



Community & Economic Development Committee

April 28, 2025

Item (d)3 Economic Development Activities Quarterly Status Report

Carlos Velazquez, Public Information Manager  
City Manager's Office of Economic Development and Cultural Affairs (OEDCA)

# Celebrating San José's Black and Female Business Owners and Leaders

- ❖ In February and March, OEDCA highlighted San José's Black and Women business owners and entrepreneurs for Black and Women's History Months.
- ❖ Seven of the 11 business associations OEDCA works with are led by women.
- ❖ May is Asian American & Pacific Islander Month and June is Pride Month. Add to our list of entrepreneurs and business owners to highlight for these and future Shop Local spotlights! [bit.ly/ShopLocalSJTips](https://bit.ly/ShopLocalSJTips)



February - March 2025

# Disability Grants & Small Business Advisory Committee

- ❖ **Increasing Disability Access:** OEDCA staff continued outreach and promotion of the City's Disability Access Improvement Grants program, which helps small businesses pay for a Certified Access Specialist (CAsp) report and to hire professionals to design and remove ADA barriers.
- ❖ OEDCA hosted the quarterly meeting of the **San José Small Business Advisory Committee** on March 26, 2025. The mission of the Committee is to advocate for San José's small businesses, promote entrepreneurship, and continue to make San José an ideal place to do business.



**February - March 2025**



# Growing San José's AI and Semiconductor Ecosystem

- ❖ **Plug and Play AI Center of Excellence:** April 2, 2025 ribbon-cutting for the first AI-focused incubator of its kind in Downtown San José.
- ❖ **AI Start-Up Incentive Grants:** More than 80 applications received for program granting up to \$50,000 for early-stage AI startups that establish headquarters or operations in San José. Deadline to apply is May 15, 2025.
- ❖ **Nokia's Semiconductor Fabrication Facility:** Tour and press conference of Nokia's new facility in South San José with Congressman Panetta, Mayor Mahan and Councilmember Casey.
  - ❖ Facility supported by \$93 million federal CHIPS grant received with assistance and support from OEDCA.



March - April 2025

# Supporting an Enhanced Downtown Experience for Businesses, Residents and Visitors

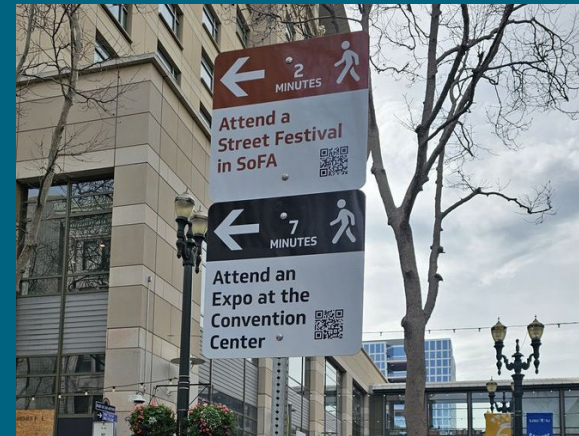
## ❖ Downtown and Regional Wayfinding:

- ❖ 92 new pedestrian-oriented and bike-focused signs installed.
- ❖ Downtown Walking Map updated and distributed to local hotels and arts venues.

## ❖ **NVIDIA GTC 2025:** More than 25,000 visitors to Downtown; increases in hotel stays, restaurant activity and visitors from out of state vs. NVIDIA 2024 numbers.

## ❖ Recent Ribbon Cuttings:

- ❖ Dental Specialties Institute
- ❖ The Press Room
- ❖ 6<sup>th</sup> Street Burger
- ❖ Jackie's Place

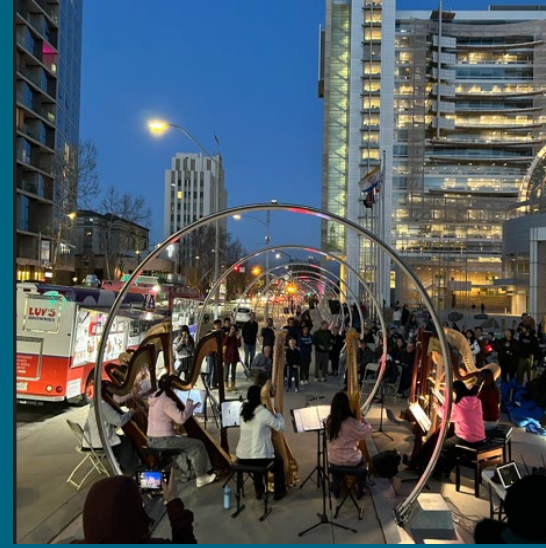


February – April 2025



# Strengthening San José's Creative Economy

- ❖ **Sonic Loveway:** Valentines Day celebration in front of City Hall's Sonic Runway featured live music, food trucks, vendors and free professional photos.
- ❖ **South Bay Arts Summit:** 100+ people attended the March 14 event organized by SVCCreates and OEDCA featuring panels and workshops centered around the intersections of art and entrepreneurship.
- ❖ **Upcoming:**
  - ❖ **WeCreate408:** Final days April 28 – 30, 2025
  - ❖ **Mommy and Me Moss Art:** Saturday, May 10, 2025, hosted by Creative Ambassador Jessica Gutierrez
  - ❖ **Make Music Day:** Saturday, June 21, 2025



**February – April 2025**

# Welcome Sister City Okayama, Japan

- ❖ A City Council delegation from Okayama, Japan visited in April to engage in discussions on facility management with the San Jose Sharks, SJSU, and City staff.
- ❖ The delegation's agenda also included initial discussions around the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of San José and Okayama's Sister City relationship in 2027.
- ❖ The Sister Cities program provides opportunities for San José and its residents to engage with cities across the globe in the arts, education, sport, economic development and other initiatives.

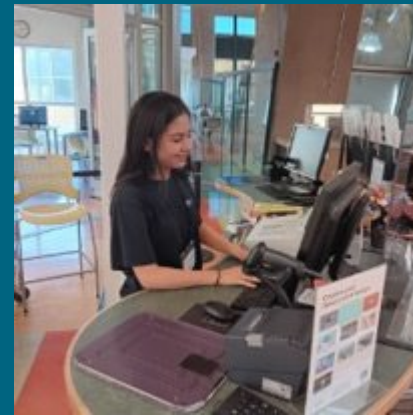


April 2025



# OEDCA Workforce Development: Focused on High Wage Jobs for All

- ❖ **Spring Career Fair April 23, 2025:** More than 60 employers and resource providers participated in the career fair hosted by work2future and San José City College.
- ❖ **San José Works:** Recruitment now open for six-week long summer work experience program for San José youth.
  - ❖ Up to 325 San José youth from low-income and underserved communities will receive a professional learning experience related to a career of interest.
  - ❖ To participate in the program as a mentor, employer or student: [bit.ly/sanjoseworks](https://bit.ly/sanjoseworks)



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