LEX SPARKS MOST INNOVATION, WORKING GROUPS YET

Every Leadership Exchange (LEX) teaches us something, deepens relationships and ignites ideas, but this year’s trip to San Diego stands out for being particularly applicable for participants. From an economic development approach inclusive of all ranges of income, ethnic and industry diversity, to a school focused on serving homeless youth and a collaborative of more than 30 arts nonprofits, San Diego shared with us examples of innovation, partnership and long-term planning that could greatly benefit our community.

In fact, LEX San Diego produced a record three working groups that are convening today to understand how to adapt what we saw in San Diego for the Front Range. Bringing leaders to the source of these innovations and connecting them with the experts who built them sparks action here at home that improves our quality of life and business community.

While we can’t take all our Leadership Foundation alumni on our LEX trip, we hope you’ll follow along with what we learned through this recap and the reflections from your fellow alumni: Kelly Brough on economic development; Andrea Fulton on arts and culture; Adeeb Khan on urban growth; Megan Mahncke on health care innovation; and Mark Spiecker on the thriving biosciences industry – and how trips like this strengthen Colorado’s Civic DNA™.

We’re excited to announce our 30th anniversary LEX will head to Dallas. You’ll see details at the end of the recap. And, you can experience LEX in your own backyard on Colorado Experience. In 2019, we’re headed to Vail. As Warren Bennis said, “Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.” Join us as we expand the vision for Colorado’s future and begin making it a reality.

Best,

Dan Lewis,
Executive Director of the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation

Ruth Rohs,
2018-19 Board of Directors Chair VP of Corporate Communications for IMA Financial Group, Inc. and Executive Director of the IMA Foundation
3 WORKING GROUPS

40+ SPEAKERS

155 DELEGATES

10 EXCURSIONS

30 INDUSTRIES REPRESENTED
Inclusive Growth and Economic Development

EXCURSION

Monarch School: K-12 Skills and Experience for Success. There are more than 1.2 million homeless students across the country and 23,000 in San Diego County alone. It's estimated that 75 percent of homeless students do not receive a high school diploma. The barriers these students face hinder their ability to become contributing, successful members of their families and society and place them at a high risk of becoming tomorrow's homeless adults.

Delegates visited Monarch School, an innovative and inspiring K-12 school providing education, life skills and empowerment tools for youth experiencing homelessness. Their mission is to educate students impacted by homelessness and to help them develop hope for a future with the skills and experiences for personal success. Monarch has served San Diego for nearly three decades, beginning as a one-room education center and expanding into a K-12 comprehensive school designed to educate homeless youth.
"We saw San Diego’s economic development corporation focus on equity and inclusive economic development that helps ensure more people benefit from the prosperity in their region and the local talent pipeline is growing – something we’re looking at here in the metro area too. The Brookings Institution shared with us its framework for building inclusive cities; our group was energized by the challenge to create more equitable opportunity in our region."

Kelly Brough, president and CEO of the Denver Metro Chamber

Read Brough’s reflection on her LEX experience.

EXCURSION

San Diego Housing Commission: Affordable Housing. The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) has earned a national reputation as a model public housing agency, creating innovative programs that provide housing opportunities for low-income and homeless individuals and families in the City of San Diego — the eighth-largest city in the nation, second largest in California.

Delegates received a briefing on the housing crisis in San Diego, an overview of strategies proposed for advancing solutions and a walking tour of four downtown properties serving a range of housing needs.

@fmfrannieco · Sep 28
Amazing tour of the Monarch School. Serving children impacted by homelessness in San Diego #LEX18

@JoelDay · Sep 27
Loved visiting with a great delegation from Denver today talking inclusive growth and our border opportunities. Thanks @denleadership and Max18 for letting me share San Diego’s story with you. #goDOD #DU
Talent Development. The growth of San Diego’s innovation economy has made the region better educated and more prosperous than most of its peers. However, this economic transformation presents new challenges for future growth. Leaders recognize that if unaddressed, San Diego will no longer be an attractive place to live and do business. In response, the region has adopted an inclusive growth strategy to close the achievement gap, address affordability and support small business success.

Delegates heard from the City of San Diego, private sector and higher education partners delivering on proven models to increase talent development opportunities for local residents. They also toured the Central Library, a key partner in the overall inclusive growth strategy for the region.

“The San Diego metro area is almost identical to Denver with both home to around 3 million people. However, the city of San Diego itself is the eighth most populous city in the U.S. and San Diego county the fifth most populous county. This contrast was clear throughout our visit: San Diego faces more complex urban issues than Denver. Yet, the city seemed to be concurrently thriving in many ways due, in part, to its creative approaches to challenges and economic development.”

Adeeb Khan, director of Corporate Social Responsibility for TIAA

Read Khan’s perspective on LEX 2018
Speakers

J. J. Ament, CEO, Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation

Paola Avila, vice president of International Business Affairs, San Diego Regional Chamber

Gloria R. Bañuelos, Ph.D., manager, Qualcomm ThinkaBit Lab

Kelly Brough, president and CEO, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

Mark Cafferty, president and CEO, San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation

Erik Caldwell, director of Economic Development, City of San Diego

Joel Day, Ph.D., executive director of human relations commission and international affairs board, City of San Diego

Katherine Field, external relations, Monarch School

Mayor Michael B. Hancock, City & County of Denver

Governor John Hickenlooper, State of Colorado

Jerry Sanders, president and CEO, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce & Former Mayor, City of San Diego

J.C. Thomas, external affairs, Sempra Infrastructure, LLC
“Colorado has 30 federally funded labs and research institutions and more than 720 bioscience companies. Colorado also has 125 acres of prime real estate on the Fitzsimmons Innovation Campus that are ready to commercialize the next great cadre of bioscience companies and clinical partners on campus to advise. We had the vision to set aside the space; we now need to follow through and invest to grow the industry.”

Mark Spiecker, president of STAQ Pharma
Read Spiecker’s perspective on LEX 2018
Innovative Collaboration and Smart Partnerships

EXCURSION

JLABS (Johnson & Johnson). San Diego is home to a world-renowned biotech industry — from top class research institutions to powerhouse biotech companies and everything in between. In January 2012 it became home to the flagship JLABS site, launched by Johnson & Johnson at its Janssen West Coast Research & Development facility in La Jolla, California. JLABS developed the first in a network of eight innovation ecosystems, enabling and empowering innovators to create and accelerate the delivery of life-saving, life-enhancing health and wellness solutions to patients around the world. JLABS provides a unique environment where life science entrepreneurs have access to the vast expertise within Johnson & Johnson, educational programs, business and operational services and specialized equipment to support the development of their science from concept to commercialization, all while retaining their intellectual property and decision-making freedom in a “no-strings-attached” model.
EXCURSION

**Smart City San Diego.** San Diego is widely recognized as a smart city leader in the U.S. It’s number one in the nation for rooftop solar and has a climate action plan that calls for all electricity to come from renewable sources by 2035.

San Diego is upgrading to LED streetlights and equipping those poles with cameras, sensors and a variety of devices to help with traffic management, management of parking and crime. The city partnered with General Electric GE to upgrade streetlights to reduce energy costs by 60 percent as well as transform them into a connected digital network. The deployment of 3,200 smart sensors will be the largest city-based deployment of an Internet of Things platform in the world.

Smart City San Diego is a broad public-private collaboration that includes the City of San Diego, San Diego Gas & Electric, General Electric, the University of California and CleanTech San Diego. The objective of the collaboration is to improve the region’s energy independence, to empower consumers to use electric vehicles, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to encourage economic growth.

“As a health care leader, JLABS was particularly interesting not only to witness the partnerships taking place, but also because of the innovative and life-saving solutions being developed there.”

*Megan Mahncke, president of the SCL Health Foundations*

*Read Mahncke’s perspective on LEX 2018*
“Denver is accustomed to being on the leading edge of cultural collaborations and the trip to Balboa Park was a great reminder that there is always more to learn. Yet again, LEX served as the spark that is bringing leaders across the city together to gather insights and ideas that will continue to elevate this great place we get to call home.”

Andrea Fulton, deputy director and chief marketing officer for the Denver Art Museum

Read Fulton’s reflection on her LEX experience.

EXCURSION

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership. Balboa Park, one of the top three most visited municipal parks in the United States and a National Historic Landmark, is home to 16 museums, renowned performing arts venues, beautiful and historic gardens and the San Diego Zoo.

The Balboa Park Cultural Partnership serves as the collaborative body and collective voice for 28 arts, science and cultural institutions in Balboa Park. Together they achieve greater effectiveness, innovation and excellence and contribute to the vitality and sustainability of Balboa Park. Their 500 trustees, 7,000 volunteers and 3,500 staff serve more than 6.2 million visitors annually. The partnership collaborates on parkwide marketing, community outreach and joint sustainability efforts that advance the city’s overall climate action goals.
EXCURSION

Qualcomm Technologies, Inc.: Mobility and Qualcomm R&D. Qualcomm Technologies, Inc., a subsidiary of Qualcomm Incorporated, are helping to accelerate the development of connected cars with the first announced Cellular-V2X (C-V2X) trials in the U.S. Testing will take place in the San Diego Regional Proving Ground with the support of the San Diego Association of Governments, Caltrans, the City of Chula Vista and intelligent transportation solutions provider McCain, Inc. The goal of the trials is to demonstrate the potential of C-V2X technologies, including support for improved automotive safety, automated driving and traffic efficiency. The trials are also aimed to demonstrate to automakers and road operators the anticipated cost-efficient benefits associated with embedded cellular technology in vehicles and synergies between the deployment of cellular base stations and roadside infrastructure.

EXCURSION

Qualcomm Institute, UCSD [QI]. The Qualcomm Institute is the University of California San Diego (UC San Diego) division of the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology, one of four Gray Davis Institutes for Science and Innovation located on University of California campuses.

QI brings together more than 350 faculty members, nearly 120 technical and professional staff on the UC San Diego campus, as well as hundreds of student workers, undergraduate scholars, graduate fellows, postdoctoral researchers, project and research scientists and nearly 200 industry partners to date. The institute’s strategic vision stresses collaborative, interdisciplinary research in four core areas to benefit society: culture, energy, the environment and health. The institute plays a leadership role in the development of new institutes and research centers for the UC San Diego campus on topics ranging from robotics and the brain to design.
Salk Institute Architectural Tour. In 1957, Jonas Salk began his quest to create a collaborative environment where researchers could explore the basic principles of life and contemplate the wider implications of their discoveries for the future of humanity. Gifted with 27 acres overlooking the Pacific Ocean by the City of San Diego in 1960, Salk partnered with architect Louis Kahn to design such a research center. Salk directed Kahn to create spacious, unobstructed laboratory spaces that could be adapted to the ever-changing needs of science.

Kahn’s masterwork consists of two mirror-image structures—each six stories tall—that flank a grand travertine courtyard. Three floors house laboratories and the three levels above them provide access to utilities. Towers jutting into the courtyard provide study space for senior faculty. Towers at the east end contain heating, ventilating and other support systems. At the west end are six floors of offices overlooking the Pacific Ocean. A total of 29 structures join to form the Institute.
Science on Tap: White Labs. Consistently recognized as the Craft Beer Capital of America, San Diego is home to more than 130 brewhouses, making it one of the most concentrated regions for craft brewing in the country. Unique to San Diego, the convergence of life sciences and lifestyle has bolstered industry growth, with companies like White Labs producing brewing yeast for brewers near and far.

What began as home brewers searching for higher quality yeast quickly grew into a team of dedicated biochemists exploring new ways to advance brewing altogether. White Labs stands at the intersection of science, education and craft. From the industry’s first pitchable liquid yeast, to a complete revolution in the way it’s propagated and packaged, their innovative spirit has had an impact on the region’s industry.
Speakers

Jason Anderson, president and CEO, Clean Tech San Diego

Peter Comiskey, executive director, Balboa Park Cultural Partnership and Partners: Globe Theater, City of San Diego, San Diego Tourism Authority and San Diego Gas and Electric

Erik Fowler, cicerone and educator, White Labs

David Graham, NCOO-neighborhood services, City of San Diego

Marilyn Hannes, park president, SeaWorld

Susie Harborth, general partner & CFO, BioInnovation Capital, Co-Founder, BioLabs San Diego

Jennifer Landress, senior vice president and COO, Biocom

Randy McWilliams, senior director facilities, Padres

Lt. Col. Brandon Newell, chair of the Marine Corps Mobility Transformation, Marine Corps Air Station

Dr. Ramesh Rao, director, Qualcomm Institute

Brittany Sabbha, innovation activation manager, JLABS San Diego

Jeffrey Steindorf, Ph.D., vice president and COO, Sanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine

Mary Walshok, Ph.D., associate vice chancellor for public programs & dean of extension, University of California, San Diego
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Huge thanks to Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP for the hospitality here in San Diego. Love the local products!

Best Team. Ever. Thank you all for making #LEX18 amazing! @DenLeadership

San Diego with 150 of my favorite friends. #LEX18 #DMCC

Bravo to Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation for another insightful exchange of thoughts and ideas. Loved exploring San Diego’s thriving beer scene and MillerCoors leadership role in local craft innovations to addressing mutual challenges and opportunities in building a diverse and inclusive workforce. And an unexpected night with Bey and Jay was the icing on the collaboration cake! #LEX18 #SaintArcher #MillerCoors #InnovationInBeer
VIEW ALL OF THE PHOTOS FROM THE 2018 TRIP TO SAN DIEGO
NEXT STOP: DALLAS 2019

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