

## *Office of Economic Development*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **City of San José and WeWork Launch Partnership at Opening of WeWork Labs in San José**

### **Program designed to foster start-ups, minority entrepreneurs and non-profits**

**SAN JOSE**, Calif., February 15, 2019 – With a ceremonial ribbon-cutting, the City of San José and WeWork will initiate a partnership that includes fully sponsored and discounted office/desk space in WeWork Labs' new facility in Riverpark Towers in Downtown San José. The grand opening event is scheduled for Friday, February 15, 12:45 pm, at 333 West San Carlos Street, San José, California.

"I'd like to thank WeWork for partnering with us to launch this new WeWork Labs facility and provide opportunities for the next generation of start-ups and our non-profit pioneers to take root and grow in our city," said San José Mayor Sam Liccardo.

The goals of the partnership are to encourage more startups and small- to mid-sized enterprises to create innovative businesses in San José; to systematically nurture more minority entrepreneurs with easy and equitable access to resources; and to support local technology-related non-profit organizations such as the Digital Inclusion Fund and Unleash Your Geek.

"San José and Silicon Valley are no strangers to bold ideas and we are thrilled that WeWork is partnering with the City to support building on-ramps to opportunity for our minority entrepreneurs and innovative nonprofits making a difference in our community," said Shireen Santosham, San José's Chief Innovation Officer.

The partnership includes:

- Providing a discount on San José WeWork Labs desks specifically for minority and female entrepreneurs
- Providing fully sponsored desk/office space in WeWork Labs to technology-related non-profits, including a private office for the local Program Director for the San Jose's Digital Inclusion Fund, administered by the California Emerging Technology Fund, (designed to close a digital

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divide that has kept more than 95,000 residents from getting broadband Internet service at home), for 10 years; and

- Providing one desk for the winners of the city's Unleash Your Geek contest (for residents to create technology solutions for city challenges), for two years.

The City and WeWork will jointly promote the effort's commitment to diversity and inclusion, and the City will include WeWork as a resource in outreach and education for small- to mid-sized businesses.

### **About the City of San José**

*With more than one million residents, San José is one of the most diverse large cities in the United States and is Northern California's largest city and the 10th largest city in the nation. San José's transformation into a global innovation center has resulted in one of the largest concentrations of technology companies and expertise in the world. In 2011, the City adopted Envision San José 2040, a long-term growth plan that sets forth a vision and a comprehensive road map to guide the City's anticipated growth through the year 2040.*

### **About Office of Economic Development**

*The San José Office of Economic Development is committed to a vital, competitive San José economy that increases prosperity for people and companies. OED guides the city's economic strategy, provides assistance for business success, connects employers with trained workers, and provides art and cultural resources to our community. For more information, visit the [website](#).*

### **About WeWork/WeWork Labs**

*Founded in 2010, WeWork provides 400,000 members around the world with space, community, and services through both physical and digital offerings. The WeWork Riverpark Tower location in San José includes nearly 20,000 square feet of workspace, equipped with hot desks, private offices, large office suites, common area space, and California's first WeWork Labs space. WeWork Riverpark Tower will be home to more than 1,300 WeWork members from businesses of all sizes in a diverse array of industries. WeWork Labs was launched in 2018, as the company's innovation platform that supports early-stage startups and corporations seeking to transform their industries. For more information, visit the [website](#).*

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