



PRESS RELEASE

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East Bay Economic Development Alliance Announces Innovation Award Winners at Dynamic Event Held at the Fox Theatre in Oakland

Award Recipients – including Kaiser Permanente, Meyer Sound, and Soraa – Took to the Stage at the Fox Theatre in Oakland to Receive Recognition for Their Contributions to the Region

Oakland, CA – On Thursday, February 13th, the East Bay's most innovative entrepreneurs took center stage to receive awards from the East Bay Economic Development Alliance (East Bay EDA) in recognition of their contributions to the region. The East Bay EDA presented the second-annual East Bay Innovation Awards to cutting-edge businesses that are making the East Bay one of the preeminent regions of innovation in the U.S.

"Our nominations this year were up 25% from the first effort last year," stated Darien Louie, Executive Director of the East Bay EDA. "Hundreds of business, civic and community leaders showed their commitment to the region. We also recognized companies who directly contribute to the East Bay's innovative and dynamic culture."

Kaiser Permanente received one of the evening's top honors – the East Bay EDA Legacy Award. In addition to acknowledging the contributions to healthcare, the award also celebrated the industrial accomplishments of Henry J. Kaiser in the mid-twentieth century and the ongoing environmental stewardship at Kaiser Permanente's medical facilities.

In addition to Kaiser Permanente, eight companies received awards for their impact on the region and for their innovation.

- **Catalyst Award**
 - Youth Radio was lauded for its educational support programs, job training, and use of media to raise awareness of issues affecting young people.
- **Business and Education Partnership**
 - Techbridge received an award for its groundbreaking partnership with local companies to inspire East Bay girls in careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).
- **Field-Specific Award Winners**
 - Aspera (Information / Communication Technology)
 - Boehringer Ingelheim (Advanced Manufacturing)
 - Soraa (Clean Technology)
 - Meyer Sound (Engineering and Design)
 - Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland (Life Sciences)
 - Back to the Roots (Food)

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“These companies and organizations are models in the region for others who want to create jobs and grow the East Bay economy,” said Keith Carson, chairman of the East Bay EDA Board of Directors and Alameda County Supervisor. “The East Bay EDA is proud to play a role in highlighting their work.”

In keeping with the focus on local innovation, winners received trophies custom-made on a 3-D printer by Oakland-based design studio Fathom. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory partnered with Fathom to use advanced materials in the trophies which illuminate from the interior.

Over 400 business and community leaders from around the Bay Area attended the event at the Fox Theater. Google Glass featured as a surprise element of the program to highlight the network of developers in the East Bay working on applications for the new mobile technology.

Lead sponsors for the East Bay EDA Innovation awards were the Chevron Corporation and Wells Fargo. The award sponsors were Bank of America, Bayer HealthCare, NorCal NECA and IBEW Local 595, and Wendel, Rosen, Black and Dean.

“Wells Fargo is proud to join the East Bay Innovation Awards as they celebrate and promote forward-thinking businesses in the East Bay,” said Jim Foley, Greater Bay President for Wells Fargo and Vice Chair of East Bay EDA.

“The Awards are an inspiring showcase of the innovation strengthening the East Bay,” stated Steve Woodhead, the manager for global social investment at Chevron. “We look forward to seeing the continued, positive impact these companies have on our community.”

For more information about the East Bay Innovation Award winners, visit: <http://bit.ly/ebedainnovation>

To view Micro-Documentaries of the East Bay Innovation Award winners, visit: <http://bit.ly/ebinnovate>

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About the East Bay EDA

The East Bay Economic Development Alliance (East Bay EDA) is a public-private partnership serving Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The East Bay EDA’s mission is to establish the region as a world-recognized location to grow businesses, attract capital and create quality jobs. To learn more about our East Bay EDA, visit: <http://www.eastbayeda.org/>.