

Trustee



Mel I. Katz

Mel Katz has been one of San Diego's most respected business leaders since 1977 when he purchased the local Manpower franchise with Phil Blair. That was more than 35 years ago, and Manpower's revenue was \$340,000. In 2006 its revenue was \$81 million, and Manpower has continued to grow. They have a permanent team of 110 people and more than 3,500 temporaries working every day. They specialize in temporary, temp-to-hire and direct hire in clerical, professional and light industrial. Manpower in San Diego is the largest Manpower franchise in the U.S.

Beyond Manpower Mel's devotion to both economic development and civic improvement has earned him an impeccable reputation in the San Diego community. He is an outspoken advocate of child literacy, K-12 and higher education. He currently chairs the board of the new charter high school located in the Central Library, e3 Civic High. Mel has chaired numerous community organizations including the Public Library Commission, the Library Foundation, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, the San Diego Workforce Partnership and the San Diego Convention Center Corporation.

He was one of the forum founders of the Business Roundtable for Education, and in 1994 he created Insights, a prestigious, one-day speakers' series under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce. That series brought 56 world renowned speakers to San Diego, including President George H. Bush, Jimmy Carter and Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mel has been recognized as a Junior Achievement Hall of Fame Laureate and has received the Sam Walton Business Leader Award, the LEAD San Diego's Visionary Award for Regional Stewardship and the Press Club Award for the Insights program. Manpower has won awards from the Urban League, the San Diego Business Journal, Better Business Bureau and the Association of Fundraising Professionals for diversity and ethics, Best Places to Work and Corporate Philanthropy.