

Did You Know?

Business Walks

The Economic Development Department (EDD)'s Business Expansion Attraction and Retention (BEAR) team continued its **Business Walk** program over the last 12 months. This program provides a hands-on approach to supporting small businesses across the city's diverse commercial districts.

From August 2025 through June 2026, staff from the BEAR team, the Mayor's Office and Council Offices visited 13 business corridors, including South Park, Barrio Logan, San Ysidro, City Heights, Linda Vista, Convoy, North Park, Mission Blvd, University Heights and Old Town. They were joined by neighborhood-based nonprofits that serve these communities, as well as members of the **Small Business Advisory Board**.

During these walks, teams visited 878 businesses, offering connections to City resources and taking time to listen to owners' concerns, ideas and day-to-day challenges. In addition to materials like the **Small Business Toolkit**, public safety resources and information on programs such as the **Revolving Loan Fund**, staff also distributed **Know Your Rights** information. This helped ensure that businesses, especially those in immigrant-rich commercial corridors, had clear materials related to immigration enforcement.

Equally important, the Business Walk program continued its commitment to follow up. Staff regularly reconnect with businesses after each walk, helping troubleshoot issues, coordinating with other City departments, and connecting owners to specialized support when needed.

Business walks reaffirm that strong relationships are at the heart of thriving business districts. Every conversation, every block walked, and every follow-up strengthened the connection between the City and the small businesses that shape San Diego's unique neighborhoods. Looking ahead, the Business Walk program will continue with monthly walks across commercial districts citywide, ensuring ongoing connection and support for San Diego's small businesses.



Watch the **"Supporting Small Businesses" video** to learn more about the program.