Chris Bryant served as President and CEO of the San Diego Employers Association. She came to the organization after spending many years in banking, where she held leadership roles in Business Banking, Sales and Marketing, Lending, Human Resources and Administration at the local, statewide, and national level. Chris volunteers with a number of organizations and is known for her commitment to the San Diego community. She currently serves as the Treasurer for Rest Haven's Children's Health Fund, is the Past President and current board member of the Executives Association of San Diego and she is a member of the Dears Advisory Council for National University's School of Business and Management. Chris also served as the Treasurer for the Nationwide American Lung Association and she is a graduate of LEAD San Diego.

Debra Rosen has built the Chamber into a respected regional business organization, diversifying its programs, membership and Board of Directors. Lobbying for business and communities in the San Diego region has been a focus of the chamber with an emphasis on job growth, vibrant communities, business retention and expansion. Rosen has aggressively advanced a competitive agenda that includes building strong chamber membership and advocacy for business, strengthening political relationships, developing a sustainable military program, and protecting business interests on a local and state level. When not working she enjoys spending time with her children, husband of 37 years, boating and a great bottle of Champagne.

Iris Garcia is the current Chairwoman of the San Diego Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for 2019-2020. As a partner at the Troisi Group, her profuse expertise in lending a hand business owners has resulted in a platform to not only enlace but engage enterprises with their society and peers. Within this continued flourishing growth, members of the Hispanic Chamber and others have furthered their ventures in the County and beyond its borders. Ms. Garcia is keen on striking long-lasting efforts to edify ties with businesses, NGOs, and most importantly with San Diego communities.

Ronson J. Shamoun is the founder and CEO of RJS LAW. RJS LAW was voted San Diego's Best Tax Law Firm by the UT's best poll 5 years in a row and also in 2020. The firm specializes in tax disputes, estate planning and trust administration. Mr. Shamoun is an adjunct professor and advisory board member at USD School of Law and School of Business. He is the recipient of the USD LAW Distinguished Alumni award; CEO of the Year, SD 50, and SD 500 by the SDBJ; and founded the nationally recognized USD LAW-RJS LAW Tax Controversy Institute. Most recently, he was awarded San Diego Business Journal's 2020 CEO of the Year in the Small Business Category.
Brian C. Lee is the Region Bank President for the San Diego Region in Southern California. He oversees 76 branches and more than 1,400 team members across San Diego and Imperial Counties. A 30-year financial services veteran in both Retail and Wholesale banking, Lee started his career in the Real Estate Group. Since joining Retail Banking, he has led markets across the Southern California region. Lee is passionate about the community and currently serves on the boards of the American Red Cross and the San Diego North Economic Development Council. He has served as past Board Chair for the San Diego North Economic Development Council and the Joe and Mary Mattina Family YMCA. He has served on the boards of the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce and the Business Advisory Board at California State University San Marcos. A California native, Lee graduated from Colorado State University where he earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration. He earned his MBA from the University of Southern California.

Marie Zappia-Kuzmack, RN, MSN
Chief Administrative Officer Southern California Permanente Medical Group San Diego

Marie Zappia-Kuzmack is the Chief Administrative Officer for Southern California Permanente Medical Group (SCPMG) in San Diego. SCPMG is San Diego County’s largest medical group, with 1,400 physicians, serving more than 630,764 Kaiser Permanente Health Plan patients from 26 locations throughout the county. In her role as Chief Administrative Officer, Marie oversees all ambulatory care operations and services, while building effective partnerships and promoting collaborative relationships throughout the San Diego Service Area. Most recently, she was the Assistant Medical Group Administrator for the Kaiser Permanente Orange County Medical Center. In this role, she partnered with leaders, physicians and staff to systematically examine and change practices to meet patient expectations for access, service and quality. She promoted integration and close collaboration among various disciplines to align goals and provide continuity and consistency in service and care to all members. Marie started her career at Kaiser Permanente as an RN Assistant Department Administrator at the Barstow Medical Office Building. Before joining Kaiser Permanente, Marie was the Executive Director of Ancillary Services at Saddlerock Memorial Medical Center, Memorial Health Services. Marie has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Trenton State College and a Master of Science in Nursing from University of Maryland. Marie has also completed the Executive Leadership Program at Harvard University.

Carrie Snyder-Vilaplana
Vice President, Private Wealth Advisor
The Private Bank

Carrie Snyder-Vilaplana is a Vice President and Private Wealth Advisor for The Private Bank. In this role, she partners with a team of specialists in wealth planning, investments, risk management, trust and estate services, and banking in San Diego. Carrie works with high net worth clients to help them build, sustain, and transfer wealth based on their unique priorities. The Private Bank is an exclusive part of Union Bank® dedicated to the financial needs of high net worth individuals, non-profit organizations, business owners, corporate executives, and professional service firms. The Private Bank is built around teams of wealth management professionals who provide consultative relationships centered on the client’s unique goals and dreams. Prior to joining Union Bank, Carrie worked at Lehman Brothers, Wedbush Morgan Securities, and Wells Fargo Private Bank, and has 19 years in the industry. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Law, Jurisprudence & Social Thought from Amherst College. Additionally, Carrie holds Series 7, 63 and 65 securities licenses and her California Life Insurance license. Carrie currently is Chair of the San Diego Symphony Notables, member of the La Jolla Playhouse Board of Trustees, member of the Rady Children’s Hospital Trust and Estates Council Executive Committee, and member of CREW San Diego. She is also a graduate of the San Diego Jewish Community Foundation Trusted Charitable Advisor Program and a graduate of LEAD San Diego IMPACT Class of 2015.

Krista Goryl
Senior Vice President Pacific South Regional Manager
Wells Fargo

Krista Goryl is an inclusive leader who passionately champions the breadth and comp- etitive advantages of the Wealth and Investment Management (WIM) platform, in-cluding comprehensive planning and advice, investment management, estate planning strategies, business succession, family legacy, executive services, real estate management and retirement. As the Pacific South Regional Manager, Krista coaches financial advisors and recruits experienced advisors. Krista began her career as a Analyst in Fixed Income, Currencies, and Commodities with Goldman Sachs in New York City. She relocated to San Diego where she joined a Private Wealth Team at Merrill Lynch as a Financial Advisor for six years, assisting high net worth clients with investment management and financial planning. Krista joined Wells Fargo Advisors’ Western Region in 2010. Krista is frequently called upon to represent Wells Fargo Advisors in media events and public speaking engagements. Krista has been featured in publications such as Invest-ment News, WealthManagement.com, and The Glass Hammer. As an advocate for diversity and inclusion, Krista sits on national committees for hiring and developing women. Additionally, she supports active military and veterans as the firm’s lead for the Damp DK Pro bono Marine base. Krista graduated from Wake Forest University with a Bachelor of Science in Business. She lives in Del Mar, California with her husband Scott, their son Jack and daughter Hailey. Outside of the office Krista enjoys traveling, dance, and spending time at the beach. Shortly after their wedding, Krista and Scott traveled for 5 months around the world exploring 16 countries and flying over 43,000 miles.

Rodger Dougherty
Senior Director of Public Affairs & Brand Communications
Kaiser Permanente San Diego

Rodger Dougherty is the Senior Director of Public Affairs & Brand Communications for Kaiser Permanente San Diego, a 625,000-member service area consisting of 30 medical offices, two acute care hospitals with more than 650 licensed beds, 9,700 employees, and 1,400 physicians. Dougherty leads all Kaiser Permanente San Diego’s marketing and public relations activities, including: development and execution of their local marketing strategy, internal and external communications, community relations, patient health, government affairs, issues management, crisis communications, and brand management. Dougherty began his career as a firefighter, progressing to the rank of Fire Captain/Paramedic, and also Public Information Officer, with the Rural/Metro Fire Department in the suburbs surrounding Tucson, Arizona. After leaving the fire service, Dougherty led public relations and marketing departments for Rural/Metro Corporation, Cox Communications, and neo-IT, a dot-com startup in the San Francisco Bay Area.
LIDETITIE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD HONOREE

Lidia S. Martinez

Lidia started her flight with Southwest on July 16, 1990 – 30 years of great LUV! Her proud legacy she leaves behind is helping launch the National Multicultural Community Affairs department in 2003. Lidia was one of five individuals who successfully created the outreach platform for Southwest to invest and engage in communities of color. Their award-winning work opened a new opportunity to help create and launch the outreach efforts for all of the communities they now serve. Lidia helped her company set the standard for outreach and corporate social responsibility.
WE’RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.

At Kaiser Permanente, we don’t see health as an industry. We see it as a cause. And one that we very much believe in. During this extraordinary time we are especially thankful to the heroism of our frontline workers. And, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to all of our outstanding care teams and individuals who deliver on the Kaiser Permanente mission each day to improve the health of our members and the communities we serve. We are here to help you thrive. Learn more at kp.org.
Congratulations Founder and Executive Director, Jan Perry!

America’s Finest Charter School Teachers, Parents, and Board appreciate how you go the extra mile to help students achieve their American Dream.

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San Diego, CA 92115

Website: americasfinestcharterschool.org

Jan Perry
Founder and Executive Director

K-8 Address: 730 45th Street
San Diego, CA 92102

High School Address: 4481 Estrella Ave
San Diego, CA 92115

Website: americasfinestcharterschool.org
Why you should apply

You have a photo or video project idea that you believe in, and this grant will help you bring it to life. Besides funding, we’ll provide the Sony gear to shoot on, Adobe software to edit with, and the opportunity to have your project seen worldwide by countless creators who will be inspired to create alongside you.

Apply today: alphauniverse.com/alpha-female

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Congratulations April Holman!

San Diego Business Journal
2020 Business Women of the Year Finalist

Thank you, April, for all of your wonderful work and stellar contributions to our company, customers, and your community.

SuiteCentric provides NetSuite sales and service with transparency.

April Holman
Chief Solutions Officer
and ERP Practice Director
Running a small business takes big insights

There are a lot of moving parts to running a successful small business — optimizing cash flow, increasing efficiency, and growing revenue. You’ll find strategies and solutions that may help you to run your business better at wellsfargoworks.com.

Let’s get started. Visit your local branch or find a time that works for you at wellsfargo.com/appointments.
On behalf of MWM Retirement Solutions, our partners and clients; we would like to congratulate Melissa Marin, Director of Retirement Plan Services on being selected as a finalist for the San Diego Business Journal’s 2020 Business Women of the Year Award.

MWM Retirement Solutions is an independent corporate retirement plan specialist focused on guiding employees, employers, and businesses through the complexities of retirement planning.

Melissa Marin
CA Insurance License 0D04754
Director of Retirement Plan Services, MWM Retirement Solutions
401 B Street, Suite 2300
San Diego, CA 92101
office: (619) 237-9977 ext. 305
fax: (619) 237-5511
melissa@mwm-401k.com
www.mwmretirementsolutions.com
To schedule a meeting https://calendly.com/melissa-297

The San Diego Business Journal’s “2020 Business Women of the Year Award” recognizes women leaders for their contributions to San Diego’s workplaces and communities. This award is not specific to financial services and does not imply an endorsement, recommendation, or otherwise reflect the performance of the individual or any account.

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You’ve spent your life accumulating wealth. And, no doubt, that wealth now takes many forms, sits in many places, and is managed by many advisors. Unfortunately, that kind of fragmentation creates gaps that can hold your wealth back from its full potential. The Private Bank can help.

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Carrie Vilaplana
Vice President, Private Wealth Advisor
619-230-3112 office
858-776-8373 cell
carrie.vilaplana@unionbank.com

Wills, trusts, foundations, and wealth planning strategies have legal, tax, accounting, and other implications. Clients should consult a legal or tax advisor.
Congratulations!

Julie Lowen

“This award pays homage to the hundreds of women who help care for children and families at Children’s Paradise every day. I could not do it without them!”

Congratulations to our partner, Marjorie J. Burchett!

A talented member of CGS3’s mixed use, distressed assets and finance practice groups, she is well deserving of recognition as a finalist in the San Diego Business Journal’s Business Women of the Year Awards.

Dalcia Paramo
Shore Solutions, Inc.

Kathleen Pearson
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

JAN PERRY
America’s Finest Charter School

Dr. Jenny Pieratt
CraftED Curriculum

Jamie Plemons
Plemons & Associates

Diane Powers
Bazaar del Mundo Shops & Restaurant Group

Catherine Rells
Gene To Lab Solutions, Inc.

Heather Riley
Allen Matkins

Reb Risty
REBL Marketing

Mia Roseberry
Wounded Warrior Homes

Sarah Rotter
Allegiance Heating & Air Conditioning Inc.

Kelli Ruby
Weatherly Asset Management

Andrea Salazar
Biosero

Betty Mohlenbrock
Reading Legacies

Shawnnah Monterrey
Sear Training

Heather Moyer
HNIM Systems

Ilo Neukam
The Collective

Marie Olesen
La Jolla Cosmetic Surgery Centre and Medical Spa

Dalicia Paramo
Shore Solutions, Inc.

Kathleen Pearson
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As Chief Operating Officer of Cymbiotika, a rapidly growing health and wellness lifestyle brand, Durana Elmi is on a mission to empower individuals to take ownership of their lives by reclaiming their health, advancing their understanding of optimum wellness, and unlocking the full potential of their unique magnificence through the power of natural, vegan supplementation. Running the day-to-day operations and mapping out the future of this San Diego based health and wellness company, Durana values her employees as much as she values her rapidly growing customer base. At the cornerstone of Durana's success is her often repeated mantra that “life is about relationships and experiences” and she works tirelessly to develop both in a meaningful and memorable fashion. Under Durana's stewardship, Cymbiotika has experienced exponential growth with $12M in annual sales. With a focus on creating a more authentic and personal experience, she has also transitioned Cymbiotika's customer call center from an offshore facility to a 100% in-house team headquartered in their San Diego office. Durana also oversaw Cymbiotika's website redesign, creating their widely successful "Custom Subscription Bundle" platform. Self-admittedly, Durana is also overly passionate about all the small details that lend to an unforgettable experience and accordingly was the inspiration behind Cymbiotika's beautiful 10,000 sq/ft corporate office in San Diego. In an effort to streamline operations, Durana also created significant job opportunities for the city of San Diego by moving Cymbiotika's fulfillment center from Boise, Idaho to a state of the art facility in San Diego. Durana was beyond honored and humble to have been nominated for San Diego Business Journal's Woman of the Year.

Durana Elmi
Chief Operating Officer // Cymbiotika

Cymbiotika is leveling up lifestyle movement, beyond a brand, empowering the collective to take ownership of their lives. Our Mission is to steward life-long learning, advanced knowledge, and optimum health. We want to change the world by empowering people to reclaim their health and unlock their fullest potential. We want to help people live longer, happier, and healthier lives.

For more information visit CYMBIOTIKA.COM
Congratulations to
**Yang Cheng**
Finalist for San Diego Business Journal’s
Business Women of the Year 2020

Congratulations to
**Michiko Araki**
Finalist for San Diego Business Journal’s
Business Women of the Year 2020
Pardee Homes, a TRI Pointe company, congratulates our very own April Gingras on this well-deserved recognition. Your leadership, drive and innovative approach to marketing and sales is an inspiration to all of us.

Your work has changed the lives of hundreds of veterans and helped to rebuild America’s advanced manufacturing workforce.

The Staff, Supporters and Students of Workshops for Warriors and VetPowered salute you!

www.sdbj.com
Congratulations
Dr. Marie Brown-Mercadel on your selection as a finalist for the Business Women of the Year Awards!

Thank you for your contributions to Urban Corps, the Urban Corps Charter School, and the youth of San Diego county.

We celebrate your service to the community and are thankful for your vision and leadership.

For more information about The Urban Corps of San Diego County, please call (619) 235-6884 or visit urbancorpssd.org