



CHAMPIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND SOCIAL EQUITY

The Marin Economic Forum provides direct value to the people of Marin by ensuring economic vitality, enabling people and businesses to thrive, increasing the quality of life and leveraging our assets and value. MEF leads a cross-county public-private dialogue through four themes:



1 EXPERTISE

Identifying economic barriers, opportunities, trends and priorities.

Our economic and policy experts provide unbiased, data-driven analysis to determine priority areas of focus to achieve sustainable economic growth and quality of life in Marin.

2 LEADERSHIP

Collaboration on actionable initiatives to create outcomes for success.

We engage stakeholders and form partnerships across sectors to create alignment and collaboration on actionable strategic initiatives that produce tangible results.

3 INFLUENCE

Supporting policy or systems improvements.

We “make the case” with relevant officials and leaders for policy or systems improvement and advocate for progress through to completion.

4 AWARENESS

Education and communications campaigns.

We keep the public and community informed of the issues and draw collective focus on what matters most, creating support and momentum to move toward our economic goals.

Marin Economic Forum is a public-private funded 501c3 California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation. Our mission is to promote economic vitality in Marin County while enhancing social equity and protecting the environment.



BECOME A PARTNER IN MEF

Partner members gain:

- Credibility with unbiased data-driven economic research and information
- Information on critical State and Local issues
- Connections with influential Marin County business and civic leaders
- Influence on important County-wide policy and positions
- Ability to directly engage on County issues that matter most

Partnership Benefits	Champion \$15,000	Industry \$10,000	Executive \$5,000	Investor \$2,500	Supporter* \$1,000
Recognition on MEF website	X	X	X	X	X
Participation on committee or workgroup	X	X	X	X	X
Participation in annual Partner networking events	X	X	X	X	X
Help MEF define priority issues	X	X	X	X	X
Free entry to MEF in-person events (2 people)	X	X	X		
Access to MEF expertise and leadership	X	X			
Speak or present at MEF Signature event	X				

* Nonprofits and Civic Institutions may be eligible for a discount

Join us!

To become a Partner or get more information, please contact:
 Mike Blakeley, CEO (415) 991-5983
 mblakeley@marineconomicforum.org
 www.marineconomicforum.org

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SOLUTIONS IN ACTION

"The Marin Economic Forum is an essential private and public group that actively leads collaborative problem solving on local economic issues."

Judy Arnold, Former County Supervisor



Permit Simplicity Project

The challenge

An estimated 40% of construction projects in Marin County are performed without a permit, causing safety and environmental concerns, and loss of revenue.

A positive community solution

The Marin Economic Forum is working in partnership with the Marin Builders Association to make it easier and faster to obtain permits. Customer satisfaction surveys have measured improvements for the County of Marin, City of San Rafael, and the Town of Tiburon.

Marin Economic Strategy

The challenge

Marin County had never had an economic strategy. When the pandemic hit, community leaders agreed that economic recovery should be well planned and establish a foundation for a successful economy.

A positive community solution

The Marin Economic Forum secured federal funding and worked collaboratively across the county to develop the "Marin County Economic Vitality Strategic Plan" (EVSP). The EVSP was unanimously approved by the Board of Supervisors and provides a road map to building a vibrant and resilient economy.

Business Retention & Expansion

The challenge

The Marin economy is composed of over 12,000 businesses working across a diverse set of industry sectors. That makes understanding the various challenges these companies have, and determining how to support those businesses so they can grow a challenge for policymakers.

A positive community solution

The Marin Economic Forum partnered with the County to conduct a cross-county business retention and expansion project that defined priority challenges from businesses and proposed activities in response. Among the successes was a new training program with the College of Marin and Toyota.



TEAM LEADERSHIP & PARTNERS

Current Board of Directors

Armika Berkley, Kaiser Permanente

Jacqueline Christensen

Charlie Clifford, Tri-Counties Bank

Jonathan Eldridge, College of Marin

Ron Felder, Redwood Credit Union

Mary Friedman, MarinHealth

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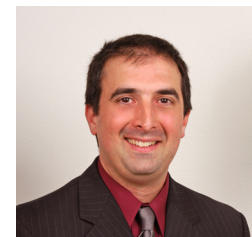
Joshua Townsend, Strategic 32

Mike Blakeley Chief Executive Officer



Mike Blakeley is a senior economic development specialist with over 20 years experience working in the public and private sector. He is an expert at building partnerships and mobilizing different stakeholders to create shared outcomes and strategies. Mike joined the Marin Economic Forum having previously served as a Managing Director and Principal Associate of the Private Sector Engagement Practice at Nathan Associates Inc., a global consulting firm that designs and implements large-scale economic development programs in emerging markets. In this capacity Mike led implementation of high-profile programs in Africa, Asia and Latin America and served as the company's subject matter expert on themes such as entrepreneurship, business strategy and workforce development. Early in his career Mike founded an international trading company based in San Francisco that exported agricultural commodities, including many products from California. Following that experience he acquired his MA in International Economics and went on to Washington DC where he worked for the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC).

Robert Eyler, PhD Chief Economist



Dr. Robert Eyler is an internationally recognized academic and has published two books and numerous academic articles concerning economic sanctions, the economics of the wine industry and monetary economics. The Interim Dean of Extended and International Education at Sonoma State University, Dr. Eyler earned a PhD from UC Davis and holds a BA in economics from CSU, Chico. He has been a visiting scholar at both the University of Bologna and Stanford University.

Dr. Eyler, who served as the CEO of the Forum from 2009-2015, is a frequent speaker at academic and business conferences. He also serves on Redwood Credit Union's Board of Directors.

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