AMAZON & IRVINE: A PRIME OPPORTUNITY

We all know that every city, town, and hamlet in the United States is preparing to bid for Amazon HQ2. We all know the scope of their proposed investment and the positive impact this would have on our regional economy. But when The Irvine Company’s Chairman Donald Bren announced that Irvine is “uniquely qualified” to be the home of Amazon’s second headquarters, we cheered. He knows—and we know—that this is an exceptional opportunity for the future of our city, county, and region. And this is all about the future.

Amazon’s proposed multi-year build out will preserve our multi-generational population, help us attract and retain talent, keep our next generations here and employed well, enrich our culture and charitable organizations, grow the robustness of our regional economy, and help us sustain our quality of life.

Irvine was master-planned to be an economic powerhouse. It is this dynamic that allows us to cultivate and sustain the highest quality of life. So, we invite Amazon here from a position of strength, not weakness.

1. We offer a global brand, an already thriving economy, an enviable quality of life, and a reputation for success.
2. We invite Amazon to be part of the sixth largest economy in the world—California—and the 16th largest economy in the world in Southern California.
3. We invite Amazon to become part of our thriving 21st century industry sector economy.
4. We invite Amazon to benefit from our inspiring diversity and deep intellectual and human capital.
5. We invite Amazon to take advantage of our extraordinary education system, K-12 schools, and universities and colleges that generate a deep talent pool that aligns with their needs.
6. We invite Amazon to benefit from our high quality of life and world-renowned SoCal lifestyle that helps us attract and retain the best talent in the country and builds stronger communities.
7. We invite Amazon to enjoy the advantages of being part of an ecosystem that lives and breathes innovation.

Amazon HQ2 is an opportunity—for Irvine, Orange County, the region, and Amazon—to stake a bigger claim to our future and that of our future generations.

To learn more about this effort, contact Linda DiMario at ldimario@irvinechamber.com or (949) 502-4124.

For more information on membership with the Greater Irvine Chamber, contact Dinh Ta at dta@irvinechamber.com or (949) 502-4114.
FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC INVESTORS SEE OPPORTUNITY IN THE HEART OF OC

Bryan Starr
President & CEO,
Greater Irvine Chamber
Economic Development,
Destination Irvine

Sitting in the center of Orange County, Irvine was master planned to be an economic powerhouse. Its business centers are home to an impressive list of leading companies in technology, innovation, biotechnology, medical, and communications sectors—21st century businesses like Google, Oracle, Edwards Lifesciences, Amazon, Allergan, Blizzard, and Cyance, to name a few. Our startup ecosystem is also vibrant with $600 million in venture capital investment made in 2016 by new technology and life science companies.

The Greater Irvine Chamber’s economic development team is hard at work attracting new investment to the greater Irvine area as well. Just last month, our team secured Protempo, a New Zealand-based technology company, establishing their U.S. headquarters in Irvine. It will account for approximately $50 million in revenue.

Irvine’s innovative culture attracts companies from around the globe. In support, the Greater Irvine Chamber led its first Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) mission to the U.K. this year to encourage foreign life science companies to establish a presence or expand in Irvine and Orange County. As a result of that trip, the Chamber will host several organizations here Oct. 28–31. Raremark, One Nucleus, Association of British Healthcare Industries, and the Toronto Research Institute will attend the Medical Technology Innovation Forum as guests of OCTANe and will be treated to a tour of Edwards Lifesciences and UCI Applied Innovation. Plus, among other stops highlighting our thriving life science ecosystem.

There are 454 life science companies in Irvine, including R&D, medical equipment manufacturing, pharmaceutical, drug makers, medical device, healthcare, medical and diagnostic labs, scientific and technology instruments manufacturing, biotech, and medical software, making Irvine the third most popular city in California for this segment of the economy.

More than 60 percent of the R&D and life science companies in Orange County are headquartered in the greater Irvine area. Orange County is the fifth most popular destination in California for IT, and, combined with Los Angeles, Orange County graduates more engineers than any other U.S. metro area.

Nearly 2,000 foreign-owned enterprises in Orange County provide more than 114,000 jobs for the region, providing workers with $7.1 billion in wages last year. And, Irvine accounts for a large portion of those figures.

Given these facts, it’s no small wonder Irvine was named among the best cities by the FDI Magazine’s American Cities of the Future Awards 2017–2018 in the following categories:

1. #2 small city — overall
2. Top 10 small cities — human capital and lifestyle
3. Top 10 small cities — economic potential

Of course, our efforts to attract domestic investment remain a major priority. As a part of the leadership team working to attract Amazon HQ2, the Chamber is hard at work on an effort that will solidify Irvine’s status as an economic powerhouse well into the future.

Needless to say, the Greater Irvine Chamber is not “your grandfather’s chamber.” We’re paving the way for this region’s economic future and moving at the speed of business.

To learn more about Irvine’s economic ecosystem, visit IrvineChamberEconomicDevelopment.com.

Irvine to Host 2018 & 2019 NAIA Men’s Soccer National Championship

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) announced Irvine was selected to host the 2018 and 2019 NAIA Men’s Soccer National Championship. The championships will be played in the new 2,500-seat Championship Stadium at the Orange County Great Park Sports Complex. This winning bid was a true community effort the support of the City of Irvine, its new Orange County Great Park Sports Complex, and the Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce’s hotel partners made it possible for the Destination Irvine sales team to secure this event for Irvine. The potential economic impact the championships could have in Irvine is estimated at nearly $400,000 for Irvine hotels.

For more information, visit DestinationIrvine.com.

Destination Irvine’s sales team, along with members of Golden State Athletics, tour the new Orange County Great Park Sports Complex during the August site visit.

Destination Irvine received an Award of Excellence in the 2017 Videographer Awards for the organization’s “Irvine — A Place for Business. A Destination for Fun!” tourism video.