



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

Submitted to the Board of Supervisors on March 9, 2021

I. INTRODUCTION

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), founded in 1982, seeks to improve the quality of life for women of all ages in San Mateo County. Through strategic partnerships and collaboration, the Commission identifies women's needs, advises the Board of Supervisors, and educates the community on matters concerning women. The Commission also honors the achievements of women through the Women's Hall of Fame, recently celebrating its 33rd year as well as providing a women's leadership conference for and by women in San Mateo County. Supervisor Carole Groom is the Board of Supervisors' Liaison to the Commission. The actions of the Commission contribute to Shared Vision 2025 and a pivot to address the unexpected impact of COVID-19.

II. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission consists of 17 adult and 2 youth members who are residents of San Mateo County. There are two vacancies that will be filled by April 2021. Current members include:

Nirmala Bandrapalli, *President*

Maya Tussing, *Vice President*

Becky Abens

Sue Datta

Anya Drabkin

Cheryl A. Fama

Ann Girard

Susan Kokores

Dana Linda

Melissa Lukin

Marguerite Machen

Christine Padilla

Karen Pyles

Ellen Tafeen

Anisha Weber

Aeneas Bufiy,

Youth Commissioner

Stella Kaval

Youth Commissioner



III. COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

In 2020, commissioners were involved in several activities in San Mateo County (SMC) that will be outlined briefly in this section.

RISE 2020, SMC Women’s Leadership Conference

The biannual women’s leadership conference, RISE 2020, was held the week of August 24-28 and we reached over 3,000 people with session registrations and video/livestream viewings. Participants were invited to Reimagine, Inspire, Support and Empower the impact of women in our communities. Sessions focused on civic leadership, career leadership, mental health & wellness and youth advocacy. The week-long virtual conference was free and flexible to attend. Speakers represented diversity of thought and experience and featured keynotes included Congresswoman Jackie Speier and She the People Founder Aimee Allison. Videos of sessions are available at <https://smcwomenlead.org>

33rd Annual Women’s Hall of Fame

The 33rd Annual Women’s Hall of Fame was celebrated for the first time virtually with the help of Peninsula Television and facilitated by 2004 Honoree Dani Gasparini. The event has recognized 291 extraordinary women since its inception and continues to be a time-honored San Mateo County tradition. Judge Beth Labson Freeman, Belinda Hernandez-Arriaga and Young Women of Excellence Celine Wen and Sarah Pistorino were inducted on August 26, 2020.

Women’s Equality Day

The Commission collaborated with Women’s Community Leadership Network, San Mateo County Poet Laureate, and keynote Congresswoman Jackie Speier for the 100th anniversary of Women’s Equality Day on August 26, 2020 as part of the week-long RISE 2020 Women’s Leadership Conference.

Women’s Political Leadership Development

The Commission continued its support of efforts to encourage and train women to seek appointed and elected positions through its collaboration with the Women’s Community Leadership Network.

Census 2020

The Commission became an outreach community partner for the SMC Community Affairs Office who led our local efforts for Census 2020.

Women’s Art Exhibit

During the month of March (Women’s History Month), the Commission co-sponsored with the Arts Commission a Women’s Art Exhibit in the Hall of Justice showcasing the work of local women artists.

Collaborations

Commissioners are ambassadors for and partners with San Mateo County programs that impact women. They include the SMC Human Trafficking Program, the Domestic Violence Council, the Youth Commission, the Arts Commission, the San Mateo County Poet Laureate, the Women’s Community Leadership Network, the SMC Office of Community Affairs, the SMC Recovery Initiative and the Voter Education and Outreach Advisory Committee (VEOAC).

Facebook Page

A Facebook page, available at <https://facebook.com/SanMateoCountyCSW>, has more than 778 followers and continues to be used for community outreach.

IV. PLANS FOR 2021

Along with the long-term planning of the 2022 Women’s Leadership Conference and Women’s Hall of Fame, the Commission established its 2021 goals around three areas of study: Economic Empowerment; Women’s Leadership; and Mental Health. Key projects and events anticipated in the upcoming year include:

- Recognition of Women’s History Month in March with a Proclamation by the Board of Supervisors.
- Focus on advocacy of mental health resources for women in San Mateo County with an outreach campaign promoting mental health resources, and quarterly forums featuring mental health experts.
- Research & study of the economic empowerment of women living and working in San Mateo County.
- Focus on women’s leadership in their careers and local government representation.
- Planning of the 2022 Women’s Leadership Conference on a virtual platform.
- Planning of an in-person Women’s Hall of Fame and networking event.
- Continuing to serve as ambassadors of vital County resources such as vaccine information.

IV. FISCAL IMPACT

All activities undertaken by the Commission were financed by the Commission through their attainment of sponsorship for the Women’s Leadership Conference and the Women’s Hall of Fame Awards Celebration. The Commission thanks the generosity of Gilead, Peninsula Health Care District, Skyline College, Kaiser Permanente, Accenture, and San Mateo Credit Union for their sponsorship of these biannual events. Staff support is provided by the San Mateo County Human Resources Department.

V. MORE INFORMATION

Additional information about the Commission on the Status of Women of San Mateo County is available from Commission Director, Tanya Beat, at tbeat@smcgov.org, or on the Commission webpages at <https://csw.smcgov.org>

Commission meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month and the third Tuesday in November, 6:30 – 8:30 PM. Meetings are held virtually as authorized by *Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 both in March 2020 respectively*. The 2021 meeting schedule is listed below:

- January 26
- February 23
- March 23
- April 27
- May 25
- June 22
- July 27
- August 24
- September 28
- October 26
- November 16