



# COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

## COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

### 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

# COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

Submitted to the Board of Supervisors on March 8, 2022

## 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, currently planning its 34<sup>th</sup> ceremony as well as providing its third biennial 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 focus on the recovery of women from the 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 is one vacancy that recently opened. Current members include:

Maya Tussing, *President*

Susan Kokores, *Vice-President*

Nirmala Bandrapalli

Aileen Cassinetta

Sue Datta

Anya Drabkin

Cheryl A. Fama

Ann Girard

Kelly Keele

Dana Linda

Melissa Lukin

Christine Padilla

Karen Pyles

Ellen Tafeen

Candra Williams

Anisha Weber

Penelope Stinson,

*Youth Commissioner*

Cate Warden

*Youth Commissioner*



# COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

## COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

### III. COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

In 2021, commissioners were involved in several activities in San Mateo County (SMC) that will be outlined briefly in this section.

#### **Women's History Month**

The Future of Women's History event for Women's History Month was held on March 24, 2021 featuring young women who live in San Mateo County sharing their personal stories of advocacy and feminism. This [livestreamed event](#) is available on the [Commission on the Status of Women Facebook page](#). Additionally, Commission President Maya Tussing facilitated two The Art of the Ask workshops on March 6 and 11<sup>th</sup>. This skills-based workshop focused on communications skill development for women and girls.

#### **Women's Equality Day**

The Commission collaborated with Women in County Government and the San Mateo County Poet Laureate on an interactive networking session for Women's Equality Day on August 26, 2021. A short program of poetry and learning about Women's Equality Day introduced this annual event. We then opened networking break-out rooms with specific topics such as Community Collaboration, Women's Leadership, Career Opportunities, Child Care Resources, and the Value of Experience. Each room featured content area experts that led discussion on their topics.

#### **Women's Leadership Development**

The Commission continued its support of efforts to encourage and train women in leadership through its collaboration with the San Mateo County Leadership Council.

#### **Women's Art Exhibit**

During the month of March (Women's History Month), the Commission co-sponsored with the Arts Commission the annual 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 San Mateo County Poet Laureate, the SMC Office of Arts & Culture and the Arts Commission, 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 800 followers and continues to be used for community outreach.

### IV. PLANS FOR 2022

Along with the opening of the RISE 2022 Women's Leadership Conference and Women's Hall of Fame, the Commission will be completing their 2022 goals around three areas of study: Economic Empowerment; Women's

Leadership; and Mental Health and Wellness. They will be retreating in the summer of 2022 to address goals for 2023-2024. Key projects and events for 2022 include:

- Recognition of Women’s History Month in March with a Proclamation by the Board of Supervisors.
- RISE 2022 Women’s Leadership Conference on March 23-24 (<https://smcwomenlead.org>)
- Women’s Hall of Fame on May 11, 2022.
- Focus on advocacy of mental health resources for women in San Mateo County and support of BHRS “May is Mental Health Awareness Month” campaign.
- Focus on women’s leadership in their careers and local government representation.
- Women’s Equality Day event on August 26, 2022.
- Continuing to serve as ambassadors of vital County resources and 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 the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, Gilead, Peninsula Health Care District, Logic20/20, Kaiser Permanente, Accenture, and San Mateo Credit Union for their sponsorship of these biennial 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](mailto:tbeat@smcgov.org), or on the Commission webpages at <https://www.smcgov.org/csw>.

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 AB 361, signed into law by Governor Newsom on September 16, 2021. The 2022 meeting schedule is listed below:

- January 25
- February 22
- March 22
- April 26
- May 24
- June 28
- July 26
- August 23
- September 27
- October 25
- November 15