

October 26, 2023

**Subject:** 2024 Catalyst Conference  
**Reporting Period:** February 2023 – October 2023  
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## Summary

Following the success of the 2023 SGC Catalyst Conference, SGC will host the second Catalyst Conference in Sacramento from February 1-2, 2024. With historic state and federal funding quickly becoming available, SGC is excited to convene this critical conversation and catalyze policy to action together with federal, state, and local government, community leaders and organizations, and private partners.

Hosted in partnership with the Milken Institute, the conference will draw on SGC's experience to highlight best practices and tested models to catalyze equitable climate investment in California and beyond. During the October 26, 2023 Council Meeting, Council Members will provide direction for the development of the 2024 Conference agenda and outcomes.

## Background

In 2023, the Strategic Growth Council, in partnership with the Milken Institute convened almost 300 leaders across California and the country for the inaugural SGC Catalyst Conference. The event focused on building partnerships and identifying solutions to implement the Justice40 Initiative in California and beyond. Its outcomes were captured in the [2023 Summary Report](#), which presents a high-level overview of the discussions and conversations hosted during the conference panels and breakout sessions.

The Conference followed the release of Governor Newsom's proposed \$48 Billion climate budget, which prioritizes continued funding for underserved communities and the availability of additional federal funding for climate resilience through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Over two days, leaders across California and the nation shared and discussed opportunities, challenges, and proven solutions to build readiness and catalyze implementation within underserved communities.

The 2024 Catalyst Conference, themed "Progress in Place: From Power Building to Project Implementation," builds on last year's efforts to promote community and local capacity, while anticipating challenges associated with project development and implementation. It will reflect both the urgency to make place-based investments that center and support disinvested communities and the speed at which federal and state funds are being deployed. The 2024 event will convene the frontline leaders, researchers, funders, and government partners currently leading this work to learn from one another, prioritize areas of future focus, advance projects, and celebrate transformation already underway.

During the October 26, 2023 Council Meeting, Council Members will provide direction for the development of the 2024 Conference agenda and outcomes.

## Discussion Question

Given historic levels of state and federal funding over the next 5 years, what does success look like? How can we ensure both effective implementation and the institutionalization of the practices that are leading to success?