



Los Angeles County

COLLECTIVE WELLBEING SUMMIT

May 15, 2025

Event Summary Report

Purpose of LA County Collective Wellbeing Summit

Hosted by the Southern California Collective Wellbeing Initiative in partnership with the Human Values Center, Open Future Coalition, and with the support of our sponsors and partners, the Summit convened community leaders, grassroots organizations, local institutions, and government representatives to spotlight local initiatives and explore strategies for strengthening economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental sustainability across LA County.

Together, we addressed pressing challenges, cultivated a spirit of cooperation, surfaced creative solutions, and affirmed the power of committed, community-driven action. Through this collaborative gathering, we took meaningful steps toward shaping a future of collective wellbeing for Los Angeles and the greater region.

Who we convened

Over 100 cross-sector leaders, including:

- Grassroots CBOs
- State + County Representatives
- Academic Institutions
- Community Advocates
- Business + Nonprofit Leaders
- Local Residents
- Students
- Artists + Activists

What we explored

- Regional priorities and opportunities to advance collective wellbeing in LA County
- The draft LA County Sustainability Plan and public feedback process
- Community wellbeing models, indices, and tech tools for tracking impact
- Inner development practices to support resilience and relational leadership
- Cross-sector strategies in areas such as environmental justice, education, economy, democracy, and early childhood
- Real-world examples of community-driven solutions and partnerships in action

Presenters



Ana Gonzalez
Executive Director-
Center for Community Action and
Environmental Justice



Carla Munoz
Tribal Councilwoman of the
Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe



Josh Andujo
Member of the Gabrieleno
Confederation of Tovaangar



Stephen Cheung
President, CEO, LA County
Economic Development
Corporation



Nicholas Evans
Deputy Director, Program Operations
Governor's Office



Denise Woods
Vice Chancellor, University of
California Riverside



Dr. Mikala Rahn
Chief of Research, Evaluation and
Strategy at Homeboy Industries



David Jette
Co-Founder of Public Bank LA & CA
Public Banking Alliance



Julie Rusk
Co-Founder, Civic Wellbeing
Partners



Victoria Simon
Sustainability Policy Advisor, Los
Angeles County Chief Sustainability
Office



Elaine Miller- Karas
Founder, Trauma Resource
Center



Michael Mezzatesta
Ambassador, Wellbeing Economy
Alliance California



Catalina Langen
Co-Founder,
Civic Wellbeing Partners



Kaitlin Archambault
Founder & CEO,
Open Future Coalition



Danny Petersen
Drumming for Peace and Healing
Grammy Award Winning
Percussionist

Moderators



Jose Calderon
Emeritus Professor at Pitzer College,
President of Latino/Latina Roundtable of San
Gabriel + Pomona Valley



Jacqueline Rangel
Board Member, Lopez Urban Farm



Ely Flores
Program Director, Liberty
Hill Foundation



David Green
Learning Coordinator,
Wellbeing Economy Alliance
California



Laura Burgis, Ph.D.
President, Human Values
Center



Nathaly Moreno
Engagement Manager, Spherical



Scott Vineberg
Founder & CEO, People Power



Erika Bell
Co-Chair, Santa Monica Early
Childhood Task Force



Stephen Yorba
Farmer, Lopez Urban Farm

Participatory Topical Breakout Circles Included;

1. Democracy in Practice: Participation, Voice & Collective Agency
2. Next Generation Justice: Youth Leadership in Environmental Equity
3. Harvesting Connections: Supporting Thriving Food Systems
4. Advancing Social Justice: Pathways Toward Equity, Accountability & Collective Liberation
5. Starting Strong: Early Childhood as the Foundation for Collective Wellbeing
6. Campus as Catalyst: Higher Ed's Place in Collective Wellbeing
7. Storytelling for Systems Change: Media, Narrative Power & Community Voice
8. What makes a Wellbeing Economy: Models and Examples for Resourcing Community Impact
9. Living Infrastructure: Ideas for Community-Driven Climate Resilience

Our Impacts

Strategic and Programmatic Outcomes

Participants contributed input to LA County's Sustainability Plan ahead of its July 2025 release.

Government leaders met with higher education, business, and community leaders to discuss strategies for regional wellbeing- addressing mental health, climate, and belonging.

Showcased local organizations and initiatives, as well as tools for coordinating, measuring, mapping, resourcing, and accelerating community wellbeing.

Relationship & Network Building

Over 100 leaders gathered across sectors to share unique perspectives and establish common ground.

Fertile ground for partnership building was sparked through cross-sector roundtables and thematic dialogue circles.

Strengthened relational trust and alignment across institutions and communities.

Narrative & Thought Leadership

Uplifted frontline and community-based perspectives on justice, equity, and systems change.

Positioned LA County as a leader in advancing collective wellbeing frameworks.

Shared replicable practices and language to support the growing wellbeing movement.

Inner Development & Culture Shift

Featured practices for inner resilience and community connection to support personal and collective thriving

Created space for active listening, story-sharing, and dialogue as essential tools for transformation.

Modeled regenerative convening values rooted in care, reciprocity, and inclusion

Action Steps Catalyzed

Steering Committee formed to guide ongoing Collective Wellbeing Initiative

Participatory Stories of Place process was launched gathering community stories and insights

Community of Practice was seeded for ongoing regional participation and collaboration



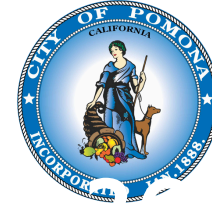
Farm at Fairplex Public Engagement

As part of the Summit experience, the Southern California Collective Wellbeing Initiative curated high-visibility, high-traffic location at the Farm at Fairplex during the Los Angeles County Fair- May 15-18, 2025.

With approximately 750,000 attendees annually, this was a prime opportunity for our curated local organizations, institutions, and artists to meaningfully engage with the public, while promoting initiatives that advance collective wellbeing, community resilience, and ecological stewardship in Los Angeles County and throughout Southern California. Through out the Fair we will be gathered stories of place and insights from community members sharing their experiences, priorities, and hopes for a thriving future.



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