



INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COUNCIL

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## *Media Release*

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### **SAN JOSE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CITY OF SAN JOSE RECEIVES RECOGNITION FOR EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

The Office of Economic Development, City of San Jose received an award for Excellence in Economic Development for their *Envision 2040: Wikiplanning* in the category of New Media for communities with populations of greater than 500,000 from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC).

The honor was presented at an awards ceremony on Tuesday, September 28 during the IEDC Annual Conference, September 26-29 in Columbus, Ohio.

“We recognize the Office of Economic Development, City of San Jose for providing successful strategies to promote new paradigms in economic development in this period of global recovery,” said William Best, IEDC chair. “Our awards honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in communities. The Office of Economic Development, City of San Jose is showing that they are at the forefront of the economic development profession and are using innovative and effective practices that can be replicated in other communities.”

San Jose utilized Wikiplanning—a new virtual collaboration tool—to ensure a wide range of civic input for its General Plan update, *Envision San Jose 2040*. Wikiplanning created a place where all beneficiaries of the community, young and old, could weigh in on the future of the city and the best strategies for success. This pilot virtual forum complemented the City’s more traditional meeting-focused methods of community engagement. Wikiplanning allowed all residents to participate in city planning activities normally available at traditional public meetings, but from their own homes and workplaces any time throughout the day or night, which allow residents to make their voices heard with community economic development and planning leaders. Utilizing the Wikiplanning features, the site navigated residents through a series of activities online, including a mix of project-specific multi-media learning sessions, message boards and surveys.

### **ABOUT THE CITY OF SAN JOSE'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The City of San Jose's Office of Economic Development (OED), part of the San Jose Office of the City Manager, is committed to a vital, competitive San Jose economy that increases prosperity for people and companies and enhances City revenues. The Office guides the City's economic strategy, provides assistance for business success, helps connect employers with trained workers, and provides art and cultural resources to our community. For more information, please visit, [www.sjeconomy.com](http://www.sjeconomy.com).

### **ABOUT THE CITY OF SAN JOSE**

From its founding in 1777 as California's first city, San Jose has been a leader, driven by its spirit of innovation. Today, San Jose stands as the largest city in Northern California and the Capital of Silicon Valley—the world's leading center of innovation. The city, the 10th largest in the U.S., is committed to remaining a top-ranked place to do business, to work and to live. For more information, visit, [www.sanjoseca.gov](http://www.sanjoseca.gov).

### **ABOUT THE EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC AWARDS PROGRAM**

The Excellence in Economic Awards Program annually recognizes the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials, and the year's most influential leaders. The program honors organizations and individuals in 28 categories for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

### **ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is the premier membership organization dedicated to helping economic development professionals create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities and improve the quality of life in their regions. Serving more than 4,500 members, IEDC represents the largest network of economic development professionals in the world. IEDC provides a diverse range of services, including conferences, certification, professional development, publications, research, advisory services and legislative tracking.

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