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MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER AT-A-GLANCE

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SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

San Jose webinar series offers help to small businesses during pandemic

Starting in March, 2020, as the restrictions on business operations because of COVID-19 became clear, one of the initiatives undertaken by OED was to work with partners to develop a series of free online workshops to support local small businesses.

To date, we have promoted more than 200 online workshops held by community-based partners such as SCORE Silicon Valley, Minority Business Development Agency, Small Business Development Center and others.

In addition, OED has developed and hosted or co-hosted 25+ online workshops, many in multiple languages, and a representative sample of the online sessions are being recorded and offered on our [OED YouTube channel](#).

The subjects range from how to pivot your store-front business to an online model, featuring Frank Nguyen, owner of Academic Coffee, to advice on mastering applications for various loans and grants.

To respond to an increased cadence of funding opportunities provided under the federal stimulus package passed in December, 2020, we have increased the cadence of workshop hosting to weekly. Our next step is to upgrade the online sessions to be multilingual, with interpreters and separate language audio in Vietnamese, Spanish and Mandarin.



For more information, contact [Vic Farlie](#). Business Development Officer, OED

CALIFORNIA PANDEMIC RELIEF

California Relief Grants Program



(Click to read a success story for a grantee in San Jose)

Announced late last year, the California Relief Grants program is critical for our small-business owners, many of whom are very wary of taking on debt, even the forgivable loans available under the Paycheck Protection Program offered through banks under the various federal stimulus acts.

However, the grant application process is not simple, and business owners need quite a bit of support to make it through the application process. In addition, the California Relief Grants were only open for application for two short seven-day periods, which requires a pretty short learning curve.

To ensure that our businesses were ready for the fast application turn-around, OED issued a series of email blasts to more than 40,000 businesses in the City advising where owners could get early, free support from our community partners such as SCORE and Minority Business Development Agency.

We also hosted free online workshop webinars going over the intricacies of filling out the applications. Attendance averaged 50-100 for the webinars. You can view the first of our California Relief Grant webinars on our [YouTube channel](#).

For more information, contact [Vic Farlie](#), Senior Executive Analyst OED

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Updated report on major construction projects in San Jose

At the end of January 2021, OED released an updated report on the status and details of major constructions projects underway in San Jose. The [Key Development Projects list](#) includes projects which have an outsized impact towards fulfilling our city goals and objectives for housing development, employment development and retention, and catalytic placemaking.



This list accompanies our [development projects map](#). Our blogpost provides a full narrative, but here is a summary of the development projects underway:

- 23,598 residential units
- 2.1 million sf of commercial retail space

- 33.8 million sf of commercial office space
- 2,900 hotel rooms

Many projects slowed or halted progress on City permits in the late spring/early summer of 2020, we are seeing many of these projects move forward with Planning, Building, and Public Works Permits. A number of housing projects that paused on Building permits resumed this work late summer/fall and several of these were wrapping up Building and Public Works permitting work in late 2020.

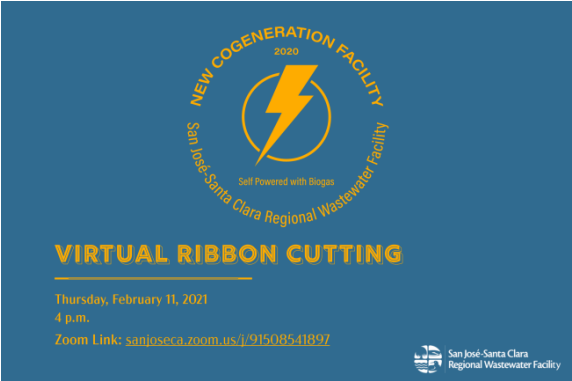
While hotel projects were anticipated to take much longer to pick up again, some hotel projects resumed work with the City once more (although no notable hotel groundbreaking to report just yet). We are happy to see that after halting construction shortly after the first Shelter-in-Place order, Top Golf as resumed construction and is anticipating completion this sprint.

To read all the details, including an update on the impacts on downtown of the Westbank projects, read our [blogpost](#)..

For more information, contact [Emily Lipoma](#), Development Facilitation Officer, OED

CLEAN ENERGY NEWS

San Jose hosts virtual ribbon-cutting for co-generation facility



In February, the City’s Environmental Services Department celebrated the completion of the new Cogeneration Facility project, part of the \$1.4 billion, 10-year Capital Improvement Program.

To comply with Social Distancing Protocols, the number of attendees at the actual event was limited, and the event was conducted online.

The completion of the Cogeneration Facility Project upgrades the Regional Wastewater Facility’s energy and heat production. Using biogas from the wastewater treatment process, the project will sustainably produce up to 14 MW of power and collect heat from engines for RWF heating needs.

The project replaces existing cogeneration engines, worn out from nonstop use over 35 years. The [blog post](#) and the [video](#) include more details.

For more information, contact [Jennie Loft](#), Public Information Manager, Environmental Services Department

DOWNTOWN ACTIVITIE

Downtown gets festive for Valentine's Day

OED’s partnership with the San Jose Downtown Association is extended the downtown celebratory light shows that were launched over the 2020 holiday season.

For Valentine's Day, downtown is again blooming with light shows on building facades, special events in restaurants, and other festive displays.

This [video](#) provides a sample of the show but strolling hand-in-hand afterdark is the best way to get the full effect!

In addition, artists from Local Color added art work on brown paper in storefront widows. Businesses that are still open are also making a holiday effort, with restaurants like Scott’s Seafood on the Paseo being sold out for Valentine’s evening, and Nox’s Cookies and the San Jose Candy Kitchen offering sweet indulgences for giving and sharing.

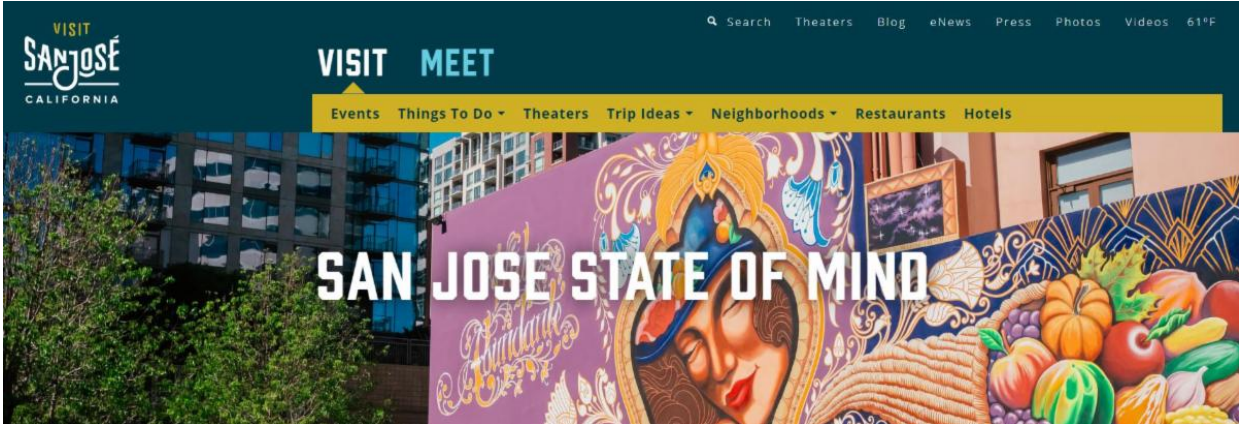
OED’s Downtown Manager, Blage Zelalich, was featured on a segment on KTVU, which you can [view here](#).



For more information, contact [Blage Zelalich](#), Downtown Manager,, OED

EVENTS

Until San Jose can again offer a wide range of in-person entertainment activities, shows, conventions and events, please check out the Visit San Jose [Online Events](#) directory for digital entertainment, learning and community engagement.



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