## WHAT IS THE CBA?

The Community Budget Alliance (CBA) is a coalition of community, labor, and faith-based organizations united to ensure that the City of San Diego’s budget equitably spends public dollars. We believe that City budget decisions must prioritize communities and neighborhoods with the greatest need and actively combat systemic racism, discrimination, and income inequality. We envision a San Diego where budgets and budget processes are transparent, accessible, and designed to give communities decision-making power and to ensure our City government is responsible and accountable.

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ABOUT THE FY 2024 RECOMMENDATIONS

We call on the City of San Diego Mayor and City Council to intentionally create an anti-racist budget that breaks the pattern of discrimination against people of color and the exploitation of poor people. Each year, Community Budget Alliance partners develop budget priorities that meet the needs of and work towards explicitly reversing racial and economic inequities in the communities where we do our work. Our priorities address some of San Diego’s most pressing issues, especially those that disproportionately impact Black, Latinx, refugee, immigrant, LGBTQ+, youth, housing insecure, low-income, and other historically disempowered communities. We urge City of San Diego elected officials to include these priorities in the FY24 budget.
Rent is unaffordable in San Diego County, with the average rent for an apartment at $2,916 per month. 50% of San Diegans are rent burdened and this percentage is even higher for low-income households and for people of color, with Black families in San Diego being more rent burdened than anywhere else in the Country. With the end of the COVID-19 eviction moratoria, an increasing number of renters are forced to leave their homes and find new housing. Moving often brings additional financial stress, like increased rent and high security deposits, which forces some people into homelessness.

Historically, the City of San Diego has focused on reactive measures to reduce homelessness. However, this has not been enough, in 2020, the number of new people experiencing homelessness doubled in San Diego County, and that number continues to grow. Preventing people from entering homelessness is critical.

FOR EVERY 10 PEOPLE who find housing, 13 MORE become homeless in San Diego County

- The Regional Taskforce on Homelessness (2021)
RECOMMENDATION

Increase funding for the Housing Instability Prevention Program (HIPP) to $24 million to support up to 2,000 families.

Last year (FY23), the City allocated $3.57 million to create a Housing Instability Prevention Program (HIPP) run by the San Diego Housing Commission. HIPP funds can be used to cover security deposits, past-due rent, utilities, and other housing expenses. HIPP pays up to $500 per month for up to 24 months allowing the program to serve approximately 300 qualifying households in the City of San Diego. But the need is much greater. There are over 42,000 families who make 25% or less of the Area Median Income (AMI) and are identified as needing housing assistance by the City of San Diego.⁴

Cost Estimate: $24,000,000
Many San Diego renters are evicted illegally or for avoidable reasons, and most do not know their rights and how to enforce their rights to stay housed. The Eviction Prevention Collaborative and other tenants' rights organizations provide targeted education, outreach, and essential information to tenants to help them avoid evictions, especially illegal and avoidable evictions.

Funding tenant outreach is a proven strategy for success. For example, a recent University of Arizona study assessing the effectiveness of tenant education for increasing housing stability, reducing evictions, and other benefits, found a significant increase in attendee/tenant understanding of their rights after attending tenant workshops. It also showed that renters could stay housed longer after learning about their rights.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Continued funding for Community Based and Tenants' Rights Organizations to conduct outreach and tenants’ rights workshops.

Last year, the City provided $1.5 million for an 18-month contract that enabled community based organizations to reach close to 50,000 tenants, refer more than 9,000 to legal and other resources, and educate over 4,000 tenants on their rights.

**Cost Estimate: $1,000,000**

**POSITIVE BENEFITS INCLUDE:**
- increased attendee self-confidence
- community building, health and well-being benefits (particularly for children)
- increased community stability
Wage theft occurs when an employer fails to pay a worker the full wages to which they are legally entitled. Low-income workers are especially likely to experience wage theft. For example, as many as 17% of workers experience minimum wage violations each year. Wage theft is so prevalent that the City of San Diego finds that even many employers who contract with the City violate the City’s minimum wage and living wage ordinances.

WAGE THEFT TAKES MANY FORMS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- Paying workers less than the legal minimum wage.
- Failing to pay nonexempt employees time and a half for hours worked over 40 hours per week.
- Asking employees to work off the clock before or after their shifts.
- Denying workers their legal meal breaks.
- Taking illegal deductions from wages.
- Confiscating tips from workers.
- Misclassifying employees as independent contractors to pay a wage lower than the legal minimum or to avoid paying overtime.

Confronting Wage Theft in San Diego (2017)
CPI's 2017 Confronting Wage Theft report estimated that there are 40,000 instances of minimum wage violations alone in San Diego and Imperial Counties. However, compared to the estimated amount of wage theft occurring in the city, the number of complaints the City receives is extremely low (34 complaints in FY22). Fear of retaliation and lack of information on the law and process are the main reasons workers do not file complaints. The OLSE’s reliance on a complaint-based system rather than proactive investigations means that thousands of workers are left vulnerable to retaliation and harassment.

Increasing staffing in the Office of Labor Standards Enforcement will help improve the office’s impact because proactive investigations uncover more labor violations than a complaint-based system. In addition, increasing outreach staff and funding will increase the number of workers who know and defend their rights.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Provide additional staff and outreach support to the Office of Labor Standards Enforcement (OLSE).

- $240,000 for 2 additional Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) City staff lawyers within the City Attorney’s Office to assist workers with claims.
- $75,000 for 1 FTE Field Investigator modeled after the State Labor Commissioner’s Bureau of Field Enforcement (BOFE).
- $1,000,000 City Worker Justice Fund to support workers with wage replacement, legal assistance, and other needs as they file claims with the office.
- $500,000 to partner with community organizations to provide outreach and education for hard-to-reach and vulnerable workers.
- $75,000 for 1 FTE Community Outreach Representative who will raise awareness and educate workers about the function of OLSE and how it can help them.

Cost estimate: $1,890,000
Young people have few opportunities to have their voices heard or to play an active role in decision-making. As a result, often city officials make decisions that impact future generations without incorporating young people's experiences, insights, and solutions. Reinstating the 20-member Youth Commission was a good first step in formalizing youth decision-making. However, Youth Commissioners lack the support necessary to effectively integrate their voices into city decisions. Recognizing the valuable insight that youth provide in decision-making spaces starts with compensating them for their time and commitment to the commission.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Create a Civic Education and Engagement Program for Youth Commissioners.

The Civic Education and Engagement Program will educate, engage, and empower young people to be successful in the Youth Commission and any other civic engagement activities they pursue. As part of this program, participants would receive a stipend to support youth commitment to decision making processes and allow a more diverse set of youth commissioners to serve. A similar program exists in the City of Los Angeles.  

Cost Estimate: $100,000
The youth experience often differs in the City of San Diego depending on what opportunities are available and accessible in their neighborhood, including education, after-school programs, youth development programs, and access to mental health resources. The communities within D9, D4, and D8 have historically received less funding, programs, and services than other communities in San Diego. Because of this disinvestment, they are where we see the greatest concentration of poor, Black and Brown residents. In addition, youth living in neighborhoods that experience over-policing and police violence are often racially profiled, criminalized, and denied the ability to recover from mistakes.

For the past year, Pillars of the Community worked with Violence Interrupters and over 100 community members to build a campaign that decreases violence. Their partnership with other community-based organizations in Southeast San Diego has decreased gun violence while uplifting the community. This pilot program will build upon this work to reduce violence, increase job skills, and decrease recidivism while building community in these neighborhoods.

RECOMMENDATION

Pilot a Community-Led Youth Care and Development Program. The starting $3 million allocation will be matched by Community-Based Organizations to total $6 million and support the following:

- Two youth and adult pilot centers in the Mountain View and Memorial areas.
- Mental health counseling and trauma-informed care.
- A Program Manager, Outreach Workers, a Clinical Counselor, rent and utilities, job certification programs, a Community Accountability Group, stipends, computers, a coffee shop/kitchen, and youth development activities.

Cost Estimate: $3,000,000
The rising cost of living and stagnating wages means many tools and materials are inaccessible, especially when they are only needed for one-time projects. Lack of access to expensive tools can prevent community members, particularly low-income families and youth, from being able to build and create. It can prevent people from learning a new hobby, new skills, and making improvements to their home environment. Creating a tool library will provide access to tangible resources people can use to improve their lives. Other cities that run tool libraries include Chicago, Berkeley, and Seattle.

Create a Tool Library with $158,000 in ongoing funding and $14,000 in one-time funding for the following:

- $105,000 for 1.5 FTE to (1) implement the program, including setting up operations, contracting technology for lending tools, and conducting a community survey to identify the seed list of tools to start the library’s inventory, (2) actively find funding through grants and donations, (3) handle daily activity of checking out the tools and receiving donations.
- $40,000 (for one year) to rent space.
- $12,000 in one-time funding to purchase a starting tool inventory.
- $2,000 in one-time funding for laptops and phones.
- $1,000 to contract with MyTurn Lending Technology software and pay monthly fees.

Cost Estimate: $172,000
Currently, low- and middle-income communities in San Diego have less than 10% tree canopy cover. However, the City’s Climate Action Plan (CAP) calls for 35% coverage by 2035. To meet the tree canopy goal the City to plant will need to buy, plant and maintain 100,000 new trees or approximately 8,300 trees new trees per year. The City has made little progress toward this goal.

Historically, the City has planted fewer trees and created less green space in low-income and historically redlined communities than in wealthier whiter neighborhoods. Green space and the a dense urban tree canopy bring environmental health benefits, making low-income neighborhoods less vulnerable to climate and health risks by lowering local temperatures, improving air quality, and mitigating flooding.

Funding a program manager for trees to focus efforts on low-income communities and communities of color will help focus tree planting in these areas and help reverse these inequities.

“When I’m asked about the outdoors. It isn’t just what you see. It’s a place of healing, connection, and a place that I feel welcome. It’s a home like no other, and a refuge of solace for those who need it most.”

- Keanu Shu, Youth Advocate
RECOMMENDATION

Increase the urban tree canopy to 35% (approximately 8,300 trees per year) and fund an Equity Program Manager for trees.

Cost Estimate: $75,000
The City has failed to provide sufficient funding for Environmental Justice communities most impacted by environmental harms and risks. While the City has increased efforts to bring greater equity to the budget in recent years, more green space is needed in neighborhoods that do not currently have easy access to parks, trees and community gardens. According to the Climate Equity Index, the Climate Equity Fund specifically focuses investments in Environmental Justice communities with the most need to address inequities.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Increase the Climate Equity Fund.

Cost Estimate: $15,000,000
Low-income communities and communities of color have less access to parks and green space due to historical and systemic underinvestment. Parks provide physical and mental wellness to residents while also increasing community-building opportunities. These infrastructure projects have been on the City’s Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) project list for multiple years and need additional funding to move to the next development phase. Progress on these projects must be based on community input and address the needs of the surrounding neighborhood community to create the vision and move forward with development.

RECOMMENDATION

Fund the Next Development Phase of the Following Parks and Infrastructure Projects:

- Chollas Creek Regional Park - cost unknown
- Beta St Green Alley - cost unknown
- Emerald Hills Park - $1 million
- Berardini Field - cost unknown
- Kelly St Neighborhood Park - $1 million

Cost Estimate: Unknown
Trucks coming from the Port of San Diego continue to drive through Barrio Logan causing toxic air pollution and unsafe conditions for residents despite the truck route ordinance. San Diego has the sixth-worst air quality for ozone in the nation, with portside communities like Barrio Logan experiencing the worst air quality levels in the City. In addition, residents of Barrio Logan have a higher asthma rate than more than 90% of zip codes across California. Traffic calming infrastructure in these areas will help slow traffic, increase safety, create multi-use streets, prevent unsanctioned truck routes, and improve air quality.

Build Out Barrio Logan Street Calming Infrastructure.

Cost Estimate: $600,000
There is little green space in Barrio Logan, and community members have been planning a new park for many years. With only three parks in the area, there are limited spaces where youth and families can spend time together away from the heat and air pollution. This funding will support the Boston Avenue Park build-out, including street calming measures surrounding the park location.

Develop Boston Avenue Linear Park.

Cost Estimate: $1,000,000
DEVELOP A PARK AND COMMUNITY GARDEN IN CITY HEIGHTS

City Heights is a food desert, meaning it has large proportions of households with low incomes, and a limited number of food retailers providing fresh produce and healthy groceries at affordable prices. One in five City Heights residents experiences food insecurity, and approximately one-quarter of City Heights families live below the federal poverty line. In park deficient areas like City Heights, parks and community gardens give residents more access to fresh produce, and give families and youth a place and space to connect with their community. Converting the two vacant lots near Teralta Park (Lot 1: 4105 Central Ave, Lot 2: 4110 41st St) into a park and community garden will increase the number of green spaces available to residents while combating food insecurity and increasing access to healthy food options.

RECOMMENDATION

Develop a Park and Community Garden in City Heights
Cost Estimate: $600,000
CAMPAIGNS WE ENDORSE

ReWild Mission Bay Wetland Restoration

- $250,000 to finish developing the City’s Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for wetland restoration in the northeast corner of Mission Bay.

The San Diego LGBT Community Center Youth Housing Initiative

- $2M in annual funding for LGBTQ+ youth housing and comprehensive support services.

ACCE and PANA Tenant Protection Ordinance

- Pass a Tenant Protection Ordinance that provides immediate protections for tenants, including coverage to existing leases, and applies at the start day of the tenancy. This ordinance should include extra protections for students and families and special provisions for substantial remodels and repairs, owner move-ins, withdrawal of units from the market, and legal remediations.
CAMPAIGNS WE ENDORSE

San Diego Library Foundation Library Investments

- $250,000 increase to the library materials budget
- $602,000 for Youth Service Librarians at every branch
- $500,000 to create a library maintenance budget
- $200,000 to increase the Library Matching Fund to $1.4M

Chollas Creek Coalition Recommended Parks Projects

- Chollas Triangle Park
- Streamview Phase II
- Gompers Park General Development Plan
- Chollas Creek to Bayshore Bikeway Trail Projects
- Castana Street PUD Parcel Acquisition/General Development Plan
- Hilltop Mobility/Safety Improvements: Market St/47th Street/Federal Blvd/Euclid Ave
- Safe Routes to School Improvements
- Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park Master Plan
CAMPAIGNS WE ENDORSE

Project for Sanitation Justice

- Increase the number of permanent public bathrooms across the city, emphasizing densely-populated neighborhoods and neighborhoods where people experiencing homelessness access resources and spend time.
- Ensure that public bathrooms are well-maintained and cleaned regularly.
- Create and make available a virtual map of available public bathrooms, including a schedule of available services (e.g., showers, sinks, toilets).
- Ensure that interaction between law enforcement and people experiencing homelessness in and around public bathrooms, and in general, emphasize compassion, support, and personal safety, rather than criminalizing people’s attempts to meet their most basic human needs.


4. 6th Cycle Housing Element, City of San Diego, Accessed November 2022, [https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/he_appb_demographics_final_0.pdf](https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/he_appb_demographics_final_0.pdf)


COMMUNITY BUDGET ALLIANCE
MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

ACCE
San Diego and Imperial Counties

ACLU

Local 12

alliance
SAN DIEGO

CPI
CENTER ON POLICY INITIATIVES

CITY HEIGHTS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CWA
EMERALD HILLS
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH COALITION

IWJSD

THE CENTER

LOGAN HEIGHTS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Mid-City CAN
Community Advocacy Network

Pace
Public Affairs and Civic Engagement
A division of the Muslim American Society

OUTDOOR
OUTREACH

PARENT VOICES

PILLARS
OF THE COMMUNITY

Planned Parenthood
Action Fund of the Pacific Southwest

San Diego
LGBT PRIDE

San Diego
350
CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

SDU

The Home Care Providers Union
AFSCME Local 3930 / AFI-CIO

youth will