

Highlights of MBEP's Accomplishments

Transportation. MBEP is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the region, and how we move within and between our cities has a major impact on the well-being of our neighborhoods and residents. Working with nationally renowned transportation consultancy Alta Planning + Design, MBEP is focusing on actionable solutions to help employers implement employee commute programs, and advocacy for good policies that promote sustainable growth. Our region has the opportunity to build on the good work that is happening, and chart a path toward building a more effective transportation system.

Housing. One important step to achieve our mission is ensuring the availability of safe and affordable housing. The Monterey Bay Housing Trust, in partnership with the Housing Trust Silicon Valley, has gained lots of momentum. We exceeded our \$10 million fundraising goal – we now have over \$12 million available for pre-development loans for affordable housing projects throughout the region. Last year we also launched our online advocacy platform, the MBEP Action Center, to promote good projects and specific policies that increase housing and affordability. Earlier this year we published a white paper that takes proven policy changes in other locations with highly constrained housing markets and asks local jurisdictions to examine, discuss, and consider policy changes that will increase housing affordability throughout the Monterey Bay region. Lastly, through our Employer Sponsored Housing effort, we're working on implementation of the Farmworker Housing Action plan, and playing a supportive role in convening stakeholders, and promoting best practices to create more employer sponsored housing projects throughout the region.

Workforce Development. MBEP continues to build momentum to help local businesses hire local talent, and to provide resources for residents to be able to make a living wage. We are leading the consortium that created Monterey Bay Internships (MBI). MBI now has over 3,500 registered users and has placed over 170 interns. We are also working on bringing the Monterey Bay Career Coach to the region to inspire high school and middle school students about local career and education options. And we are collaborating with our community college partners in their implementation of Career Pathways, especially in CTE, and are proud partners with Digital NEST, assisting with their expansion in the region.

Technology. According to journalist Brady Dale, the critical components to a vibrant tech scene include having successful companies, access to capital, educational institutions, co-working and accelerator, tech reporters, lots of engineers, informal leaders, and fast internet. On this last point, the Sunesys middle mile broadband fiber from Santa Cruz to Soledad is now installed and being used, and we are encouraging “dig once” policies in all jurisdictions to turn public works departments into facilitators of the high-speed broadband infrastructure. We are currently working with our members and partners to facilitate getting high-speed broadband coverage to the entire region.

Regional Dashboard & Data Trackers. In 2016 MBEP launched a new tool to measure regional well-being, the Monterey Bay Regional Dashboard, which is used to track the trends and give a longitudinal perspective of our region. We now have more detailed "data trackers" in specific areas such as Education, Workforce Development and Industry Employment, Transportation and more that we encourage you to explore.

Events. MBEP holds two region-wide events each year: Regional Economic Summit in the spring, and our State of the Region conference each fall. These events bring regional leaders together, and stimulate cross-sector engagement and mobilization. As a special benefit to Members, we also host several Member Mixers to provide more interaction. Please save the date for our 4th Annual State of the Region event on November 30th at the Seaside Embassy Suites. And we are finalizing the details for our next Member Mixer in October -- more details soon.

MBEP Quarterly Objectives:

Membership

- Grow our membership by adding 3-4 new members each quarter.

Workforce Development

- Monterey Bay Internships: registering over 50 businesses each quarter and over 150 students each quarter, filling between 15-20 internship positions each quarter; expanding reach to all educational institutions through ongoing outreach to career centers and career fairs.
- Career Connect: launching in fall, conducting trainings, increased marketing/outreach efforts.

Tech Ecosystem

- Assembled a Broadband Leadership Team to establish new regional standards, conducted survey with users throughout tri-county area on broadband needs.
- Will work with jurisdictions on policy language related to broadband.
- Will disseminate information on new regional standards and promote infrastructure.

Housing

- Fund 1-2 affordable housing projects per quarter through Monterey Bay Housing Trust (MBHT); continue at this pace for upcoming quarters.
- Action Center: conduct 1-2 campaigns each quarter.
- Employer-sponsored housing: working with specific ag companies to enable these projects.
- Developed Farmworker Housing Study; co-lead implementation of plan.
- Promotion of Housing Policy Paper is ongoing.

Transportation

- Gathered commute data and engaged with Alta Planning to discuss transportation alternatives.
- Developing regional Commuter Program in coordination with regional transportation entities.
- Launch first transportation-related Action Center campaign.

Events

- Conducting Economic Summit and State of the Region each year (May and November); member events, housing events and many Workforce Development events each quarter