

The road to San Diego

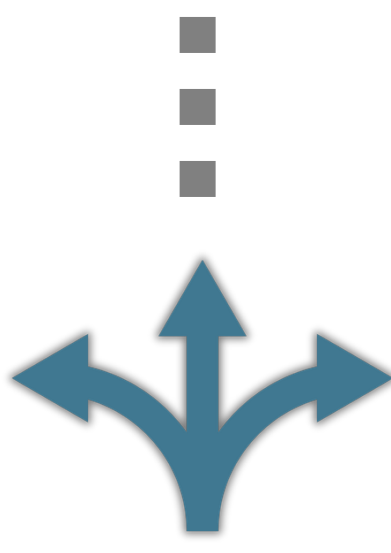
Before PMI San Diego had a name, project professionals in the region were part of a growing California PMI community.

KEY MOMENTS



1969

– PMI is founded



1974

– California chapters divide



1984

– PMP exams begin

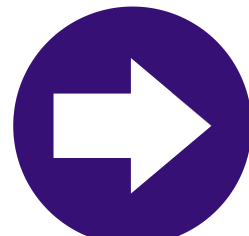


1986

– PMI San Diego is chartered



A growing local community
needed a home of its own



A local chapter begins

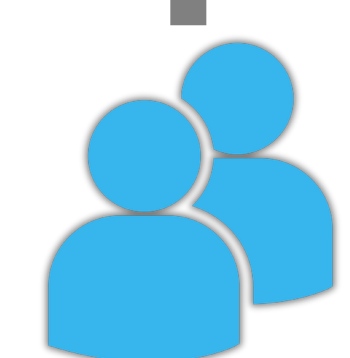
PMI San Diego launches as a new local home for Project Professionals in a city still shaped by defense, aerospace, shipbuilding, and engineering.

At the same time, San Diego begins to emerge as a center for wireless technology and biotechnology.

KEY MOMENTS

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1986

– PMI San Diego is chartered
- 

1986

– A local leadership team organizes the new chapter
- 

1980s

– Early chapter meetings bring members together
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1990

– Awarded Chapter of the Year



Chapter of the Year
Region III, 1990



Downtown San Diego
skyline, 1983



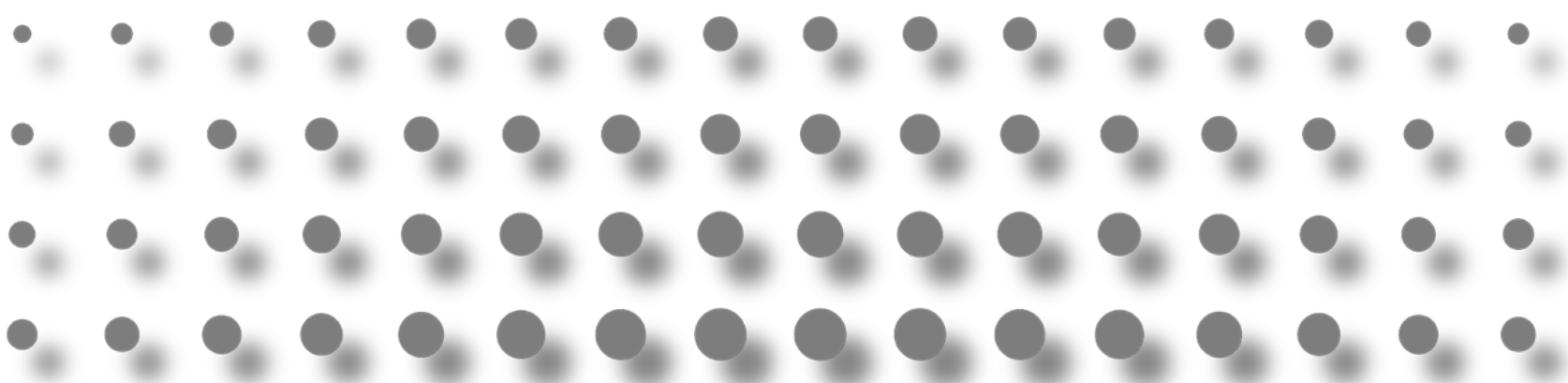
USS Bonhomme Richard /
NASSCO, 1990s



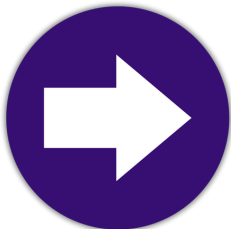
A new chapter begins in a city
on the edge of transformation



Project
Management
Institute®
San Diego



Next: 1991-1995
Change creates
opportunity.



Change creates opportunity

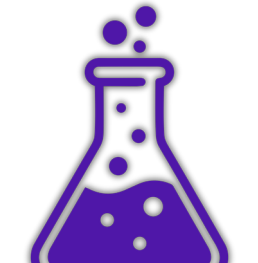
San Diego entered the 1990s in transition. Defense and aerospace cuts reshaped the regional economy, forcing organizations and workers to adapt.

At the same time, new opportunities were emerging in wireless technology, life sciences, research, and advanced manufacturing. As industries changed, PMI San Diego helped connect Project Professionals through leadership, education, and professional networks.

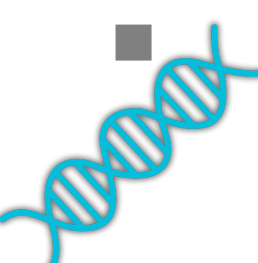
KEY MOMENTS

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1991 **Regional Planning Responds**
Business, government, and labor leaders organize around economic recovery as defense spending begins to decline.
- 

1992 **Aerospace Restructuring Accelerates**
Major layoffs and contract changes force San Diego companies to manage projects with fewer resources and greater uncertainty.
- 

1993 **Wireless Reaches a New Standard**
Qualcomm's CDMA technology is adopted as a North American digital cellular standard.
- 

1994 **SDG&E Supports & Convair Closure**
Convair's closure reshaped aerospace while SDG&E expanded formal project management practices.
- 

1995 **New Networks Support Recovery**
Biocom is founded as San Diego's growing life-science industry organizes around shared needs.



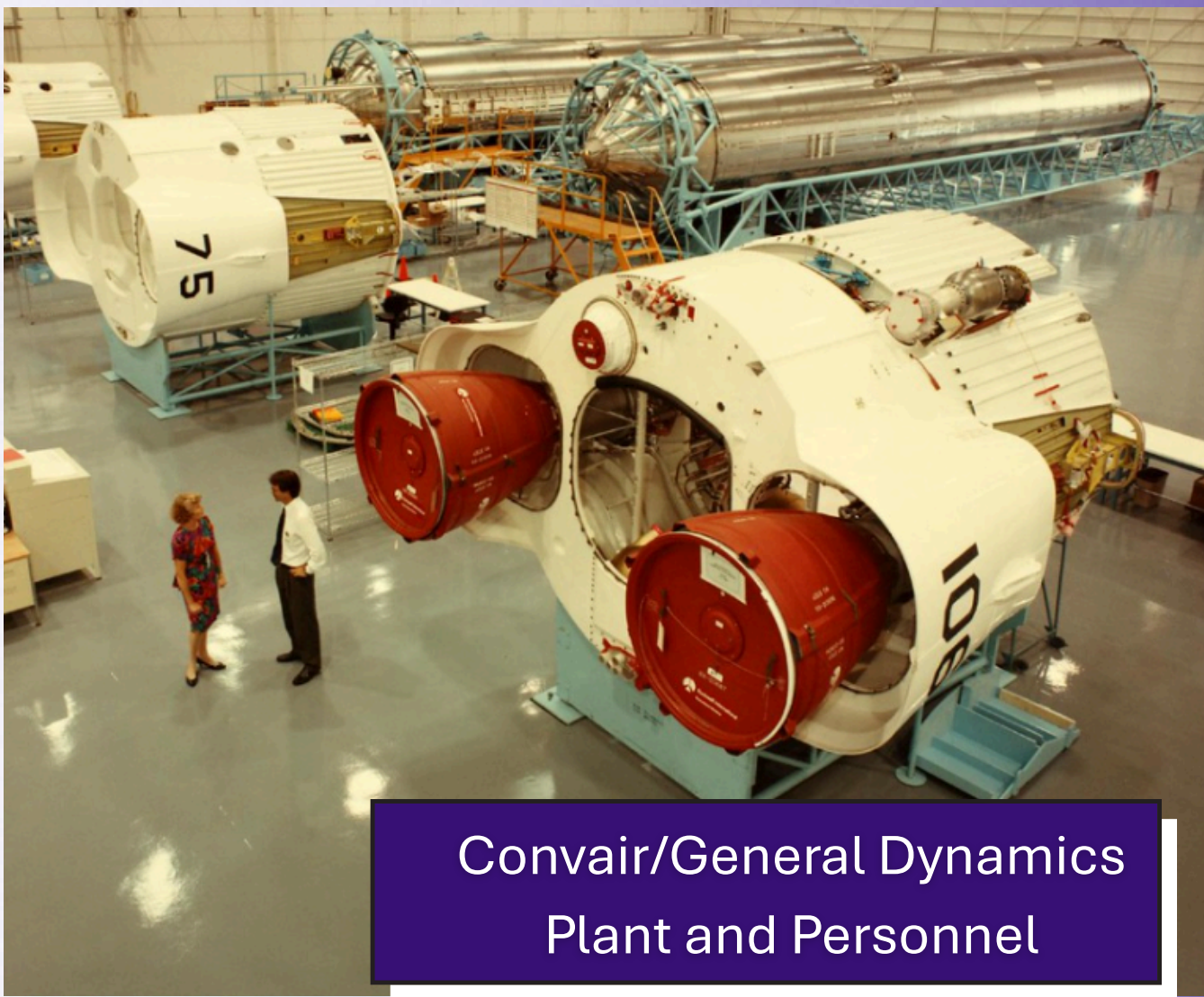
Downtown San Diego waterfront, early 1990s



Biocom Office



San Diego Gas & Electric Office



Convair/General Dynamics Plant and Personnel

CHAPTER MILESTONES



1992 – PMI San Diego supports research into how project teams operate across local industries.



1993 — PMI Symposium comes to San Diego
Annual PMI conference brings education, telecom, and PMBOK development to the region.



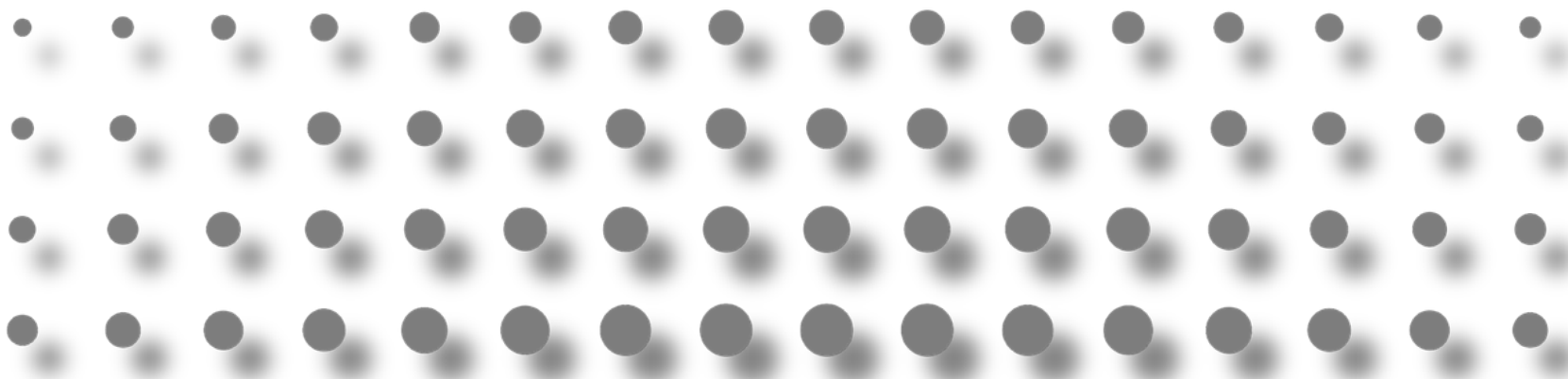
1993 - 1994 — PM methods and training expand across major capital projects.



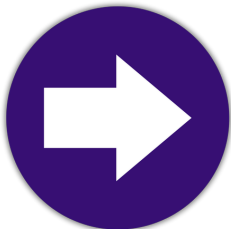
As San Diego changed, project management helped organizations adapt and move forward



Project Management Institute®
San Diego



Next: 1996-2000
Telecom valley rises.



Telecom Valley rises

By the late 1990s, San Diego was emerging as an innovation center. Qualcomm’s growth strengthened the region’s “Telecom Valley” identity, while Torrey Pines research institutions and the founding of Illumina helped build San Diego’s growing technology and life-science economy. PMI San Diego continued supporting Project Professionals as the region became more technical, research-driven, and connected.

KEY MOMENTS

1996 Digital wireless expands
New wireless service strengthens San Diego’s telecom sector.

1997 “Telecom Valley” gains visibility
San Diego’s growing wireless cluster earns national attention.

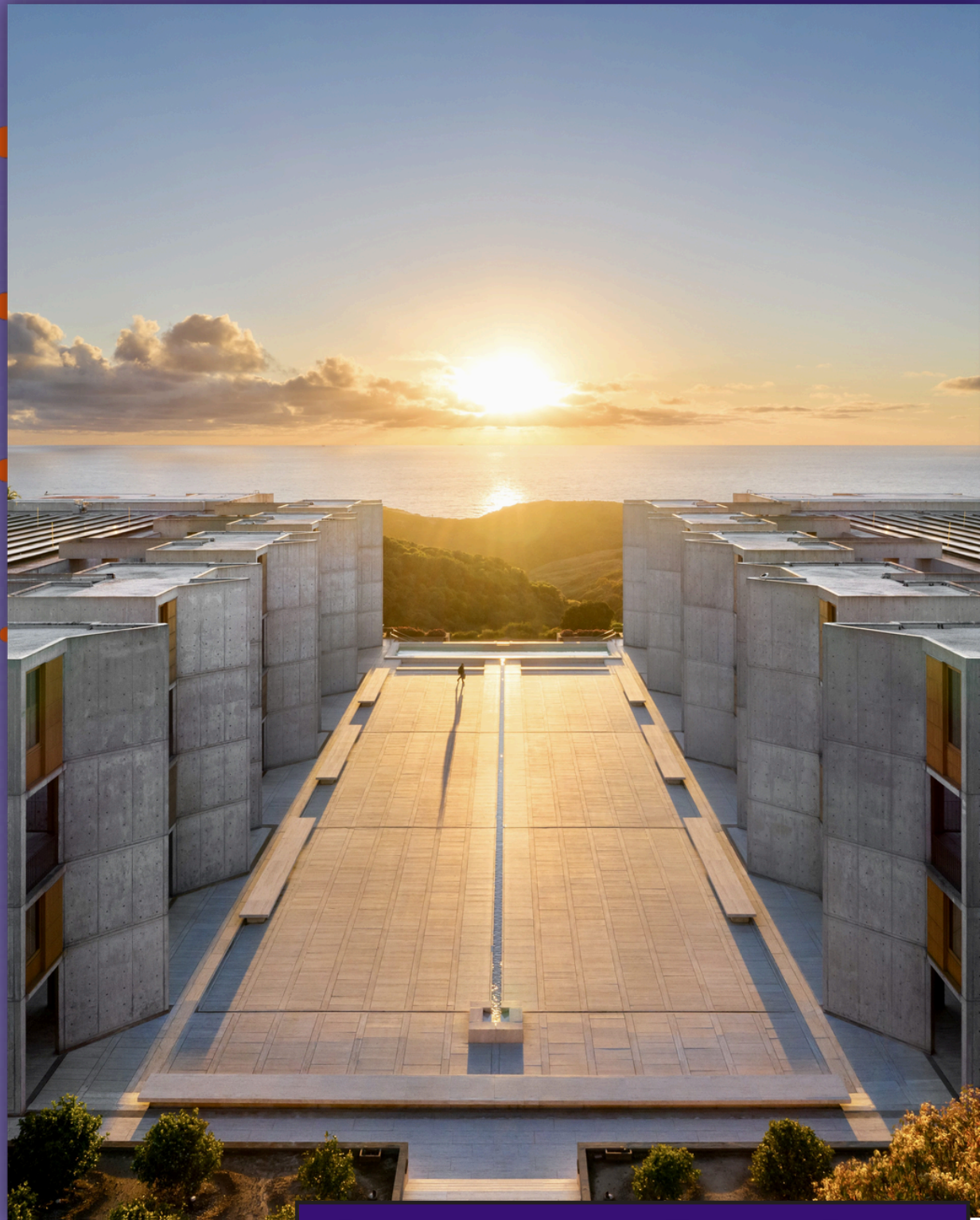
1998 Illumina is founded
A new genomics company launches in San Diego.

1999 Qualcomm joins the Fortune 500
Qualcomm’s rise confirms San Diego as a major wireless center.

2000 Calit2 is established
UC San Diego expands large-scale technology and industry research.



Qualcomm handset, late 1990s



Salk Institute, Torrey Pines Mesa



PMI San Diego Website, 1998



“Telecom Valley” feature, 1997



Region III Sponsor/Mentor Award, 1998

CHAPTER MILESTONES

1998 – The chapter website provides local information, meetings, and member communication.

1998 – PMI San Diego receives regional recognition for its support and mentorship within the PMI community.



As San Diego became an innovation center, project leadership helped turn new ideas into results



Project Management Institute® San Diego

Next: 2001-2005

Strengthening the foundation



Strengthening the foundation

San Diego’s wireless, genomics, and advanced-defense sectors moved from breakthrough ideas toward scalable systems.

PMI San Diego strengthened its operations so it could support a growing community of professionals managing technology, people, budgets, and change.



2002 Specific Interest Group Award, September 12–14, 2002

KEY MOMENTS



2001 Predator B takes first flight

General Atomics advances a new generation of long-endurance unmanned aircraft. The Predator B prototype first flew February 2, 2001.



2002 Illumina scales genotyping

The BeadLab system brings automated, high-throughput genetic analysis to research laboratories. Illumina commercialized BeadLab in late 2002.



2003 BeadStation expands access

Illumina introduces a benchtop system for scalable genetic analysis. The BeadStation 500G was announced in November 2003 and included the BeadArray Reader.

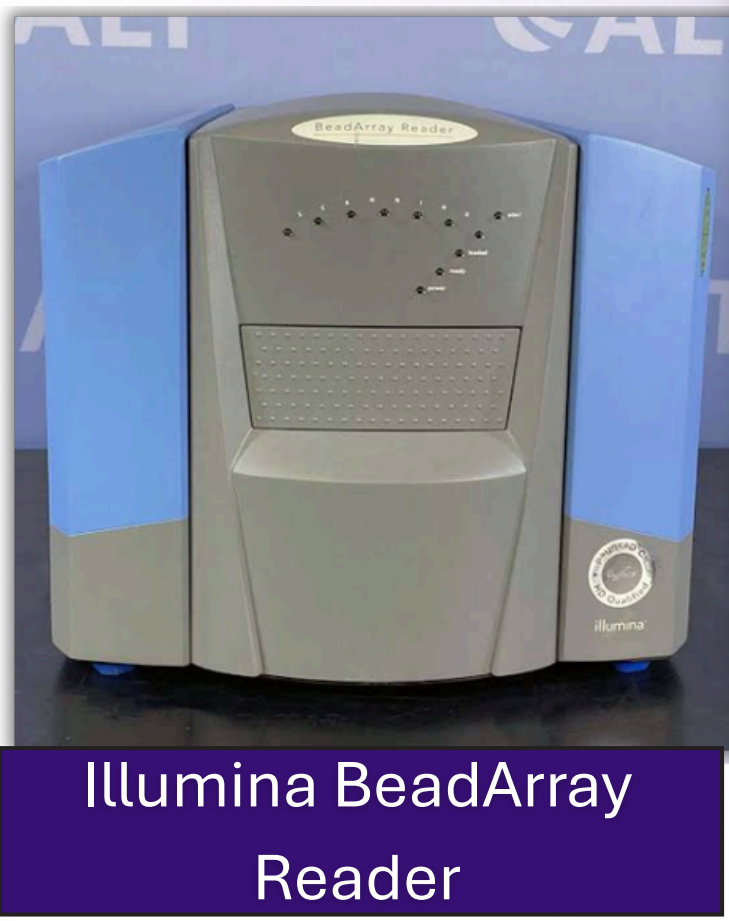


2005 PMI San Diego operations scale

Financial records show a stronger operational foundation for the growing chapter. Chapter records show \$79,023 in income, \$78,948 in expenses, and a \$27,765 reserve.



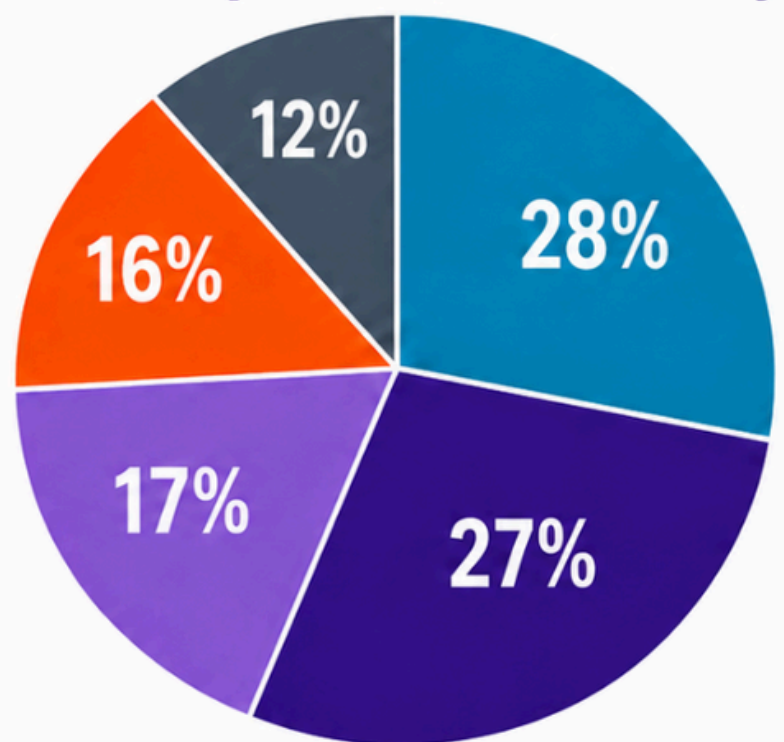
General Atomics Predator B, 2001



Illumina BeadArray Reader

CHAPTER FOUNDATION

2005 Operations Summary



2005 financial statement (PMI San Diego)



Research informs programs



Finances support growth

\$79,023
INCOME

\$78,948
EXPENSES

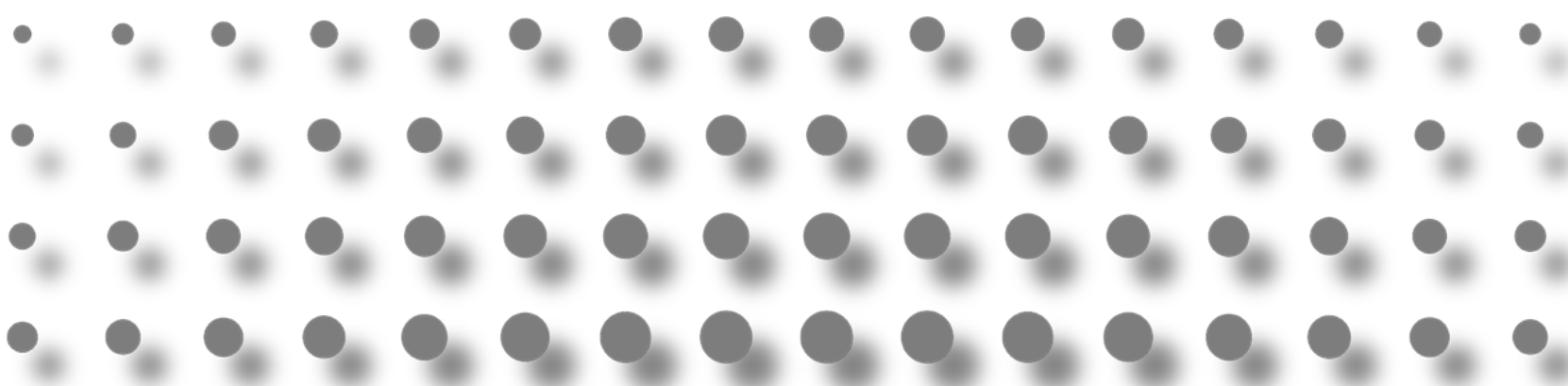
\$27,765
RESERVE



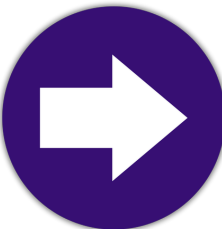
Sustained growth requires a strong operational foundation



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San Diego



Next: 2006-2010
Connecting a growing community



Connecting a growing community

PMI San Diego focused on strengthening member engagement through volunteer service, certification education, and professional events. In 2006, the chapter was recognized by PMI for the Volunteer Program of the Year, reflecting the strength of its volunteer community. PMP® preparation, annual conference programming, newsletters, and expanding digital outreach continued to support learning and keep members connected.



PMI San Diego Volunteer Program of the Year, 2006

KEY MOMENTS



2006 Volunteer Program of the Year
PMI recognized the San Diego Chapter for excellence in its volunteer program, highlighting the strength of member participation and volunteer engagement.



2007 PMP® certificate programs continue
Chapter-supported certification programs provide structured instruction for professionals preparing for the PMP exam and developing project-management skills.



2008 Annual Conference focuses on risk
PMI San Diego’s Projects Under Fire: A Tribute to Managing Risk conference brings Project Professionals together for education, discussion, and networking around project risk.



2010 Communications becomes more structured
Newsletters and digital outreach are organized more consistently, helping PMI San Diego share chapter news, events, and professional-development opportunities with members.






Kristina Curtiss


Brian Roark


Mickey Nakamura


MayaGrace Weiss


Robin Datko


Sarah Borders

Virtual Coffee Hour: Conference Insights

Join us for a casual, interactive session where we'll share highlights and key lessons learned from the PMI San Diego 2024 Annual Conference. We'll also have an open Q&A,

Receive 1.0 PDU

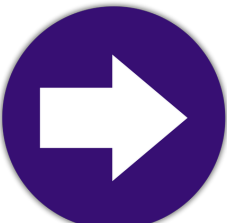
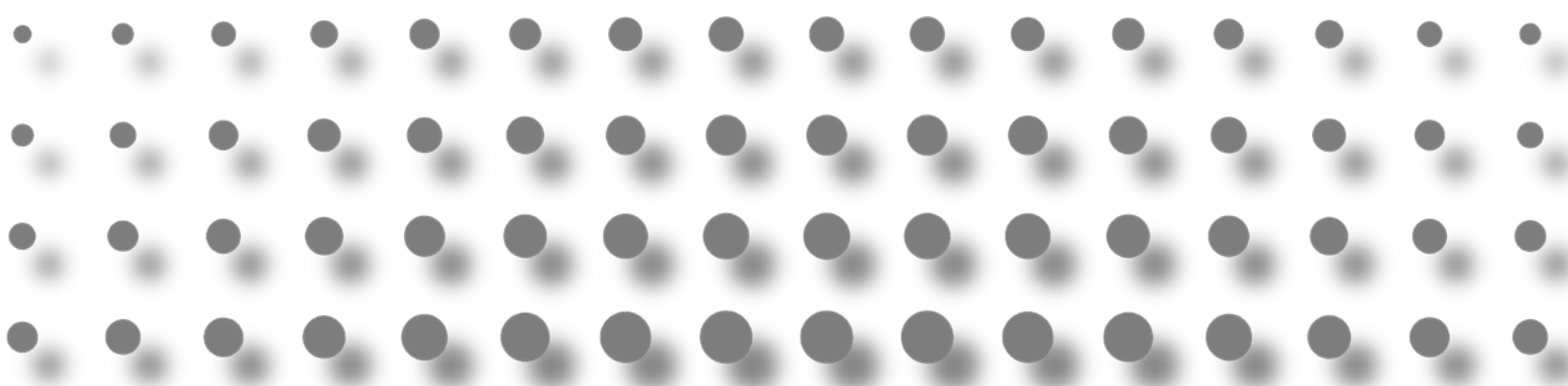
8.00am - 9.00am

Friday November 08, 2024

A later example of the connected community these systems helped build.



Strong communities grow through engaged volunteers and meaningful connections



Modernizing the chapter

From 2011 to 2015, PMI San Diego modernized the systems behind its growing volunteer organization. Communications, volunteer coordination, event support, and leadership handoffs became more structured, while a 2013 operational restructuring clarified roles across the chapter. In 2015, updated bylaws and a formal online-posting policy strengthened governance and helped prepare the chapter for continued growth.

KEY MOMENTS



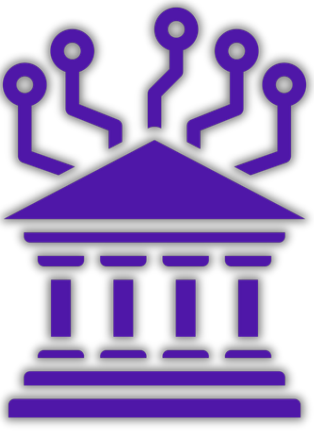
2011-2012 Communications systems strengthen
Volunteer rosters, email coordination, and web support become more structured, making it easier to organize volunteers and keep members informed.



2013 Chapter operations are restructured
Roles and responsibilities are reorganized across communications and event support, creating clearer ownership within the chapter.



2015 12th Annual Conference
PMI San Diego brings more than 200 Project Professionals together at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina for education, professional development, and networking.



2015 Governance and digital standards are updated
Updated bylaws and an online-posting policy strengthen chapter governance while providing clearer standards for its growing digital presence.



Current/Later PMI Volunteers and Chapter Community



Current/Later Volunteer and member engagement

CHAPTER SYSTEMS



Role structure — Clearer ownership across communications, events, and volunteer positions.



Leadership continuity — Defined handoffs help maintain chapter operations through board transitions.



Event operations — Dedicated volunteer roles support more organized chapter programs and events.



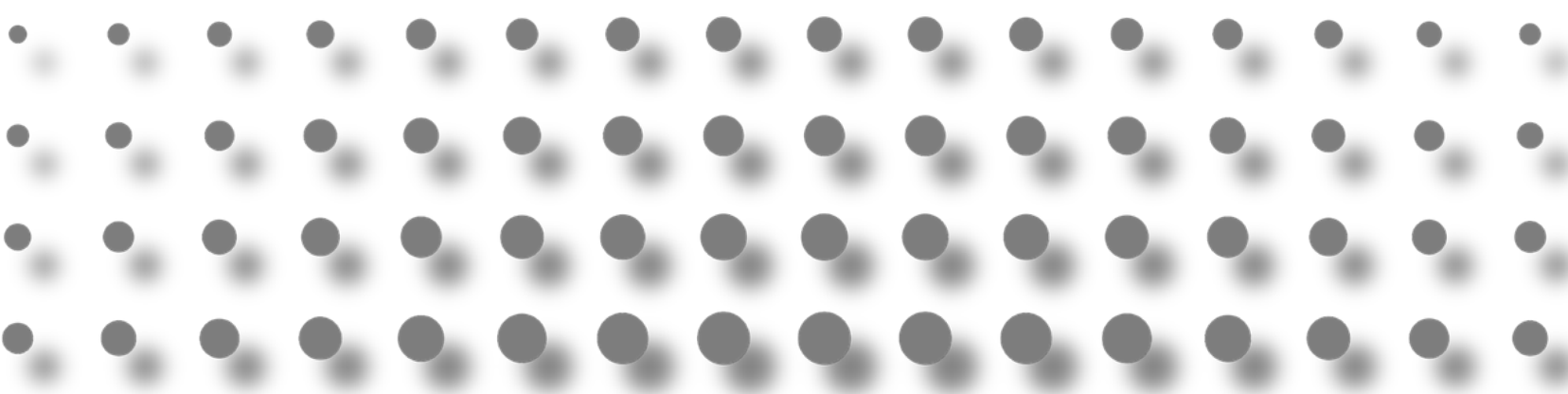
Governance framework — Updated bylaws and communication policies establish clearer operating standards.



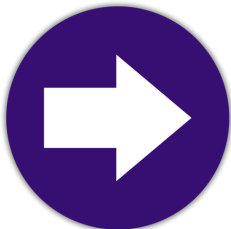
Modern systems strengthen communication, governance, and member experience



Project Management Institute® San Diego



Next: 2016-2020
Milestones, Innovation, and Resilience



Milestones, Innovation, and Resilience

PMI San Diego marked 30 years while continuing to modernize how the chapter operated. The chapter delivered major in-person experiences, including the 2017 Annual Conference at the University of San Diego, supported by 25 volunteers. In 2019, the chapter completed a major migration from Zimbra to Microsoft Office 365. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic prompted a rapid shift from face-to-face programming to virtual events, study groups, and networking.

KEY MOMENTS



2016 **PMI San Diego marks 30 years**
Three decades of chapter history reflect sustained growth, volunteer leadership, and service to San Diego’s project-management community.

2017 **Annual Conference at the University of San Diego**
The chapter hosts a major multi-track conference at USD, supported by 25 volunteers and focused on professional learning and connection.

2019 **PMI Global celebrates 50 years**
PMI reaches its 50th anniversary, marking five decades of advancing the project-management profession worldwide.

2020 **Programs and networking move online**
PMI San Diego hosts virtual networking events, including its *Project Management in Crisis* series, where members shared lessons learned and discussed how they adapted their project plans during the COVID-19 crisis.



PMI Global 50th Anniversary, 2019





Microsoft 365 Business Premium

Exchange	Teams	OneDrive	SharePoint	Outlook
Word	Excel	PowerPoint	Publisher	Access
Azure Information Protection	Defender	Conditional Access	Windows Virtual Desktop	

Office 365 migration modernizes chapter systems, 2019

CHAPTER ADAPTATION

30 **Anniversary & legacy** — 30 years of chapter history

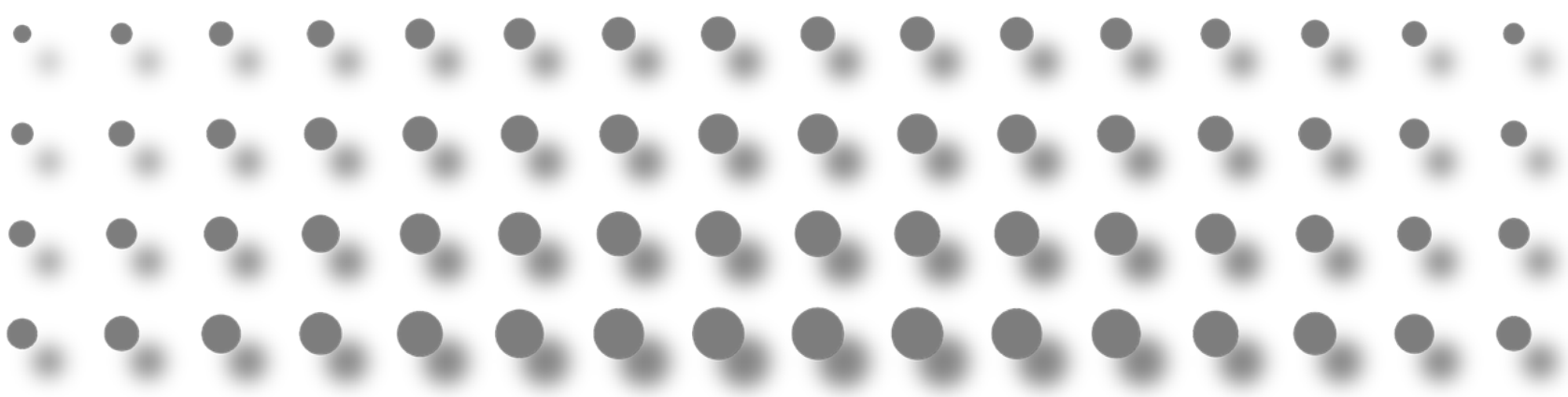
Major in-person events — Volunteer-supported conference delivery

Technology modernization — Office 365 expands collaboration tools

Virtual resilience — Programs and networking move online in 2020



The chapter marked a milestone, modernized its systems, and adapted when connection mattered most.



Rebuilding for the future

As San Diego entered a new era shaped by life sciences, digital technology, flexible work, and artificial intelligence, PMI San Diego rebuilt around a more connected and strategic model.

The chapter adopted a cross-functional, PMO-aligned approach and set priorities around university outreach, corporate PMO engagement, and military/veteran connections. In 2022, the Annual Conference returned in person at UC San Diego Park & Market.

KEY MOMENTS



2022 A new vision guides the chapter

PMI San Diego sets a goal of becoming the most trusted and reliable resource for project management in San Diego.



2022 Annual Conference returns in person

Project Professionals reconnect at UC San Diego Park & Market after nearly three years of remote conferencing.



2024 Mentorship Coaching Pods strengthen professional growth

PMI recognizes mentorship program for the cultural values of Be Welcoming and Aim Higher. Small-group mentoring supports peer learning, career development, and deeper professional connections.



2025 Military and veteran outreach grows

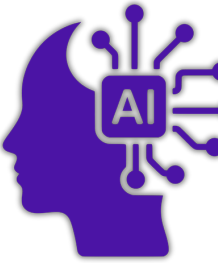
Recurring programs help service members and veterans connect military experience with project-management careers and certification pathways.



Rebuilding Connections



In-person community — The 2022 Annual Conference reunited members after nearly three years of remote conferencing.



Future-focused learning — 2023–2024 conferences featured AI, leadership, change management, and power skills.



Mentorship pathways — Coaching Pods supported peer learning and career growth, reaching nearly 90 people in one year.



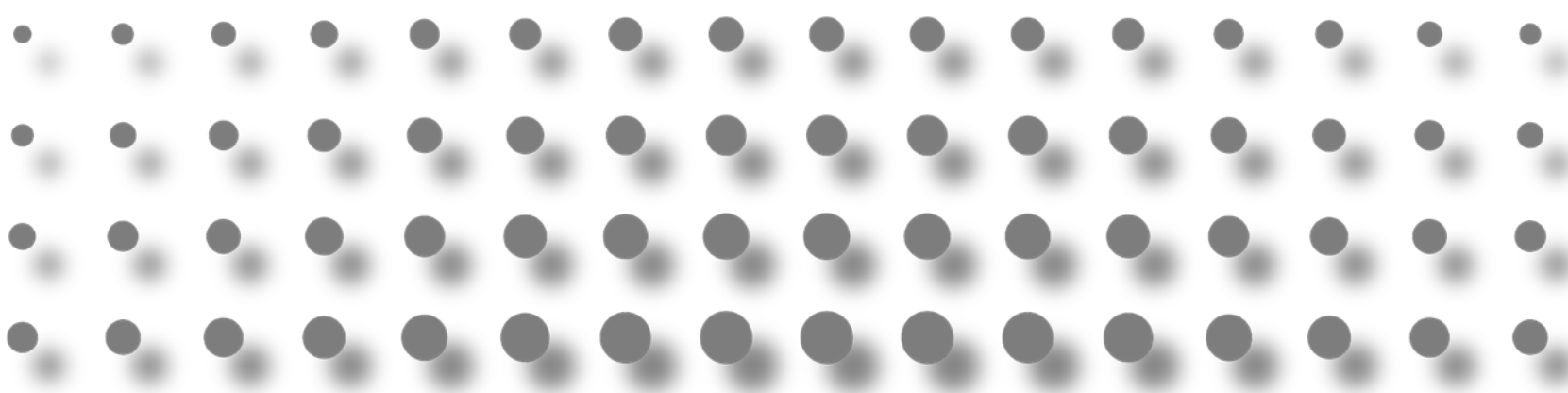
Military & veteran engagement — 2025 programs connected service members and veterans with PM careers, PMP pathways, and professional networks.



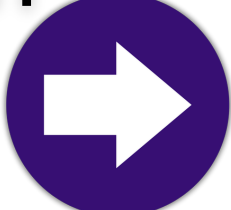
The chapter’s future is built on stronger connections—to members, mentors, veterans, volunteers, and the wider San Diego community.



Project Management Institute® San Diego



Next: 2026
40 years in motion



40 years in motion

As a nonprofit organization that relies entirely on the voluntary efforts of our members, the Project Management Institute – San Diego Chapter is deeply appreciative of the following individuals who have contributed their time, skills, and energy to our cause. They have been instrumental in creating, leading, and driving networking opportunities that connect project management professionals from various sectors in San Diego. We thank them for their hard work and dedication.

Chapter Board of Directors



Robin Datko
President



Athena Lai
VP Professional Development



Brian Roark
VP Finance



Elmira Mazlomian
VP Technology



Michelle Gregoire
VP Operations



Robyn Gerdes
VP Membership



Kristina Curtiss
VP Marketing & Communications



Mugdha Khaladkar
VP Programs

Chapter Volunteers



Tanja Pijpart-Van Tooren
Deputy VP of Finance and Event Manager
of 40th Anniversary Celebration



Reema Agrawal



Skarlett Meza



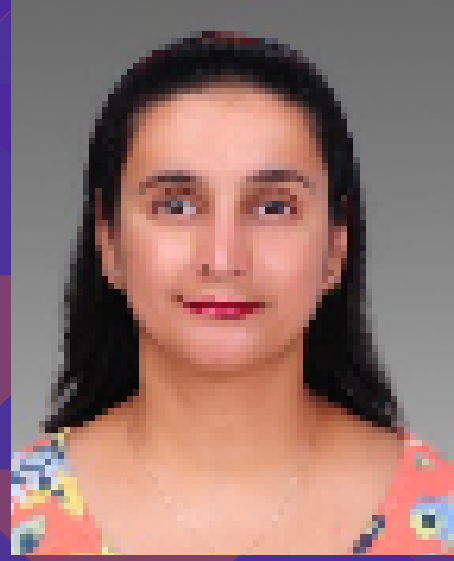
Johanna Schnell



Abby Daniels



Menelik Jabez Israel



Vinita Kapur

Event Speakers



Vanessa Bourgeois



Shane Cretacci



Ray W. Frohnhofer



Four decades of connection, leadership, and impact.
Honoring the people who built and sustained the chapter.



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