

Kim Walesh

Director of Economic Development and Deputy City Manager City of San Jose

Kim helps leaders collaborate across disciplines in order to enhance economic opportunity, strengthen sense of community, and foster environments that make people happier, healthier, and more creative. Kim has a strong track record of turning ideas into action, working with diverse interests. She's inspired to create the next generation of great cities that work for people and for business.

At the City of San Jose, Kim leads implementation of city's comprehensive economic strategy to catalyze job growth, private investment, revenue generation, and talent attraction. She oversees citywide initiatives in business retention and attraction, downtown development, cultural vitality, workforce development, and real estate. As Deputy City Manager, Kim provides leadership and strategic coordination to city departments shaping the future of the city, including planning, development services, housing, transportation, and cultural affairs. She assists the City's executive leadership team with civic innovation and strategic planning.

Prior to joining San Jose, Kim was co-founder and managing director of Collaborative Economics--a Silicon Valley-based consultancy that works with business and civic leaders to build stronger economies and better communities. Kim also served as Senior Policy Analyst at SRI International's Center for Economic Competitiveness.

Kim is co-author of the books *Grassroots Leaders for a New Economy: How Civic Entrepreneurs Build Prosperous Communities* and *Civic Revolutionaries: Igniting the Passion for Change in American Communities*. She has written more than 50 other reports and publications, including key documents about the Silicon Valley region. She is a founding board member SPUR San Jose, the ZERO1 Art and Technology network, and the Prospect Silicon Valley innovation center.

Kim holds a bachelor's degree in economics and humanities from Valparaiso University and a master of public policy degree from Harvard University, where she was a Kennedy Fellow.