



Panel Descriptions

Aggie Square, Sacramento
October 13, 2026

Funding Options: California's Capital Stack (Panel 1)

Description: This session brings together leaders from key state programs that provide grants, loans, and incentives to help manufacturers strengthen their capital stack. Panelists will outline available resources and how businesses can access them, followed by an audience Q&A.

Takeaway: Manufacturers gain a comprehensive overview of state-level funding opportunities and connect directly with program representatives.

Private & Public Finance: Financing Options for Powering Manufacturing Growth (Breakout Session 1A)

Description: This session provides a practical introduction to private and public financing options for financing manufacturing projects. Panelists will highlight and explain financing options that exist via the State Treasurer's Office, California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank) and the public bond market for small and not so small manufacturers.

Takeaway: Manufacturers will learn how public finance works and discover when bonds might be the right fit for building their capital stack.

Permitting, Regulatory, & Technical Assistance: Navigating the Path to Growth (Breakout Session 1B)

Description: From securing permits to accessing expert guidance, this panel explores the resources manufacturers need to successfully launch, expand, and grow in California. Panelists will provide practical insights into navigating permitting and regulatory requirements while highlighting the organizations, advisors, and technical assistance programs available to support businesses at every stage of development.

Takeaway: Manufacturers will gain insight into preparing stronger permit applications, working effectively with regulatory agencies, and connecting with trusted advisors, mentors, and support organizations that can help accelerate growth and overcome common challenges.

Strengthening California's Creative Economy Amidst Technological Change (Breakout Session 1C)

Description: Emerging technologies, including AI and advanced digital tools, are rapidly changing how creative work is produced, financed, and brought to market. For California to remain a global leader in both technology and the creative economy, creative workers, businesses, and entrepreneurs must have a meaningful role in shaping the technologies transforming their industries.

This panel brings together leaders from creative industries, entrepreneurship, research, and labor to explore how California can better connect its creative talent with technology development and innovation. Panelists will discuss the unique expertise creators bring to emerging technologies, examples of successful collaboration between creative and technical sectors, and practical steps California can take to strengthen creative R&D, workforce development, entrepreneurship, and commercialization.

Takeaway: Attendees will hear real-world examples of how creators are helping shape new technologies and explore models for connecting creative talent, research, industry, and investment to strengthen California's competitiveness and create new economic opportunities.



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Manufacturer Success Stories: Navigating in the Golden State (Breakout Session 2A)

Description: Innovative manufacturers will share their journeys, challenges, and strategies for success in California's competitive marketplace.

Takeaway: Attendees will hear firsthand lessons and gain inspiration from peers who have built thriving operations in California.

Emerging Industries: Biotechnology & Life Sciences (Breakout Session 2B)

Description: Leaders in Biotechnology and Life Sciences will showcase how these industries are shaping the future of manufacturing in California.

Takeaway: Attendees gain insight into transformative technologies and opportunities for collaboration with manufacturers and local leaders.

Support Structures, Financing Options, and Operations (Breakout Session 2C)

Description: Panelists will discuss "outside the box" pathways for manufacturers to access financing and growth support.

Takeaway: Manufacturers will learn broader financing and resource strategies beyond traditional tools.

Fireside Chat: Women Shaping the Future of Manufacturing

Description: This fireside chat, led by State Treasurer Fiona Ma, will feature an interactive conversation with women leaders who are driving innovation and growth across California's manufacturing sector. Panelists will share their professional journeys, lessons learned, and the strategies they have used to build and lead successful manufacturing companies. The discussion will explore how these leaders are navigating today's evolving business landscape - including workforce challenges, supply chain disruptions, access to capital, technological innovation, and changing market demands - while positioning their companies for long-term success and growth.

Takeaway: Attendees will gain valuable insights from accomplished women manufacturing leaders on navigating today's business environment, building resilient companies, developing strong leadership skills, and identifying opportunities for innovation and sustainable growth.

Local Leaders: Opportunities in Local Communities (Panel 2)

Description: Local leaders will highlight grants, incentives, and opportunities available within their communities.

Attendees will hear real world examples of how public incentives have empowered companies and local entrepreneurs from clean tech startups to clothing and beyond to grow and create a space for them to thrive.

Takeaway: Attendees will hear real-world examples of how public programs are fueling local business growth and how manufacturers can tap into these opportunities.



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Creating a Manufacturing Ecosystem (Panel 3)

Description: This session will explore how Rivian has successfully built a thriving manufacturing ecosystem. Panelists will share insights and vision for building the talent pipeline, partnerships, and support systems needed for electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing.

Takeaway: Attendees will learn that strong manufacturing ecosystem doesn't happen by accident - it's built through intentional collaboration, long-term investment, and a shared vision for sustainable growth.