Continental breakfast (8:30 – 9:00 am)

Welcome and Opening Remarks (9:00 – 9:15 am)
  Mohammad H. Qayoumi - President of SJSU
  Sheila Bienenfeld - Dean of the SJSU College of Social Sciences
  Asha Weinstein Agrawal - Chair of the SJSU Urban & Regional Planning Department

Opening session: Where are we now, how did we get here, and where are we going? The evolution of high tech real estate development in the Bay Area from 2000 – 2020 (9:15 – 9:45 am)
  Ellis M. Berns - Assistant Community Development Director/Economic Development Manager, City of Mountain View
  Philip A. Mahoney - Executive Vice President, Cornish & Carey Commercial Newmark Knight Frank

Panel #1: What will future high-tech commercial development look like? (9:45 – 10:45 am)
  Ed Axelsen - Director of Real Estate & Facilities, Twitter
  Jay Bechtel - Real Estate Project Executive, Google
  Moderator: Scott Lefever - Planning Commissioner, County of Santa Clara

Coffee break (10:45 – 11:00 am)

Panel #2: Implementing the vision: challenges and opportunities (11:00 am - 12:00 pm)
  Craig Almeleh - Founder & Senior Principal, ARC TEC, Inc.
  Hanson Hom - Director of Community Development, City of Sunnyvale
  Tim Steele - Senior Director for Real Estate Planning, The Sobrato Organization
  Moderator: Mark Lazzarini - Managing Principal, DAL Properties LLC.

Closing remarks (12:00 – 12:15 pm)
  Ralph McLaughlin - Assistant Professor of SJSU’s Urban and Regional Planning and Director of the Certificate Program in Real Estate Development

Many thanks to our generous sponsors:

Platinum sponsors:

Diamond sponsor:

Gold sponsors:

Breakfast sponsor:

Co-sponsors:
With a career that spans more than 32 years, Craig Almeleh’s drive, passion, and keen design intuition has ideally suited him for his role in the architectural profession. Almeleh founded ARC TEC, Inc, a full service architectural firm focusing on office, high technology, and industrial facilities. In over 20 years, ARC TEC has become one of the most well known and respected architectural firms in Silicon Valley with a portfolio that boasts prominent Silicon Valley projects such as Adobe’s World Headquarters and numerous project for Yahoo! He holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and is National Council of Architectural Registration Board certified in 9 states.

Ed has over 30 years of corporate real estate and facilities management, including corporate security. He has specialized his career in dynamic growth technology companies in Silicon Valley (and now San Francisco), where he has leased and improved millions of square feet. Notably, he successfully managed space at Netscape where the population increased 3 fold in 1 year and he leased & improved 1 million SF in 2 years all while supporting some of what was then considered eccentric services. Ed attended Syracuse University where he earned a B.S. in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research.

Jay grew up in SF, went to high school at St. Ignatius (SI), then college at Santa Clara University, graduating with a BS in Economics. Spent 5 years at Xerox selling copiers and typewriters, then 7 years as a commercial real estate broker. He then entered the world of corporate real estate, working for Cisco Systems for 11.5 years doing real estate and construction projects for Cisco all over the United States, Europe and Asia. Jay joined Google in Feb 2005 doing real estate and construction jobs here in the Bay Area as well as Asia.

Ellis Berns is responsible for retaining and attracting businesses and balancing economic growth in Mountain View. Berns has been the city’s main point of contact for Google Inc. for more than a decade, and has also made the city home to other, upstanding technology companies including Symposys Inc., Intuit Corp., Omnitech, Omnicell, Symantec and Microsoft Corp. Berns recently started his own economic development and real estate consulting firm, ellis@ebernsconsulting.com, working with both public and private sector clients.

Hanson Hom is currently Director of Community Development at the City of Sunnyvale, and has served as Community Development Director at the City of San Leandro, Planning Manager at the City of Alameda, and Landscape Architect for the City of Hayward. He also has served as Director of the Northern California Section of the American Planning Association. During his tenure at the City of San Leandro, Hanson was instrumental in the design making process for the West Estudillo Historic Downtown Streetscape Project. Hansom holds a Master of Urban Planning from San Jose State University, an MA in Public Administration from CSU East Bay, and a BA in Landscape Architecture from UC Berkeley.

Phil Mahoney’s education and experience in the intensely competitive world of intercollegiate athletics helped prepare him for his career in commercial brokerage. Mr. Mahoney has been among Cornish & Carey Commercial Newmark Knight Frank’s elite list of top five producers since 1982. He has negotiated over 975 transactions totaling 59 million square feet of space valued at over $14.5 billion. Mr. Mahoney earned his degree in economics at Stanford University where he played varsity football.

Mr. Steele joined Sabrato Development in 2000. His public sector work includes many redevelopment and economic development projects, most recently for the City of San Jose. He has also worked extensively in the private sector in commercial brokerage and development. Mr. Steele earned his B.A. degree from Morehead State University in Kentucky and was subsequently awarded an M.B.A. from Golden Gate University. He currently serves on the boards of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties, and Home Builders Association.