the voice and power to change these policies, they can lead juvenile justice reform and end the school to prison pipeline.

**Meeting focus:** Meet with community organizers and members for an overview of America’s problematic mass incarceration, and to learn about how Mid-City CAN utilizes Momentum Teams and a Youth Council to develop community leaders and advocate for change in an urban, diverse community. May include interaction with Youth Council members.

### **Aaron Price Fellows Program**

<https://aaronpricefellows.org/the-program/aaron-price-fellows-program-overview/>

The mission of the Aaron Price Fellows Program is to prepare a highly motivated and diverse group of San Diego public high school students to be responsible, engaged and caring members of their community. An intensive three-year program teaches Fellows about government, cultural, business and non-profit institutions to illustrate their significance and relevance in their lives; exposes Fellows to exciting career opportunities; and foster friendships between Fellows from diverse ethnic, religious and economic backgrounds.

*Meeting focus: Learn about this unique, 3-year fellowship opportunity that cultivates youth to be active citizens, caring for their community and helping others. Possible youth interaction.*

### **Health NGO**

#### **Christie's Place**

<https://christiesplace.org/>

Christie’s Place provides comprehensive social services in a caring, safe and welcoming home-like environment. It is the only agency in San Diego whose mission is dedicated to serving women, children and families whose lives have been impacted by HIV/AIDS. Christie’s Place is

dedicated to maintaining hope and instilling a sense of empowerment to all of their clients. They have a program, Change 4 Women (C4W), dedicated to increasing the statewide impact of programs for women of color living with HIV/AIDS, and ensuring these women have access to the services and support required to maintain stable care.

*Meeting focus: Explore wellness programs at Christie's Place, with a particular focus on how their C4W program empowers women of color through resources and support. A discussion may include a focus on Christie's Place empowerment training, encouraging women to be community advocates, and an overview of their Dancing with Hope Women's Retreat.*

### **Planned Parenthood- San Diego**

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/get-care/our-services/womens-services>

Planned Parenthood offers a wide varies of resources for women. The compassionate staff at Planned Parenthood are experts in women's health care. They provide essential reproductive and sexual health services like pelvic exams, Pap tests, cancer screenings, and testing and treatment for vaginal infections. Planned Parenthood offers needs for specific health concerns as well as routine women wellness exams. Some of services include Breast Exams, Cervical Cancer Screenings, Colposcopy, Cryotherapy, Incontinence, Infertility, LEEP, Mammogram Referrals, Menopause Testing and Treatment, Pap Test, Sexual Response Education, UTI Testing and Treatment, and Vaginal Infections Testing and Treatment. In addition to all these services Planned Parenthood has education programs for all ages to learn about sexual health, pregnancy and birth control.

*Meeting Focus: Learn about Planned Parenthood's successful reproductive women's health model, as well as how their education initiatives promote good health and disease prevention.*

### **San Diego Family Health Center - Beach Area Women's Health Clinic**

<https://www.fhcisd.org/services-and-programs/>

<https://www.fhcisd.org/beach-area-womens-health-center/>

For 50 years, Family Health Centers of San Diego's (FHCSD) mission has been to provide caring, affordable, high-quality health care and supportive services to everyone, with a special commitment to uninsured, low-income and medically underserved persons. FHCSD also has programs for refugees and immigrants in need of care. FHCSD Women's Health Clinic, offers family planning services, mental health support services, pediatric services and reproductive health services.

*Meeting Focus: Learn how FHCSD's Women's Health Clinics focuses not only on reproductive health but also mental health. In addition, explore how FHCSD's Women's Health Clinics provide services for immigrants and refugees*

## **Arts NGO**

### **David's Harp Foundation**

[www.davidsharpfoundation.org](http://www.davidsharpfoundation.org)

David's Harp Foundation aims to inspire, educate and empower at-risk and homeless youth to achieve academic success through music education, sound engineering and multimedia production. Programs include Multimedia Production where instructors teach students to fuse audio, video, still image and animation into a dynamic. The Foundation also hosts a Shelter Nights program in partnership with San Diego Youth Services' Emergency Youth Shelter. After checking into the shelter for the night, Youth Shelter teens work with instructors in their studio to write, record and produce original music and poetry, motivating teens to stay off the streets and hone their musical interests.

*Meeting Focus: Participants will learn about the Foundation's various activities that empower the homeless youth population of San Diego.*

### **Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego**

<https://mcasd.org/>

The Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego is a prominent art institution dedicated to collecting, preserving, and exhibiting contemporary art. The museum focuses on art from the 1950s to the present, showcasing works by renowned national and international artists as well as emerging talents. In addition to its exhibitions, the museum offers a range of educational programs for all ages, including lectures, artists talks, workshops, and guided tours. The museum is also partnered with local schools, organizations, and community groups to provide access to the arts and promote arts education.

*Meeting Focus: Learn about the Museum's many programs and offerings targeting youth engagement in the arts, encouraging them to see the Museum as an extension of the classroom, and an empowered means to connect with their creative side.*

### **Balboa Park Cultural Partnership**

<https://bpcp.org/>

The Balboa Park Cultural Partnership is a collaborative organization consisting of over 30 cultural institutions located in Balboa Park, San Diego. The partnership serves as a platform for collaboration and coordination among its member institutions, which includes museums, performing art venues, gardens, and other cultural organizations. Additionally, the organization also works closely with the City of San Diego and other stakeholders to advocate for the arts and culture in the park.

*Meeting Focus: Discuss the relationship between the arts and cultural tourism by raising awareness of San Diego's cultural offerings and how to meet accessibility and convenience needs for maximum engagement.*

## **Workshops**

### **San Diego Foundation**

San Diego Foundation | Just, Equitable and Resilient Communities [sdfoundation.org](http://sdfoundation.org)

For nearly fifty years, San Diego's largest regional community foundation has enabled donors and nonprofit partners to tackle the most critical needs facing San Diegans. They collaborate with donors, community organizations, government, business, policy analysts, and researchers to create new strategies and solutions for the region's most pressing challenges. They work in diverse issue areas: housing, environment, education, social justice, workforce development, and many more issues.

*Workshop Focus: Learn about best practices in leadership, capacity building, and fundraising.*

### **School of Leadership and Education Sciences at the University of San Diego**

<https://www.sandiego.edu/soles/>

A vibrant and vision-driven collective rooted in social justice, led by compassion, inspired by curiosity, and driven by a shared vision. SOLES hosts several centers, including the Catholic Institute for Mental Health Ministry, the Center for Restorative Justice, The Nonprofit Institute, and many more.

### **The Nonprofit Institute**

<https://www.sandiego.edu/soles/centers-and-institutes/nonprofit-institute/>

The Nonprofit Institute seeks to provide opportunities to historically silenced communities. Through this lens, they develop participatory research, transformational leaders, and cross-sectoral networks of community-based organizations. Their research

and programs are designed to ensure that nonprofit leaders and organizations are best positioned to work in common cause and partnership with government, business, philanthropy, and the communities they serve.

*Workshop Focus: An NGO Leadership workshop that will help participants become better leaders followed by a conversation where professors share their successes collaborating with the local NGO sector.*

## **Volunteering Opportunities at NGOs**

### **I Love a Clean San Diego**

<https://www.cleansd.org/>

Founded as the San Diego War Against Litter Committee (WALC) in 1954, I Love A Clean San Diego (ILACSD) has worked to improve the health and beauty of San Diego for over 67 years. In the 1970s, “I Love A Clean San Diego” was the slogan for the organization’s anti-litter campaign. In 1980 it became the organization’s name. In 1989, ILACSD merged with the San Diego Ecology Center, joining two leading environmental organizations together to better serve the community, under one name. ILACSD serves about 100,000 students, adults and businesses every year by providing environmental education, volunteer cleanup and beautification programs, and recycling and zero waste solutions. On average, the organization hosts over 900 workshops and produces 600 community cleanups each year. Community cleanups are responsible for clearing nearly half a million pounds of pollution from the region annually. ILACSD is dedicated to empowering every person to be leaders in conservation and waste-free living.

*Meeting Focus: Understand how ILACSD has built its capacity over decades and its very effective marketing.*

*Volunteer Opportunity: Volunteer with one of many I Love a Clean San Diego cleanups, meet local volunteers, and experience the beauty of San Diego.*

### **People Assisting the Homeless San Diego**

<https://epath.org/>

People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) was chosen as the lead agency for the San Diego one-stop homeless services center in 2010. PATH San Diego’s Connections Housing is a partnership that brings a variety of agencies together under one roof to meet the many needs of the downtown homeless population. Beyond Connections Housing, PATH does homeless

outreach, housing navigation, interim housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing support.

*Meeting Focus: Learn how PATH San Diego successfully advocated for change in San Diego and became leaders in providing services for the unhoused.*

*Volunteer Opportunity: Assist in the preparation of a meal at the downtown San Diego shelter for the unhoused community.*

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\*Home Hospitality can be offered for the group, as well as a volunteer activity \*

### San Diego Zoo

[San Diego Zoo | Home page](#)

Price: \$68-\$79 for one Adult Ticket

The 100-acre (40-hectare) Zoo is home to over 3,700 rare and endangered animals representing more than 650 species and subspecies, and a prominent botanical collection with more than 700,000 exotic plants. It is located just north of downtown San Diego in Balboa Park.

### Harbor Cruise

[Flagship Cruises & Events | San Diego, California \(flagshipsd.com\)](#)

Price: Starting at \$24.75 for one Adult Ticket for one-hour tour

Their deluxe tour covers it all: Harbor and Shelter Islands, Point Loma, Cabrillo National Monument, North Island Naval Air Station, the Submarine Base, as well as the Coronado Bridge, and much more.

### Balboa Park

[www.balboapark.org](#)

Home to 15 major museums, renowned performing arts venues, beautiful gardens and the San Diego Zoo, Balboa Park has an ever-changing calendar of museum exhibitions, plays, musicals, concerts, and classes—all in the beautiful and timeless setting of this must-see San Diego attraction.

### Coronado

Consistently voted one of America's finest beaches by The Travel Channel, Coronado's beaches glisten year round due to the mineral Mica in the sand, while gentle waves caress the shoreline. From the shores of Silver Strand State Beach to the tip of the Coronado Municipal Beach, you'll find plenty of wide open sand, gentle waves and gorgeous views.