



ANNUAL
REPORT
2010



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

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COMMUNITY POWER



Letter from EMPOWER

Dear Friends,

It may not seem like a time for Progressives to celebrate, especially if you watch too much CNN. But, San Diego's progressive movement is poised to break out in the next few years and EMPOWER is very excited to be a part of this upsurge in progressive activism, support, and coordination.

EMPOWER has used the past year to grow its own capacity for organizing and advocacy. We have welcomed two new board members with strong ties to the diversity of San Diego's progressive movement. Also, our *EMPOWERStudents!* Intern Program has quadrupled in size and interns now provide the equivalent of a 3/4-time employee. This enables EMPOWER to get more done with less!

EMPOWERStudents! Interns have launched a new project called "City Hall Watch". Watch our blog for updates from these young people on their observations of the actions of our local elected officials.

In the coming year, EMPOWER is leading local coordination on the redistricting process to further a more representative and progressive vision for San Diego's political map. Look to our monthly e-newsletter for updates on these efforts.

Many thanks to all of you who continue to support the efforts of EMPOWER San Diego as we work towards a more progressive and engaged San Diego.

Emily Serafy Cox
Executive Director



Mission and Who We Are

EMPOWER San Diego

814 Morena Blvd
Suite 107
San Diego, CA 92110
www.empowersandiego.org
(619) 752-0576
info@empowersandiego.org

Mission

EMPOWER is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that advances progressive values and fosters local civil society by promoting civic participation and facilitating collaboration among community-based organizations.

We seek to **educate, inform and inspire** youth, students, families and workers to become **active in local policy and decision-making**. We believe that an informed public capable of engaging local government will make San Diego a more sustainable and equitable place to live.

Board of Directors (Affiliations provided for identification purposes only)

Graham Forbes, President | Senior Researcher, Unite HERE Local 30
Theresa Quiroz, Vice President | Community Activist
Cory Briggs, Treasurer | Attorney, Briggs Law Corp
Estela De Los Rios | Executive Director, Center for Social Advocacy
Nora Vargas | VP of Community Engagement, Planned Parenthood
Bruce Reznik | Executive Director, Sustainable San Diego
Evan McLaughlin | Political Director, San Diego Labor Council
Jose Preciado | Director College Readiness Programs, SDSU

History

EMPOWER San Diego was founded at the end of 2008 by board members of Progressive San Diego to do public education and engagement of the progressive community in the local political process. In 2009, EMPOWER launched its flagship program *,EMPOWERSudents!* and began the work of building an infrastructure from which to begin the work of organizing broad coalitions in progressive community. In 2010, EMPOWER broadened its work to include voter outreach and education, the 2010 Census, Youth Mentorship, and even some coalition work in the South Bay,

in 2010

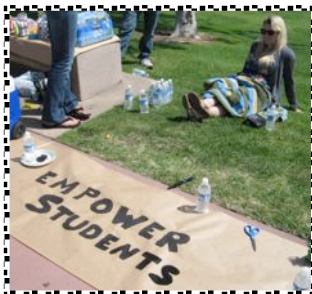
EMPOWERStudents! Expands



EMPOWERStudents!, our flagship program, grew by leaps and bounds in 2010. *EMPOWERStudents!* Interns contributed **1293 hours** doing policy research, voter engagement, youth mentoring, event planning, grantwriting, volunteer coordination, language

translation, and video production. These invaluable contributions increased exponentially EMPOWER's capacity and reach in the community—a four-fold.

Increase! **THANK YOU** to all our *EMPOWERStudents!*



EMPOWERStudents!, is a leadership development program that engages college and high school students in civic action, student organizing, voter registration & education outreach, event coordination,

program development, and local politics.



EMPOWERStudents! Interns from High Tech High get a lesson from the Registrar of Voters about voting

EMPOWERStudents!, gives young people the

skills and opportunity to practice effective citizenship. *EMPOWERStudents!* mobilizes students to investigate big social problems,

come up with practical solutions, convince the media and public to pay attention, and get decision-makers to act.

The *EMPOWERStudents!* Volunteer/Intern Team works on:

- Community Civic Education & Voter Engagement
- Translation & Bilingual Communications
- Fundraising, Donor Development & Member Outreach
- Local Government Watch, Media & Web Communications



Milreca Wu, EMPOWERStudents! Redistricting Policy Intern, gives public testimony at a Redistricting Commission meeting

EMPOWER Hosted Several

in 2010

Democracy Dialogues Events



EMPOWER San Diego co-sponsored several events as a part of our Democracy Dialogues series. These events were intended to educate voters about the local ballot initiatives in the

2010 elections. Issues included: the Strong Mayor Charter Amendment and the Term Limits change for County Supervisors.

EMPOWER would like to thank Common Cause and the League of Women Voters for their co-sponsorship and organization of these important events!



Getting Involved in Local

Boards and Commissions

In July, EMPOWER hosted leaders from across the City of San Diego for a discussion of entry-level political positions and how to secure them. Citizens who are appointed to boards and serve on neighborhood planning committees make significant contributions to local policy and public service.



It is important that San Diego have a good 'farm-team' of civically involved and experienced progressives to fill political and civic positions—be that appointed or elected office or other civic service opportunities. Encouraging service on

local boards and commissions is an excellent way to beef-up this 'farm-team.'

2010 Progressive Champions Awards

In May, Empower honored awardees for their contributions to the San Diego region as "Progressive Champions." San Diego Councilmember Todd Gloria, served as emcee, as we honored Colin Parent,



founder of the New Leaders Council, and Lorena Gonzalez, CEO and Secretary-Treasurer of the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO.



In August, EMPOWER held another awards ceremony to honor "Progressive Champions" in the South Bay. Hosted by Chula Vista Councilwoman, Pamela Bensoussan, the event

honored Laura Hunter, Associate Director for Programs at the Environmental Health Coalition and the members of Friends of Friendship Park. EMPOWER would like to thank the recipients of the "2010 Progressive Champions" Awards for their efforts on behalf of our community.

A Special Thanks to this year's event sponsors:



Voter and Census

in 2010

Engagement Efforts

Trick or Vote in San Diego!



EMPOWERStudents Intern, Kendall Stewart, led local get-out-the-vote efforts for the nationwide Trick or Vote program. Presentations and events were put on at SDSU and USD. This Halloween, Trick or Vote organized thousands of volunteers in over 75 cities to talk to over 200,000 people, reminding them to vote.

Voter Registration for the Homeless

EMPOWERStudents! Interns and Volunteers helped register people to vote in Balboa Park as a part of the Basic Dignity Campaign. The Basic Dignity



Campaign began as a coalition to advocate for public bathrooms and water stations in Downtown San Diego. *EMPOWER* is pleased to be a part of this campaign and support the Girls Think Tank in highlighting and ensuring the basic dignity of every San Diegian.

Census 2010



EMPOWERStudents! Intern, Briseyda Tapexpa, did Census education and outreach to her fellow students at High Tech High International. Brisyeda designed her own brochure and made presentations in classrooms, encouraging students to talk to their parents about the

Census and its impact on school funding.

Coalition Building

in 2010

EMPOWER Joins Key Environmental Coalitions

EMPOWER San Diego joined the Bayfront Coalition and the Water Reliability Coalition.

The Bayfront Coalition helped ensure that the Chula Vista Bayfront Master Plan was a plan that would both help revitalize Chula Vista's bayfront and protect and restore natural spaces along this sensitive line of our bay.

Members are representatives from the Environmental Health Coalition, San Diego Audubon Society, San Diego Coastkeeper, Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation, Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association, The Surfrider Foundation and Empower San Diego.



The Chula Vista Bayfront Master Plan represents what good can come when economic development and environmental protection are balanced for the benefit of all.



The Water Reliability Coalition is a broad-based affiliation of environmental, consumer, business, labor, development, taxpayer and technical organizations. It seeks to support the development of a safe, reliable, sustainable and cost-effective local water supply.

The group currently focuses on supporting the recently approved City of San Diego Water Purification Demonstration Project, which will test the feasibility of treating wastewater to drinking water standards.

Coalition members support the region investing in local sources for a drought-proof water supply to decrease its dependence on less reliable and ever-more expensive imported water. The Coalition believes that recycling water for potable use can be an important part of San Diego's water supply portfolio diversification. In the San Diego region, potable reuse could provide one of the most cost-effective and environmentally friendly options to enhance local water supplies.

in 2011

Leading on Redistricting

Redistricting is more important than elections! Yes, it's true! And this time around the stakes are even higher.



We are adding a 9th Council District to the City of San Diego's map and the State has set up a redistricting commission to draw state and federal districts for the first time ever. The fairness of the redistricting processes this year will affect redistricting for decades to come.

Through our campaign ***Represent San Diego!***, EMPOWER is becoming a leader on redistricting in San Diego. We are holding roundtable discussions among progressive and community leaders, educating these leaders and their constituencies about the redistricting process and how to affect change through that process.

Through its roundtable discussions, EMPOWER hopes to broker collaboration between the various progressive and community actors on redistricting. The Census numbers look promising to allow this to happen. Perhaps this time next year, candidates will be campaigning in districts that empower the three



main communities of color in San Diego (Latinos, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and African Americans) as well as the GLBT community. Perhaps our next City Council can have a veto-proof progressive majority.



A Special Thanks to *Our Charter* *Members*

\$250 & above

ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties
Affordable Housing Coalition of San Diego County
Bruce Reznik
Center on Policy Initiatives
Cory Briggs
Darrah Johnson
Eric Isaacson
Evan McLaughlin
Foundation For Change
Graham Forbes
Jose Preciado
Katheryn Rhodes
Ken Grimes
League of Conservation Voters San Diego
Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest
San Diego Labor Council
UNITE HERE Local 30
United Food and Commercial Workers Local 135

\$100 & above

Cary Lowe
Colin Parent
Danell Scarborough
Don Wood
Donald & Karen Goyette
Elizabeth Studebaker
Hon. Robert & Veronica Longstreth
Jess Durfee
Linda LaGerrette
Mark Greenberg
Micah Mitrosky
Rob Solmer
Stephen Whitburn
Steve Hadley
Thomas Mullaney

\$1 - \$99

Alex Sachs
Ana & Tomas Baiz-Torres
April Day
Baer Susan
Brian Polejes
Brook Larios
Dan McKirnan
Danell Scarborough
David DiDonato
Diane Takvorian
Elizabeth Maldonado
Erin Moore
Estela De Los Rios
Francine Busby
Hermila Mendoza
Holly Parker
Ian Trowbridge
Jeanell King
Jessica Toledano
John Falchi
Ken Seatan-Msemaji
Kevin Bieser
Lorena Gonzalez
Lucia Galati
M. Dan McKirnan McKirnan
Nathan Camp
Nicholas J Segura Jr
Nico Calavitaour
Nobuyuki Yamada
Norma Damashek
Quynh Nguyen
Rachel Jensen
Robert Bray
Sara Honadle
Simon Mayeskii
Stephen Heverly
Theresa Quiroz
Tim Orozco
Tommie Watson
Virginia Franoc

EMPOWER is supported in part by:



2010 Financial Statement



January-December 2010

Income

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Memberships | \$2,802 |
| Major Donors | \$21,495 |
| In-Kind Donations | \$12,000 |
| Event Attendance | \$2,635 |
| Sponsorships | \$4,028 |
| Miscellaneous | \$444 |

Total Income **\$43,404**

Expenses

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Program | \$31,964 |
| General/Operations | \$5,358 |
| Fundraising | \$7,361 |

Total Expenses **\$44,682**

Net Loss **\$1,278**

