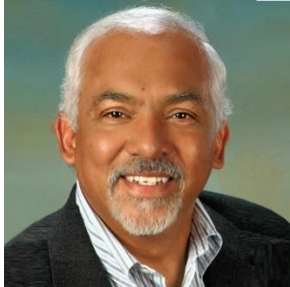




Cynthia Ajani
Co-Owner
Café X

Besides being a co-owner of Café X, Cynthia holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources Management and a minor in Health Care Administration from National University. Her master's studies were completed in Human Behavior. Cynthia's background includes a 22yr career in healthcare having concentrated her efforts in patient finance services at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego. She has worked as an independent sub-contractor on teams who specialized in healthcare revenue cycle redesigns that served to improve processes and systems to increase cash flow. She has worked in the insurance industry as an agent and financial services independent.



Roque Barros
Executive Director
Imperial Valley Wellness Foundation

Roque Barros has more than 30 years of combined experience in nonprofit and foundation management. He is the first Executive Director for the Imperial Valley Wellness Foundation (IVWF) and is leading its efforts to build a permanent endowment to advance the health and wellness of the most under-resourced in Imperial County, California.

Prior to IVWF, Roque served as the director of the Ford Institute for Community Building, an arm of The Ford Family Foundation. Under his leadership, the Ford Institute adopted a community building approach that supports residents in taking the lead to create the change they want to see. At the Jacobs Family Foundation in San Diego, Roque worked as the director of community building and served as interim president. While at the Jacobs Family Foundation, he led resident teams to develop the vision and implementation of Market Creek Plaza in Southeastern San Diego, a community building and economic developed project. In the nonprofit field, Roque served as the director of U.S./Mexico Projects with Los Niños, an international community development organization and later served as its executive director for 10 years. He has developed and directed sustainable programs that assist communities in finding opportunities, addressing their needs and developing solutions. He has also designed capacity building trainings and toolkits for resident-led community building efforts.

Barros was born and raised in the Imperial Valley and is excited to return and lead IVWF's vision of healthy people living full lives in the Imperial Valley and responding to needs and opportunities while building for the future. In partnership with the Alliance Healthcare Foundation, the goal is to have a \$25 million endowment in place that will provide more than \$1 million to the community each year to address health and wellness issues for the most vulnerable in the region.

Roque has a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Redlands, Calif.



Robert M. Brock (Bobby)
President & CEO
Imperial Valley Community Foundation

Bobby Brock has served as President/CEO of the Imperial Valley Community Foundation since March of 2008. And, he previously served on the IVCF board of directors and as its Secretary before assuming his current position.

During his tenure with the Foundation, Brock has worked side-by-side with IVCF's volunteer leadership to establish a portfolio of charitable funds benefiting the residents, quality of life and future of Imperial Valley. Brock's responsibilities include asset development and management, design of scholarship, corporate giving and other special programs, mission-matching for donors and nonprofit organizations and causes, convening meetings on important community issues, and overseeing IVCF's ongoing activities and new collaborations with regional partners and key stakeholders. In addition to the Foundation's development and grantmaking programs, with the dedicated support of wonderful volunteers Brock coordinates IVCF's signature special events and Imperial Valley's National Philanthropy Day celebration – now in its ninth year.

Prior to his work with the Foundation, Brock was a District Executive for the San Diego-Imperial Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Financial Representative for Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, and Performer/Instructor for the National Comedy Theatre.

A strong advocate for civic engagement and community service, Brock currently serves on the boards of the American Red Cross (San Diego & Imperial Counties Chapter) and the San Diego-Imperial Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and is an active member of the Imperial-Mexicali Bi-National Alliance working closely with U.S. and Mexican agencies and stakeholders on issues pertaining to logistics and international crossings, economic development, and the environment.



Pamela Gray Payton
Chief Impact and Partnerships Officer
The San Diego Foundation

Since joining The San Diego Foundation on June 1, 2020, less than three months after the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Gray Payton has played a key role directing work related to The Foundation's \$66 million COVID-19 Community Response Fund (CRF). In less than 15 months, the CRF provided grants to more than 380 nonprofits providing more than 2.5 million services to San Diegans in need. Gray Payton has also played a key role with shaping The Foundation's strategic plan and launching its Black Community Investment Fund. In her role as Chief Impact and Partnerships Officer, Vice President of Community Impact, she oversees The Foundation's Community Impact programs and leads the strategic initiatives that enable community solutions to improve the quality of life and advance a vision of just, equitable and resilient communities in the San Diego region. Gray Payton also plays a critical role in developing cross-sector partnerships on behalf of The San Diego Foundation.

Prior to joining The San Diego Foundation, she served as the Assistant Vice President, Community, State and Local Government Relations and the Assistant Vice President of University Communications at the University of San Diego. Payton has also served as Board President for RISE San Diego, a nonprofit organization dedicated to elevating and advancing urban leadership to create meaningful community change, and the Kim Center for Social Balance, a nonprofit dedicated to accelerating the achievement of equal status for all genders in the workplace.



Javier Guerrero
President and CEO
Coastal Roots Farm

Javier Guerrero is the Farm's President and CEO. Javier works with Coastal Roots Farm staff, board members, funders, partners, and volunteers to advance the Farm's impact initiatives of Regenerative Agriculture, Equitable Access to Food and Environmental Education, and Jewish Life, welcoming people of all backgrounds. Javier has worked in the San Diego nonprofit sector for over 20 years and brings extensive experience in nonprofit administration, organizational management, and resource development. Prior to joining the Farm over three years ago, Javier served eight years as Executive Director of San Diego Children's Discovery Museum in Escondido, overseeing the Museum's capital campaign, move to a new indoor/outdoor location, and expansion of exhibits and programming. Javier currently serves on the Board of North County Philanthropy Council and Carlsbad Education Foundation. Javier was the recipient of the 2021 Fran Aleshire Leadership Award from CSUSM Leadership North County.



Tim Ney
Executive Director
Armed Services YMCA San Diego

Tim Ney is a San Diego Native and proudly served for eight years in the United States Marine Corps at C Co. 1st Bt3rd Marines, A Co. 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, and 1st Force Reconnaissance Company. Tim has a bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership from Chapman University, a Black Belt Lean Six Sigma certificate from the University of California San Diego, and an Executive MBA from San Diego State University. Tim Ney held the role of Director of Community Relations at the North County Community Services, Chief Operations Officer at Feeding America San Diego, and is now the Executive Director of the Armed Services YMCA San Diego.

His family has a long history of service to our country dating back to the beaches of Normandy. His father, Joe Ney, served in the United States Marine Corps for 33 years. His eldest son, Elias Ney, is a LT. JG in the U.S. Navy currently training as a Romeo Pilot getting ready for deployment.



Lorraine Orosco
Executive Director
Department of Education, San Pasqual Tribal
Government

A member of the Kumeyaay Tribe located in San Diego California, from one of 12 Bands of the Kumeyaay Federally recognized, the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians ([Home | History, Culture, Government & Enterprises | San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians](#)). Lorraine grew up on the San Pasqual Indian Reservation. Attended UCSD, University of California, San Diego and obtained a BA in Sociology and Ethnic Studies. She also holds a Masters / MS in Education from National University.

Lorraine has worked in Education for the local Native American community for 29 years. The past 17 years she has been developing the current Department of Education for the San Pasqual Tribal Government, as the Executive Director for the Tribe's Department of Education. Currently Lorraine is on the Board of director's for Kumeyaay Community College ([HOME PAGE - Kumeyaay Community College](#)). She is also on the Native American Advisory Board for the California State University, San Marcos.

As the Executive Director of the San Pasqual Education Department, she develops and implements a variety of community-based Education programs. Programs include Early Childhood Education, K-12 Educational support services; tutorial, college career planning, and also, wellness and preventions programs, Inter Tribal Sports League, college classes on-site, Kumeyaay Language, Culture and Traditional student classes and programs. Classes and programs teaching Kumeyaay Culture always include the environment. Teachings include the environments importance and meaning to the Kumeyaay people, who have been in the Southern California region for what has been proven to be over 100,000 years. The Kumeyaay territory is Southern California to Arizona, which also crosses South to the into Baja Mexico.



Khea Pollard
Co-Owner, Café X
Director, San Diego for Every Child

Khea Pollard is the Director of San Diego for Every Child. She has several years of experience fostering collaboration, facilitating dialogue, and implementing policy to make improvements in health, human service, and criminal justice systems. Her skills include facilitating interagency communication, generating solution-focused dialogue, project management, and strategic planning.

Prior to joining San Diego for Every Child, Pollard was a Justice Program Manager for the National Association of Counties, serving County governments across the United States. Her work focused on the intersection of behavioral health, criminal justice reform, and racial equity, supporting counties to make evidence-based policy changes, providing trainings, implement quality assurance practices, and facilitate multijurisdictional information sharing to reduce the number of individuals with mental illness in county jails.

Locally, Pollard served as the Health and Human Services Policy Advisor and Community Representative to Supervisor Greg Cox at the County San Diego, advising on issues pertaining to children and youth, education, child welfare, juvenile justice, safety net and eligibility programs, behavioral health, and probation.

She enjoys supporting community-based organizations, currently serving as the Youth Prioritization Mentor for San Diego Youth Will. She has worked on numerous nonprofit consulting projects in the areas of finance, board development, strategic planning, policy, civic engagement, human resources and more. Pollard is also a proud Alumna of the RISE Urban Leadership Fellowship Program and a small business owner. She also served on the executive committees of the Black Women's Institute for Leadership Development (BWILD) and the Urban League Young Professionals.

A native San Diegan, Pollard graduated from the University of San Diego (USD) with a B.A. in English, a B.A. in Ethnic Studies, and a Master's degree in Nonprofit Leadership and Management.



Megan Thomas
President & CEO
Catalyst of San Diego & Imperial Counties

Megan currently serves as Catalyst's president & CEO, providing strategic leadership and partnership to the entire Catalyst staff, board, members, and community partners.

Megan oversees Catalyst's facilitation of collaborative efforts among its funder members and other stakeholders; leads the production of philanthropy and impact investing skills-building and issue based learning; and spearheads Catalyst's work related to championing equity and opportunity. She provides strategic and logistical support to strengthen San Diego communities through shared learning and pooled and aligned funding strategies. Current focus areas include early education, STEAM education, immigration, homelessness, military/veterans issues, leadership development, racial justice, and impact investing, as well as support for the steering committees of pooled grant funds, including that of Women Give San Diego, which is fiscally sponsored by Catalyst.

Megan brings 20 years of experience in the nonprofit and philanthropic fields to this role, having most recently served as Executive Director of San Diego Coastkeeper where she built partnerships among the nonprofit, business, and public sectors to advance environmental goals across San Diego County. Megan received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Georgetown University and her Masters in Business Administration from Yale School of Management. She serves on the long-term vision advisory committee for Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees and previously served on the board of directors of Hope Horse Ranch, United Way of San Diego County; advisory council for The San Diego Foundation's Center for Civic Engagement; and the Port of San Diego Environmental Advisory Committee.



Marcus Walton
President and CEO
Grantmakers for Effective Organizations (GEO)

Marcus F. Walton joins GEO with over a decade of practice in both nonprofit management and the ontological learning model. He specializes in operationalizing conceptual frameworks; racial equity facilitation and training; leadership and management strategy; stakeholder engagement; program development and navigating philanthropy.

In his previous role as Director of Racial Equity Initiatives for Borealis Philanthropy, Marcus led the Racial Equity Initiatives team and worked in partnership with 18 nationally-networked, philanthropy-serving grantee organizations to move past the “transactional” nature of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to a unified movement which prioritizes strategies that close gaps in access to opportunity, resources and well-being (across all categories of gender, identity, sexual orientation, class and ability).

Before that, Marcus served as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for the Association of Black Foundation Executives (ABFE), where he oversaw its operations, HR and staff development functions, including the overall strategy, conceptualization and administration of racial equity programming. Prior to ABFE, he combined his organizing experience and passion for public service in the role of Program Officer of Community Responsive Grantmaking with the Cleveland Foundation and Sr. Program Officer with Neighborhood Progress, Inc.

Marcus is a Newfield Network-trained ontological coach, with additional training in the Action Learning systems coaching model. He promotes coaching as a tool for personal mastery, racial equity & systems change, social sector excellence and transformation within marginalized communities.

Marcus received a Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science from Bowling Green State University and has continued graduate studies in public administration at Georgia State University’s Andrew Young School of Public Policy as well as Rutgers University’s School of Public Affairs and Administration.



Jason Wells
Chief Executive
San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce

Jason M-B Wells, 47, is the chief executive of the San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce, where he represents commerce at the World's busiest land-border crossing. A skilled negotiator and avid consensus-builder, Wells is responsible for building, among other strategic partnerships: the San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition in 2007 – bringing federal attention and change to his tiny, yet powerful border-community, including two new, international pedestrian crossings; the Binational Chamber of Border Commerce in 2010 – a historic conglomeration of economic development organizations from both sides of the US/ Mexico border; and creation of the Border Public Arts Committee in 2015.

In addition to representing San Ysidro businesses, Jason was publicly elected in 2010 to the San Ysidro School District Governing Board, where he was voted by his peers as the President of the Board in 2013 and, in 2014, was the first re-elected President for the district in over 20 years. Completing a term of service to the community, Wells was responsible for leading the district through an administration overhaul, implementing historic "local control funding" mechanisms and negotiating the district out of a teacher's strike by reaching out to union representation and finding a compromise that gave teachers more than expected and set the district on a path to fiscal solvency.

"Proactive" and "Results-Oriented" are two of the most used adjectives in describing San Ysidro's charismatic executive – resulting in several appointments from both San Diego's Mayor and recent Mayors of Tijuana.

In 2020, Wells was hand-picked by then-San Diego mayoral candidate Todd as part of his small business task force, then appointed by Mayor Gloria as part of his Back To Work San Diego team. Besides Back To Work SD, Jason sits on the Civic San Diego New Market Tax Credit Advisory Board, San Diego Police Chief's Latino Advisory Board, San Diego PD Southern Division Captain's Advisory Board, elected member of the San Ysidro Community Planning Group and the US Customs and Border Protection Port Working Group – San Ysidro.