



1834 University Ave. · Berkeley, CA 94703
Phone: (510) 549-7000 · Fax: (510) 549-1789
Email: info@berkeleychamber.com
www.berkeleychamber.com

Press Release - September 27, 2013

The Berkeley Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Berkeley Start Up Cluster and the Skydeck accelerator are hosting the first Berkeley Visionary Awards on September 30th from 5-7:30 at the penthouse Skydeck at 2150 Shattuck Ave.

This 'by invitation only' evening is the Chamber's effort at celebrating innovative entrepreneurs who have gotten to YES! in their efforts to change Berkeley and/or the larger world. As such we are calling these the YES! Awards. (see vision statement attached)

Dignitaries from the political, academic, scientific and business realm will gather to congratulate the first two recipients. First is Steve Visco of PolyPlus (see biography attached) whose lithium/air battery was lauded as one of the fifty best innovations of 2011 by Time magazine. Dr. Visco is a prime example of the Chamber's goal of keeping our new talent here in Berkeley as they grow. This is our "start it here, grow it here, keep it here" business campaign. Visco started his innovative work on the hill at the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab and now has a full fledged company in West Berkeley with over 50 employees. He says "the best way to recruit high quality employees is to have a Berkeley address!"

The second award will go to Patrick Kennedy of Panoramic Interests (see bio attached.) Twenty years ago Mr. Kennedy arrived in Berkeley from Cambridge and realized that Berkeley was a tired city trapped in a time warp. No new housing had been built in the downtown for decades and the streets and retail life were moribund. Patrick battled the voices of NO for years, building high rise, high quality housing to bring his vision of a lively, hip, prosperous and transit oriented new era to Berkeley. Others have followed his example and downtown Berkeley is alive with new residents, great restaurants, great theatre and innovative excitement. The Chamber is proud to honor his vision and his tenacity in breaking up the status quo. Kennedy is now leading the housing trend of micro units, recently selling the first such new building in San Francisco.

These first Award recipients names are not to be publicized in advance of the event please. For further information or to attend the Visionary Awards, please contact the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce. 510-549-7000 - info@berkeleychamber.com



1834 University Ave. · Berkeley, CA 94703
Phone: (510) 549-7000 · Fax: (510) 549-1789
Email: info@berkeleychamber.com
www.berkeleychamber.com

2013 Visionary Awards

The Berkeley Visionary Awards were created to honor those individuals with both the imagination and persistence to innovate in the City of Berkeley. Our town has a long history of activism and is proud of its heritage. However, our colorful history has also fostered a cautious if not skeptical view of change and the role that local businesses play in the economic health of the city. Traditionally the University and the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab have been somewhat neutral on this issue. And yet the landscape is shifting rapidly as entrepreneurs begin to take advantage of the unique attributes of this town to launch innovative companies, create high quality jobs, and generate technologies that will have global impact. Accordingly, the Chamber of Commerce has launched an award to recognize and honor those pioneers who have pursued dramatic change for the future, are relentless in pursuit of that goal, and are generating high quality jobs for people who live here, and making our city and the world a better place in which to live. The Chamber of Commerce is a partner in an alliance between the City of Berkeley, the University of California, the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab and the Downtown Berkeley Association to help encourage talent trained in Berkeley to stay here and grow their companies. We have already formed the Berkeley Start Up Cluster and the Skydeck Accelerator to nurture creative entrepreneurs. Now we want to honor two people who gained success when change was seen as a threat rather than a goal. We are calling these the YES! Awards. One such individual saw a vibrant future for a tired downtown Berkeley and built the infrastructure that allowed that future to come to fruition, and the other is a brilliant scientist who started, grew and established his business in Berkeley and is changing the future of battery technology one breakthrough at a time.

Polly Armstrong
CEO, Berkeley Chamber of Commerce

CELEBRATE!

BERKELEY VISIONARY AWARDS



with



Celebrating Berkeley entrepreneurs who have pursued YES! in innovative and creative achievements and the unique mix of businesses that support them.

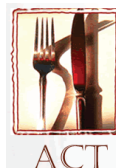
Sponsored by



The Institute for Business Innovation



radiantbrands



Mt. Beautiful
CHEVIOT HILLS

2013 Visionary Awards Recipients

PATRICK KENNEDY



Patrick Kennedy is the owner of Panoramic Interests, a development firm that has been building housing, live-work space, and commercial property in Berkeley since 1990. The firm has focused on dense, mixed-use, mixed-income, infill developments, typically financed with private funds. All of the multi-family housing projects include below market rate units (usually 20%).



Since 1995, Panoramic Interests has built 506 units of housing in several mixed-use projects in and around downtown Berkeley and San Francisco. The firm's projects incorporate the Smart Growth principles designed to discourage auto use, mitigate sprawl, encourage local business, and enhance the pedestrian streetscape.

In April, 2007 Panoramic Interests sold its rental portfolio of 7 buildings to the Equity Residential Apartment REIT of Chicago for \$146,000,000, the largest real estate transaction in Berkeley's history.

Mr. Kennedy is now building micro-apartment projects in San Francisco called SmartSpace® -- small, stylish, efficient dwellings for students and workers. The firm recently completed a 23-unit project in the SoMa District of San Francisco. It will break ground in November of 2013, on a 160-unit, car-free, high-rise version at 9th and Mission -- a block from the new Twitter headquarters. Its principal tenant will be the California College of the Arts.

Education

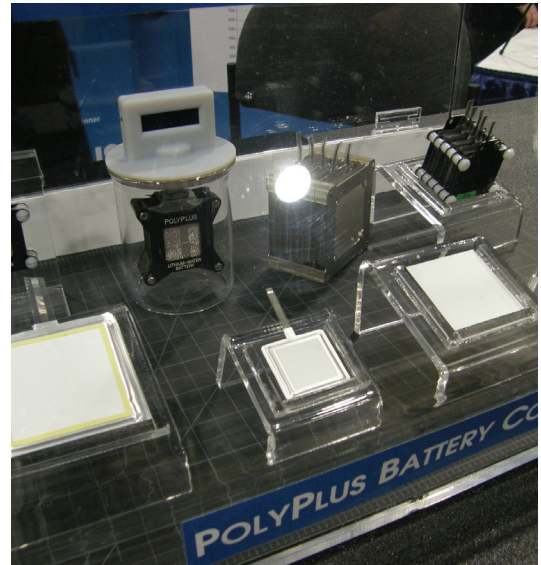
Harvard Law School, J.D.	Cambridge, MA
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, M.A. in Real Estate Development	Cambridge, MA
Claremont Men's College, B.A. in Economics and English	Claremont, CA

2013 Visionary Awards Recipients

STEVEN J. VISCO, Ph.D.



Steven Visco is the Chief Executive Officer, CTO, and co-founder of PolyPlus Battery Company in Berkeley, California, as well as a Guest Scientist in the Materials Science Division at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Dr. Visco received his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Brown University in 1982 and spent two years as a Postdoctoral Scientist at the University of California at Santa Barbara working on advanced batteries. Dr. Visco then joined the staff at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory as a Principal Investigator in the Materials Sciences Division in 1984 where his research interests have included solid-state ionic devices such as batteries and fuel cells.



Steven Visco co-founded PolyPlus Battery Company in 1991. Dr. Visco also serves on the Technical Advisory Boards for the Conrad Foundation and the CIC Energigune Institute in Miñano, Spain. Dr. Visco has published over 75 articles in scholarly journals and books, and currently holds 90 issued U.S. patents and more than 200 international patents. In 2011 Dr. Visco was awarded the International Battery Association Technology Award for "Outstanding Contributions to the Development of Lithium-Air and Lithium-Water Batteries." PolyPlus was recently selected by TIME magazine for its 50 Best Inventions of 2011, and received an Edison Gold Award in April 2012.