

WE PROSPER TOGETHER CATALYST SUMMIT 2026



**WE PROSPER
TOGETHER**

Catalyst Summit

Presented by



Sutter Health

9.9.2026

Citrus Heights Event Center



valley vision

Community Inspired Solutions



Valley Vision utilizes data-driven collaboration to enhance the quality of life for all residents in the Capital Region. Our vision is a livable, sustainable region where we all thrive.

Each year we work to host a large-scale event to create a space that empowers collaborative and community-inspired solutions amongst peers, partners, and neighbors across the region. Learn more at valleyvision.org.



For nearly four years, Valley Vision has been leading the region's We Prosper Together initiative, the bold, data-driven plan to build a regional economy for all.

This program of the larger California Jobs First program has connected nearly 2,000 residents to workforce training programs, funded 22 innovative projects, and identified the industries that offer the best opportunity for a more equitable and resilient economy. Help us shape the initiative's continued success into 2027 and beyond. Learn more at weprosperitogether.org.

Valley Vision is thrilled to host today's We Prosper Together Catalyst Summit. **We're glad you're here.**

Welcome to the We Prosper Together Catalyst Summit - a gathering designed to enable regional leaders to connect, learn, and collaborate on growing good-paying jobs, boosting economic mobility, and attracting investment across California's 8-County Capital Region.

Every region invests in the infrastructure that supports economic growth – roads, transit, water systems, broadband, and energy. Unseen, and often unacknowledged is **civic infrastructure** – or systems that enable people and institutions to work together across sectors, jurisdictions, and perspectives to solve problems that no single

organization can solve alone. The strength of a collaborative initiative depends on the civic infrastructure it builds, yet civic infrastructure itself is rarely treated as a primary investment or measure of success.

Today, we will examine the ingredients of **durable collaboration**, explore how regions can build and sustain civic infrastructure, and consider how today's partnerships can become tomorrow's lasting institutions. The Summit is an invitation to everyone who cares about the future of our region - not simply to reflect on the work we have done, but to help shape the civic infrastructure that will enable our region to tackle its next generation of challenges. Because ultimately, the greatest legacy of any regional initiative is not the projects it funds - it is the region's enduring capacity to work together.

As we begin, we invite you to bring openness, curiosity, and a collaborative spirit to the day. What parts of today's experience will you bring back to your community?



Evan Schmidt

CEO, Valley Vision

Growing stronger, healthier communities

We're committed to creating healthier lives and delivering more care to the almost 1 million patients we serve in the Greater Sacramento Area. From new care centers to more providers to expanded hospital services, we're honored and grateful to serve our community in the Sacramento region and beyond.

Learn more at sutterhealth.org



Program Schedule

9:30 AM

Registration, Networking & Refreshments

10:00 AM

Welcome & Opening Remarks

10:15 AM

The Power of Collaboration

10:55 AM

Beyond Planning: Building the Capacity for Inclusive Growth

12:00 PM

Lunch

12:40 PM

Future Industries of the Region

1:45 PM

Catalyzing Economic Mobility

2:25 PM

Table Discussions: From Initiative to Sustained Impact

2:40 PM

What's Next for We Prosper Together: Setting the Vision for the Future

3:00 PM

Table Discussions: The Way Forward

3:20 PM

Closing Remarks & Transition to Reception

3:30 PM

Sac Metro Air District 30th Anniversary Celebration



Kate Trompetter
CEO, Connect For

Kate Trompetter is a systems change coach who helps leaders and organizations build the relationships, trust, and shared capacity needed to tackle complex challenges together. Her work spans sectors and brings people with different roles, perspectives, and interests into meaningful collaboration.

Kate is especially interested in what makes collaboration sustainable - not simply getting people to the table, but creating the conditions that allow people to stay engaged, navigate tension, share responsibility, and make progress together. Her approach is practical, deeply relational, and grounded in the belief that how we work together shapes what becomes possible.



Welcome & Opening Remarks

10:00 AM



Evan Schmidt
CEO, Valley Vision



Marijane Lopez-Taff
Mayor
City of Citrus Heights



Senator Roger Niello
CA State Senate District 6



Dr. Vanessa Walker
D.O., MMCi
Sutter Health



The Power of Collaboration

10:15 AM

What does it take for a group to succeed together? Kate Trompetter, CEO of Connect For, will lead attendees through an interactive table activity that frames the day's conversations.



Improving lives of Californians



Scan to learn about
our commitment to
the community.

Golden1
Credit Union
Insured by NCUA

Beyond Planning: Building the Capacity for Inclusive Growth

10:55 AM

We Prosper Together has helped build new partnerships, strengthen regional relationships, and align organizations around a shared vision for inclusive economic growth. But what will it take for that progress to endure?

This session explores the deeper ingredients of durable collaborations that empower regions to move beyond simply coordination and toward lasting systems change. Marek Gootman with The Brookings

Institution will share lessons from across the nation about the civic infrastructure that supports successful regional initiatives. A panel of regional leaders will then reflect on how those lessons show up in the Capital Region today - including where meaningful progress has been made, where challenges remain, and what capacities must be developed if regional collaboration is to endure beyond any single initiative, funding source, or leader.



Brian Heller de Leon
Managing Director,
Valley Vision



Marek Gootman
Senior Fellow,
The Brookings
Institution



Jose Bodipo Memba
Chief Diversity Officer,
SMUD



Stacie Frerichs
Executive Director,
Yolo Community
Foundation



Kacey Lizon
Deputy Executive
Director of Programs,
Sacramento
Area Council of
Governments
(SACOG)





Lunch / 12:00 PM

It's time! In the spirit of collaboration, lunch will be served family style at your table. Please notify the catering staff of any allergies or dietary restrictions you may have.



A COMMITMENT TO **SERVICE.** A LEGACY OF **LEADERSHIP.**

Future Industries of the Region

12:40 PM

The Capital Region is already competing in some of the fastest-growing industries that are shaping the global economy. From semiconductors and advanced manufacturing to life and plant sciences and emerging food technologies, our region has distinctive assets that can translate into high-quality jobs, new investment, and long-term economic resilience.

This session will bring together industry and innovation leaders to explore where the region has a competitive edge, what it takes to grow and scale these sectors, and how coordinated investments in talent, infrastructure, research, and entrepreneurship can continue to position the Capital Region as a leader in the industries of the future.



Evan Schmidt,
CEO, Valley Vision



Monique Brown
Knowledge Community Director,
Wexford Science and Technology



Janiela Bolds
Managing Director,
Accenture

FOOD INNOVATION PANEL



Meghan Phillips
CEO, Honey & Co-Founder,
Food Frontier



Russelle Alvarez
PhD, Co-Founder, Pharm to
Food & Postdoc Scientist,
UC Davis



Janine Elliott
MBA, Director of
Entrepreneurial Training,
Aggie Venture Accelerator



Kim Fisher
CEO, Food and Health
Angels & Director of
Programs, Innovation
Institute for Food & Health,
UC Davis

Catalyzing Economic Mobility

1:45 PM

Economic mobility is crucial for our region to achieve a prosperous, resilient, and equitable economy. Catalyst projects funded under We Prosper Together have centered the needs and experiences of disinvested communities to ensure that all residents are able to reap the benefits of economic growth. These Catalyst lightning talks will share projects' best practices, lessons learned, and evidence of impact for the communities they serve.



Kyla Bryant
Founder and CEO,
Kyla Bryant Consulting



Angelina Moradzadeh
President,
Aura Planning



Alyson Kahn
Project Coordinator,
Yolo County Children's
Alliance



Ellen Van Noy
Ranch Coordinator,
Nevada Joint Union High
School District



Andy Lucas
Partner, Community
Development Services

Table Discussions: From Initiative to Sustained Impact

2:25 PM

What does it take for an initiative to create meaningful, lasting impact? Where do promising efforts most often lose momentum? Through guided conversation at your table, explore these prompts as they relate to your work and what you're learning.



Evan Schmidt

CEO, Valley Vision



What's Next for We Prosper Together: Setting the Vision for the Future

2:40 PM

The We Prosper Together initiative has secured millions in investment for innovative projects, trained nearly 2,000 residents for the jobs of the future, and built a roadmap for a more equitable and thriving regional economy. Join Valley Vision's incoming Board Chair William Duncan and CEO Evan Schmidt for a fireside chat about what comes next.



William Duncan

Superintendent/
President, Sierra College





Table Discussions: The Way Forward

3:00 PM

Given what we've heard and discussed today, what does moving this work forward require of us as leaders in this region? What responsibilities must we own to create lasting change?

Closing Remarks & Transition to Reception

3:20 PM



Alberto Ayala

PhD, MSE

Executive Director & Air Pollution
Control Officer, Sac Metro Air District



Sac Metro Air District 30th Anniversary Celebration

3:30 - 5:30 PM

The Sac Metro Air District is celebrating 30 years of impact as a special district and will be hosting a post-event reception in the South Flex Room, directly across the main hallway. This special anniversary reception brings together partners, stakeholders, and community leaders to reflect on the progress that's been made and celebrate the power of collaboration.



clean power my community



2026 Board of Directors

Valley Vision's all-volunteer Board of Directors is composed of leaders from the Capital Region's outstanding public, private and nonprofit entities, united in advancing community inspired solutions.

Karen Baker	Yolo Food Bank
Meghan Baker	Downey Brand
Brandy Bolden	SMUD
Kelly Brenk	Sutter Health
Monique Brown	Wexford Science & Technology
James Corless	SACOG
John Costa	PG&E
Linda Cutler	LBC Strategy, LLC
Jeff Dorso	Sacramento Kings
William Duncan	Sierra College
Dawnté Early	United Way California Capital Region
Scott Ford	Downtown Sacramento Partnership
Steven Foster	Dignity Health
Chet Hewitt	Sierra Health Foundation

Alissa Ko	Health Net
Gina Lujan	MADE Studio (Hacker Lab)
Michael Marion	MarionEDU
Gary May	University of California, Davis
Clay Nutting	Canon Restaurant
Meghan Phillips	Honey Agency
Torence Powell	Los Rios Community College District
Lydia Ramirez	Five Star Bank
Randy Sater	Stonebridge Properties
Michelle Skinner	VSP
Kevin Smith	Kaiser Permanente Roseville
Erica Taylor	Golden 1 Credit Union
Taylor Toledo	Toledo Consulting
Louise Walker	First Northern Bank
Kerry Wood	Sacramento Region Community Foundation

Valley Vision is grateful to the many contributors who helped the 2026 We Prosper Together Catalyst Summit come together.

Thank you to our sponsors, who, with their generous investment and support, made this event possible. Thank you to our emcee, **Kate Trompetter**, for lending her talents and helping keep today's program engaging and on time. Thank you to **Clutch**, who did a remarkable job with the logistics and behind-the-scenes coordination of countless important details. We also thank the amazing teams at **HONEY** and **KJ2 PRODUCTIONS** for their creative talents and powerful storytelling, bringing the Summit to life through imagery, video, and stories.

Thank you to all today's speakers who lent their perspective, time, and expertise to us. A heartfelt thank you to **Valley Vision's Board of Directors and staff team** for all of their work and contributions.

And finally, **thank YOU – the attendees today** – for taking part in a shared community experience to build the civic infrastructure required to solve our region's biggest challenges. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with each and every one of you.

With gratitude,
The Valley Vision team

Get Connected with Valley Vision



“Five Star Bank has been a crucial partner for Valley Vision in advancing our mission of creating a more prosperous and livable Capital Region.

EVAN SCHMIDT
Chief Executive Officer
Valley Vision



Member FDIC & Equal Housing Lender



It takes a village to build stronger communities

We are grateful for the many contributors who believe in the power of collaboration and collective impact in making our region a great place to live. ***Thank you!***

