



*Meeting of the*  
**Council of Business Sponsors**  
July 26, 2018  
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.\*  
Fresno Food Expo at the Fresno Convention Center  
Fresno, CA

**\*Optional Session – 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.:**  
VIP Tour of Fresno Food Expo

**~ Agenda ~**

- I. Gathering, Welcome, and Introductions** **12:00 p.m. - 12:10 p.m.**
- *Ashley Swearingin, Central Valley Community Foundation*
- II. Expanding the Central Valley's Manufacturing Base**
- **Fresno Food Expo: Promoting & Expanding the Valley's Food Sector** **12:10 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.**  
*CVCF has invited three businesses who are exhibiting at the Expo to join us for lunch. The businesses range from early-stage to mature, third-generation family-owned businesses. They will share their stories, opportunities and challenges to help set the stage for our discussion on economic vibrancy and job creation in the Central Valley.*
  - **San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Alliance: Promoting & Expanding the Valley's Manufacturing Sector** **12:45 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**  
*Mike Betts, Chairman of the SJV Manufacturing Alliance will provide an overview of the size and scope of the manufacturing sector in the region and brief the Council on the Alliance's efforts to build a world-class ecosystem for education and workforce development.*
- III. Feedback and Group Discussion** **1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.**
- *Reflecting on the comments shared by local entrepreneurs and industry leaders, what stands out to you as significant opportunities for economic development and job creation? Challenges?*
  - *How do we get to critical mass in the Valley and start to attract other high-value, clean manufacturers to the region?*
  - *Discussion on local workforce development initiatives*
  - *Opportunities to collectively address affordability and availability of clean energy*
- IV. Focus on the Central Valley – the Heron Foundation** **1:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.**
- The Heron Foundation was founded in 1992 to help people and communities help themselves out of poverty. For the last year, Heron has been exploring the Central Valley for strategic opportunities at the intersection of communities and capital markets. Heron's President, Dana Bezerra (a Central Valley native), and Vice President of Integrated Capital, Preeti Bhattacharji, will join us for the Council of Business Sponsors meeting and Food Expo tour. They will provide an overview of what they have been finding as they have been researching the Central Valley.*

- V. **Summary of Discussion, Next Steps** 1:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
*Ashley Swearengin*
- VI. **\*Adjournment to Optional VIP Food Expo Tour** 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.