

EL SEGUNDO

Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong, El Segundo Brewing Company and Starburst Accelerator Honored at Champions of Business Celebration

High-Profile Event Recognizes Dedication to Economic Development, Philanthropy and Innovation in El Segundo

EL SEGUNDO, CALIF. – September 29, 2017 – The sold-out El Segundo Champions of Business Celebration hosted by the City of El Segundo and the El Segundo Economic Development Advisory Council (EDAC) recognized Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong, El Segundo Brewing Company and Starburst Accelerator for their contributions to the economic growth and success of the city. The celebration serves as the signature event of the year to honor and highlight business leaders in the thriving El Segundo business community.

Tim Harris, president of business operations for the Los Angeles Lakers, served as Master of Ceremonies and brought his humor and passion for the City of El Segundo to the event. General Manager, Chevron El Segundo Refinery, Henry Kusch, presented a grant check for \$125,000 to the El Segundo City Council to support furthering economic development.

The Champion of Business Award recognized Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong. The award honors a business or individual that has helped broaden awareness of El Segundo and who has been a significant contributor to the economic development of the city. Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong and his wife, Michele Chan Soon-Shiong opened the [Chan Soon-Shiong Institute for Medicine](#) (CSSIFM) in El Segundo, a new cancer center combining next-generation immuno-oncology with personalized care to provide advanced treatment options for cancer patients. The institute reflects their commitment to bringing forth powerful, progressive care for cancer patients. Dr. Soon-Shiong believes we have to harness the most powerful defense against this deadly disease: the body's own immune system. He currently serves as Chairman and CEO of NantWorks, an ecosystem of companies aiming to create transformative global health information and a next-generation pharma development network. The work of these companies will soon be expanding to include many sites in El Segundo. While accepting his honor, Soon-Shiong shared he felt El Segundo could one day be the biotech capital of the world.

“The Champions of Business Celebration is an opportunity to honor our inspiring business leaders in the city and recognize their many significant accomplishments,” said El Segundo Mayor Suzanne Fuentes. “All of our honorees are exceptional leaders in business, innovation and philanthropy and have made outstanding contributions to economic development in El Segundo.”

The Big Idea Award honored Starburst Accelerator for their vision in reshaping the world through their innovations. Starburst Accelerator is the first and only global aerospace accelerator, connecting start-ups with corporations, investors, and government, providing growth and investment opportunities for all. With offices

in El Segundo, Paris, Montreal, Munich, San Francisco and Singapore, they have built an ecosystem of key players with thousands of startups in its network, helping scale these aerospace, aviation and defense businesses by providing access to the largest group of corporate stakeholders and helping them win their first \$1MM+ contract.

The 2017 Entrepreneur of the Year Award honored Rob Croxall, founder of El Segundo Brewing Company for his successful launch of a new business, outstanding leadership, and exceptional contributions to the community at large. Rob Croxall founded El Segundo Brewing Company over a love of hops and a desire to brew delicious beer. Rob spent many years in aerospace finance and left his corporate job to risk it all on craft beer. He says all the time, “My worst day here still beats my best day there.” Located on Main Street, in the heart of historic downtown El Segundo, his hometown brewery offers IPAs, DIPAs, TIPAs and stouts in a fun and lively tap tasting room. When Croxall started the brewery, the capacity was just 60 barrels a month. Now they make more than 500. El Segundo Brewing Company self distributes their beers all throughout Southern California with standards that are unparalleled in the market.

The event was held on Thursday, September 28 at the Vistamar School Performing Arts Center in El Segundo.

Sponsors of this year’s event included: Chevron, Continental Development Corporation, Los Angeles Lakers, Insight Structural Engineers, Mar Ventures, Inc., Hackman Capital, NSB Associates, Inc., Del Amo Construction, Alex Abad Real Estate and DPR Construction.

ABOUT EDAC

The El Segundo Economic Development Advisory Council (EDAC) serves as a forum for effective collaboration leading to the identification of responsible development strategies in the city. EDAC exists to provide support and guidance to city staff and advise City Council on business attraction and retention. EDAC assists with the implementation of the City of El Segundo’s Economic Development Program.

The City of El Segundo is a small coastline community in southwestern Los Angeles County. Recognized as the aerospace capital of the world, it is renowned for maintaining a quaint, small town atmosphere as well as a thriving business environment that caters to some of the region's most prestigious corporations. El Segundo was named “Most Business Friendly City” for the second time in 2015 by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation.

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