

Afternoon Keynote: Successfully Increasing Diversity



Lisa Middleton (Introduction)

Board Member, CalPERS Board

Lisa Middleton is serving her first appointment to the CalPERS Board of Administration. She was appointed to the Board by Gov. Gavin Newsom in May 2019.

Lisa was elected to the Palm Springs City Council in November 2017. Representing Palm Springs, she serves on the Riverside County Transportation Commission, the Sunline Board of Directors, and the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy. Also representing Palm Springs, she serves on the following Coachella Valley Association of Governments committees: Transportation, Energy & Environment, and Conservation.

She is a member of the League of California Cities Transportation and Public Works Policy Committee and a member of the League's Riverside County Division Executive Committee.

Prior to her election, Lisa served as a member of the Palm Springs Planning Commission and as chairwoman of the Organized Neighborhoods of Palm Springs. She is a member of the board of directors of Neighborhoods USA, the Equality California Institute, and the Desert LGBTQ Center. In 2014 she was the Center's interim executive director.

Lisa retired after serving 36 years with California's State Compensation Insurance Fund. At her retirement she was the senior vice president of Internal Affairs with executive responsibility for internal audits, fraud investigation, public records, and governance. Lisa was also a member of California's Fraud Assessment Commission. In 2010 she chaired the Commission.

She earned a bachelor's degree in political science and holds a master's degree in public administration from USC. She also completed the LGBT Leadership Institute program through the UCLA Anderson School of Management. Lisa is the first transgender person elected to a non-judicial office in the State of California.

Afternoon Keynote: Successfully Increasing Diversity



Brickson Diamond

CEO, Big Answers, LLC

Brickson Diamond has dedicated his career to the cause of advancing opportunity and access for those who should have it, but do not. He builds and transforms businesses across industries including entertainment, tech, investment management, and non-profits.

He is CEO of Big Answers, LLC, which consults on diversity and inclusion strategy for clients in entertainment, technology, asset management and non-profit, generating new partnerships and leveraging impactful connections.

He previously served as EVP, Chief Operating Officer of The Executive Leadership Council, Inc. (ELC), an over 30 year-old global membership organization. Brickson grew membership from 400 to over 800 current and former Black board members, CEOs and senior executives at Fortune 1000/Global 500 companies. It works to build an inclusive business leadership pipeline that empowers global Black leaders to make impactful contributions to the marketplace and the global communities they serve.

He began his career with a 15-year tenure at the Capital Group Companies. His principal contribution to the firm was building and running its \$1.2 billion practice selling to and supporting investment management consultants serving high net worth and institutional clients.

Brickson is a co-founder and chair of the board of The Blackhouse Foundation. Established in 2006, Blackhouse is renowned for expanding access to acquisition-focused film festivals and advancing the development of commercially viable careers across platforms for Black independent filmmakers and content creators.

Brickson is a graduate of Brown University and Harvard Business School, and a member of the board of trustees of Brown University, Tides and the Middlesex School.