



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **1. What is the Burnham Center for Community Advancement?**

The Burnham Center for Community Advancement is a think-and-do tank that helps make the San Diego binational region a better place to live, work and play for all. We serve as a nexus point where community stakeholders and multi-sector partners come together to identify regional needs, find innovative solutions, and tackle some of our most pressing issues.

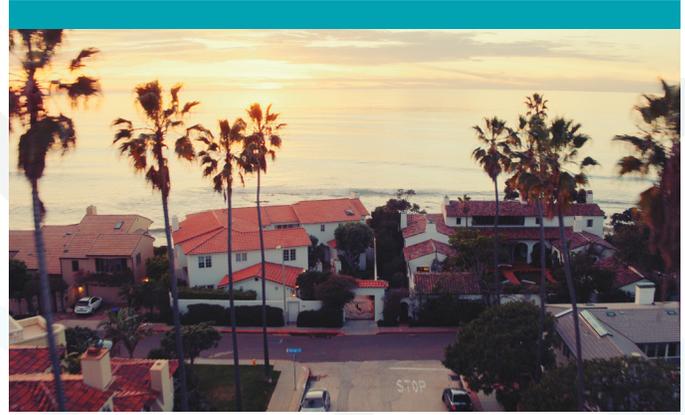
## **2. There have been many similar efforts to convene regional stakeholders like this in our region, what makes the Burnham Center different?**

As a think-and-do tank, we aim to be nimble, neutral and a place where all sectors come together to catalyze action and coordinate continued collaboration to get meaningful things done. We are not a government institution, a foundation, a bureaucracy, or the private

sector. We do not hold power; we are a platform for our partners to enhance, amplify and accelerate their work through collaboration and cross-pollination. We are a true "fourth sector" entity, supporting a catalytic ecosystem, along with our partners, where civic innovation and good ideas come to life.

## **3. Is the Burnham Center for Community Advancement the same as The Malin Burnham Center for Civic Engagement at The San Diego Foundation?**

The Malin Burnham Center for Civic Engagement at The San Diego Foundation has evolved into the Burnham Center for Community Advancement in order to address today's civic, social, economic and political environment, maximize our impact and leverage the opportunity presented by our joint creation of the "Civic Collaboratory" with UC San Diego. We have new flexibility, agility, adaptability and a bias toward action.



We have reimagined our model and process to better support the work of our partners and provide a platform for civic innovation. BCCA is now here to actualize solutions.

#### **4. Will the Burnham Center intentionally facilitate diverse peoples' opportunities in the San Diego economy?**

One of our core priorities is diversity, with the goal of bringing together an array of people and groups to move our region forward for all--this is foundational for us. Our "Civic Collaboratory" with UC San Diego will tackle issues like this and will be the laboratory where we work collectively in an innovative, yet organized fashion.

#### **5. How will BCCA utilize data to ensure measurable progress?**

Data, qualitative and quantitative, aggregated and disaggregated, is key to our work. Without data we are merely speculating on where to put our time and resources. Data is information, and information is the power that drives good decisions. We'll catalyze the great work that our various partners in government, higher education, nonprofit and the private sector have done in data collection, and together, put that information to good use by filling in any gaps and combining it with

community voices to tell the real story behind the numbers. Armed with that life experience/data story we can make a compelling case for the initiatives we identify, utilize that data to design our efforts, understand their impact, and optimize outcomes. Continuous evaluation, redesign and re-assessment are part of our DNA and we have formed key partnerships to help with this.

#### **6. How does BCCA identify it's initiatives and priorities?**

The role of BCCA is to advance and accelerate issues that are key to the San Diego binational region living into and up to its full potential. The initiatives and priorities we identify are either partner-initiated, BCCA-initiated or community-initiated. All of our work funnels through a process where we look at the data and research, innovation, identify capacity and resources, analyze the impact, and take action. Examples of our early priorities include the World Design Capital bid, revitalization of Balboa Park, meeting regional housing and workforce development needs, and rebuilding our community fabric.