



**SAN MATEO COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
FOUNDATION**

# **Branding Guidelines**

*External*

12.08.2025

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Brand guidelines provide the established official policies and standards for the foundation's visual identity. It is applied to all materials, whether print or digital. It includes guidelines on the proper use of the foundation's logo, colors, fonts, and official messaging.

Brand guidelines ensure that all marketing and communications for the foundation are accurate and stay on-brand.

**Our identity is one of our most powerful assets.** By consistently applying all the elements of the San Mateo County Community College District Foundation (SMCCCF) visual identity across every touchpoint, we build and maintain a strong brand that reflects who we are, the character we embody, and the value we bring to our community.

This document establishes standards and guidelines for the use of the SMCCCF logo and other visual components. It also outlines the usage of supporting graphic elements, color palettes, typography, photography style, tone and writing, and layout principles. These standards should be applied consistently **across all branded platforms and materials**, including advertising, print collateral, presentations, and digital media.

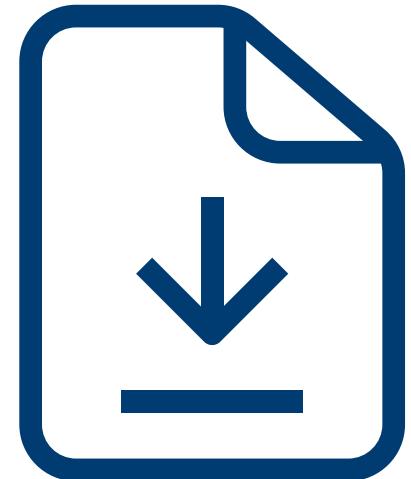
A creative strategy distills the heart of the Foundation and the key qualities that define it. It informs how SMCCCCF communicates—visually (through logos, design, and brand assets) and verbally (through tone, messaging, and voice)—across all channels.

Using the creative strategy as a lens for communication ensures that SMCCCCF **maintains a unified identity and speaks with clarity and consistency**. This coherence strengthens our story, helps us stand out in the philanthropic and educational space, and builds lasting engagement with our key audiences.

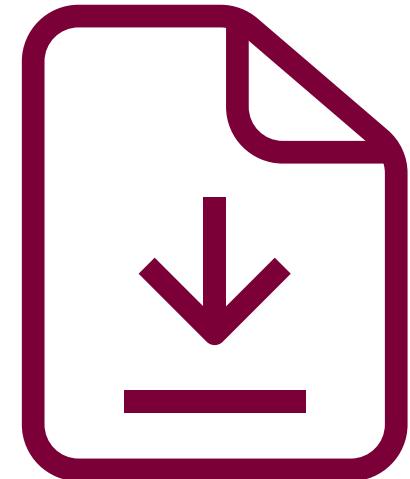
### A well-defined creative strategy:

- Clarifies what makes SMCCCCF unique and essential to the community
- Differentiates SMCCCCF from other foundations and educational partners
- Inspires students, faculty, and staff to engage with our mission
- Motivates partners and donors to invest in our long-term success
- Encourages alumni and supporters to remain connected and contribute
- Raises awareness in our local community and beyond about our role and impact

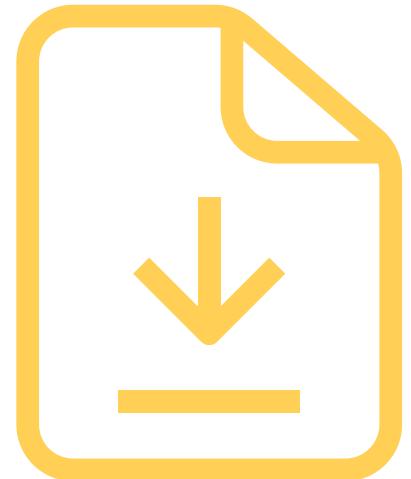
All logos, document and powerpoint templates, fonts, signatures and more can be downloaded/accessed at:



[Microsoft OneDrive](#)



[Google Drive](#)



[Dropbox](#)

# Logos

## 1.0

## 1.1 LOGOS

The following logos are the foundation of SMCCCCF's brand identity. They may be used individually or in approved combinations. They have been created in various file types (see page 13). Always use approved artwork files.

The **.eps/.svg** and **.pdf** identity files are vector-based and should be used whenever possible. They generally can be enlarged and reduced without diminishing image quality. Any printing jobs should use these files. The **.jpeg** and **.png** files are pixel-based and should only be used when **.eps/.svg** or **.pdf** is not applicable.

Full color is the preferred colorway and should be used whenever possible.



[Download logos](#)



**SAN MATEO COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
FOUNDATION**

VERTICAL LOGO



SOLO ICON



**SAN MATEO COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
FOUNDATION**

PRIMARY LOGO



**SAN MATEO COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
FOUNDATION**

BACKGROUND LOGO

The **primary logo** is the main logo of the SMCCCCF identity system. It should be used most often. The primary logo serves to visually capture the foundation's mission and vision uniquely.

**The depiction of a circle of leaves emphasizes unity and eternity between the three San Mateo County Community Colleges**—College of San Mateo, Skyline College, and Cañada College.



**SAN MATEO COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
FOUNDATION**

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## MISSION STATEMENT

To promote student success and program innovation by soliciting and receiving gifts and administering funds.

## VISION STATEMENT

We invest in dreams, foster social mobility, and empower donors to make a lasting impact now and in perpetuity.

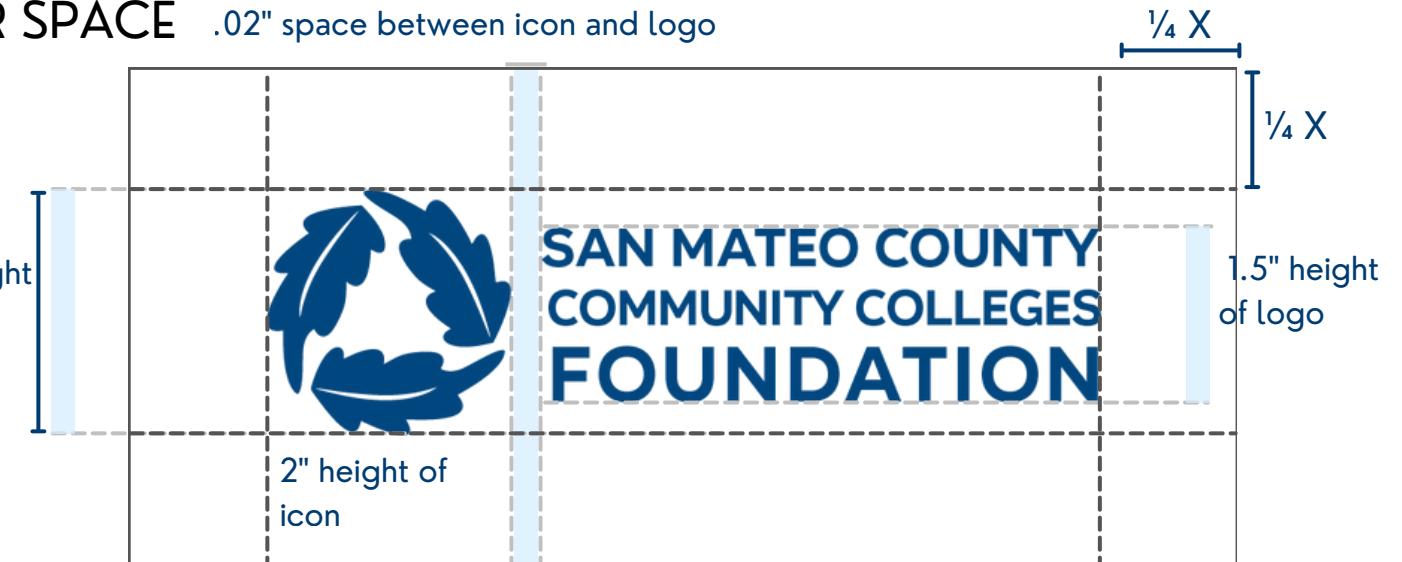
### MINIMUM SIZE



0.75"

No maximum usage restriction.  
**Minimum usage** is 0.75 inches wide.

### CLEAR SPACE .02" space between icon and logo



1/4 of the height of the primary logo lockup is used to create the **clear space** around the mark. Nothing should be placed in this area.

The **vertical logo** is an iteration of the primary logo that takes into account the size. It may be used interchangeably with the primary logo.



[Download logos](#)



**SAN MATEO COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
FOUNDATION**

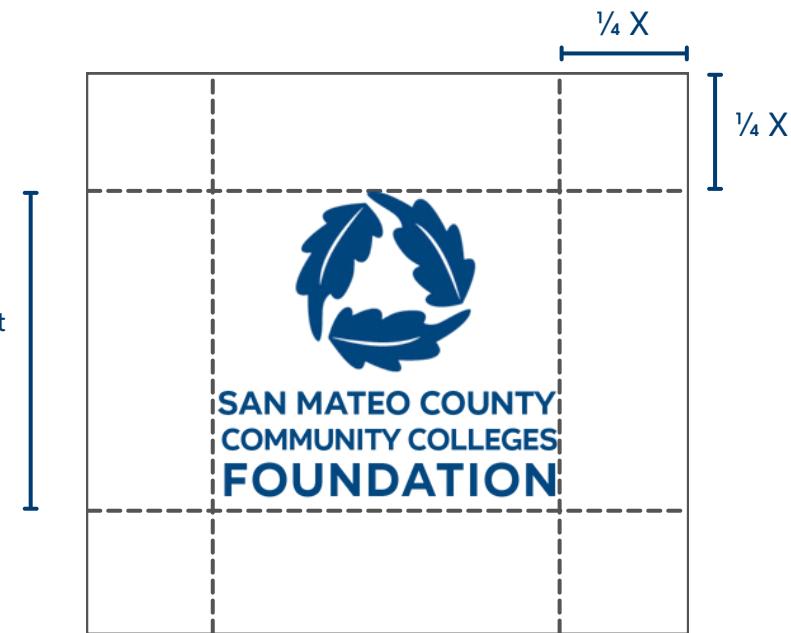
#### MINIMUM SIZE



0.5"

No maximum usage restriction.  
**Minimum usage** is 0.5 inches wide.

#### CLEAR SPACE



$\frac{1}{4}$  of the height of the primary logo lockup is used to create the **clear space** around the mark. Nothing should be placed in this area.



MINIMUM SIZE



CLEAR SPACE



No maximum usage restriction.  
**Minimum usage** is 1.2 inches wide.

The height of the one line logo is used to create the clear space around the mark. Nothing should be placed in this area.

[Download logos](#)

The **tagline logo** is the secondary logo of the SMCCCF identity system. The tagline logo serves to convey the mission and vision of the foundation: **investing in dreams**.



**SAN MATEO COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
FOUNDATION**  
*Investing in dreams*



[Download logos](#)



MINIMUM SIZE



No maximum usage restriction.  
**Minimum usage** is 1.5 inches wide.

CLEAR SPACE



The height of the one line logo is used to create the clear space around the mark. Nothing should be placed in this area.

The **longline header** is the letter header logo of the SMCCCCF identity system. This contains the address of the district.

Used sparingly for printed materials.



3401 CSM DRIVE • SAN MATEO, CA 94402



[Download logos](#)

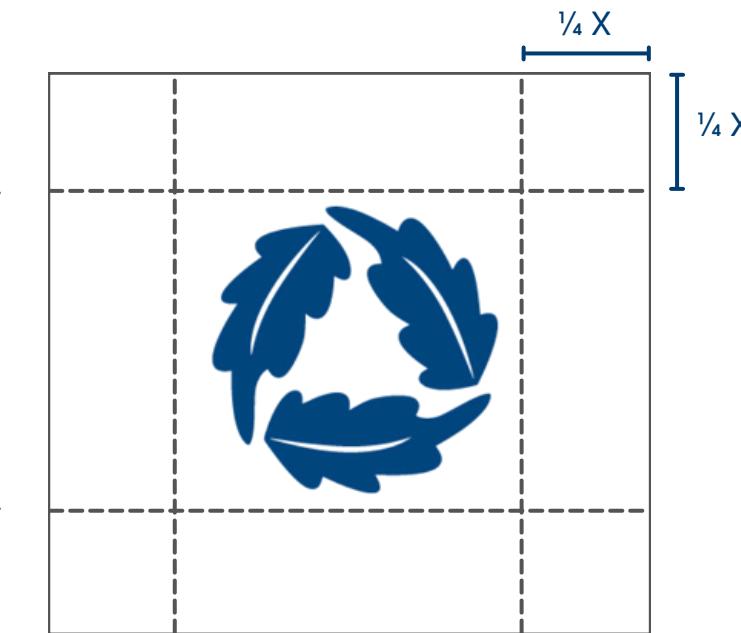


## MINIMUM SIZE



$X$  = Height  
of logo

## CLEAR SPACE



1/4 of the height of the primary logo lockup is used to create the **clear space** around the mark. Nothing should be placed in this area.



[Download logos](#)



### Primary logo:

- Default digital presence (website header, email signatures)
- Branded merchandise (mugs, tote bags, pens)
- Internal documents and presentations

*Why: Clean, recognizable, and versatile—anchors visual identity and works well in most contexts without additional messaging.*



### Tagline logo:

- Donor-facing materials (impact reports, campaign brochures, fundraising decks)
- Event signage and banners
- Social media graphics promoting mission-driven initiatives

*Why: Adds emotional resonance and reinforces your purpose. Ideal to deepen connection and inspire action.*



### Vertical logo:

- Mobile-first layouts (app splash screens, vertical banners)
- Narrow print formats (flyers, bookmarks, name badges)
- Social media avatars or stickers

*Why: Optimized for tight or tall spaces where horizontal logos feel cramped or unreadable.*



### Logo with background:

- Website footer or navigation bar
- Branded video overlays or intros
- Digital ads and sponsored content

*Why: High contrast and polished—great for dark mode environments or when you need the logo to pop against busy backgrounds.*



### Longline header logo:

- Letterhead, envelopes, and formal correspondence
- Annual reports and board packets
- Press releases and policy briefs

*Why: Professional and space-efficient—designed to sit neatly atop documents without overwhelming the layout.*

In order to maintain consistency and a strong brand identity, the following alterations to the logos should be avoided. **Each of these rules applies to all of the logo options.**

Correct and consistent use of the Primary logo is an essential part of building brand equity. While a great deal of flexibility has been built into the visual identity system, the use of each element has been carefully defined.

**Do not alter, redraw, or add any additional words or graphic elements to the logo. Always use approved and provided electronic artwork.**



Do not add a drop shadow or any other effects to the Primary logo.



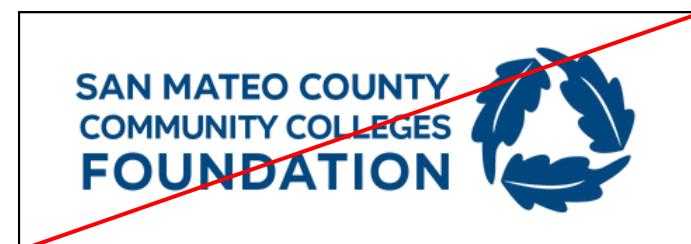
Do not remove the leaves icon from the Primary logo.



Do not place the logo in a container shape of any type.



Do not use unapproved color configurations of the Primary logo.



Do not alter the composition of the lockup.



Do not place the Primary logo on a color that does not provide sufficient contrast.



Do not add additional information to the Primary.



Do not change the typeface of any part of the Primary logo.



Do not place the Primary logo on visually distracting background or faces.

The logo is available in a variety of electronic file formats, each intended for a particular use depending on the media for which it will be reproduced. Selecting the correct file format will ensure that the logo is reproduced in the appropriate manner and will maintain the brand identity.

#### File formats:

- **EPS/SVG** – vector files are for use in professional printing applications. It prints in the highest resolution, is scalable, and has a defined color model such as CMYK or Spot Color.
- **JPG** – are bitmap images with RGB color. This has an opaque background and is suitable for use in online and screen-based applications, such as email and PowerPoint.
- **PNG** – are bitmap images with RGB, have a transparent background, and should only be used for PowerPoint or email.

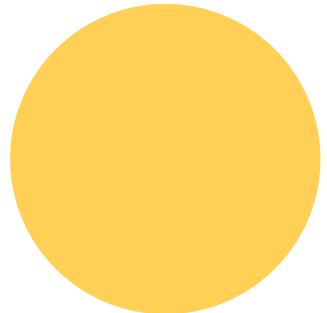
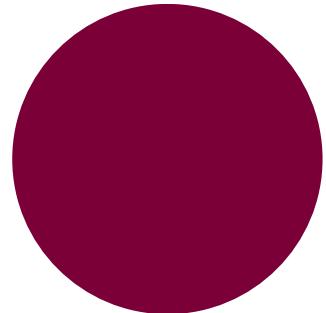
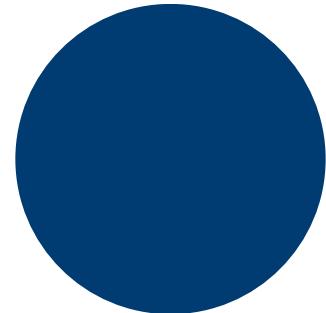
# Color 2.0

The color palette establishes a visual tone for the Foundation's brand and can foster strong brand recall when associated with the Foundation.

NOTE: The secondary color palette may be used to complement the primary palette, but never to substitute.

**Consistent use is important.**

## Primary palette

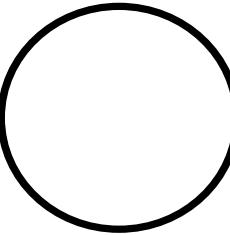
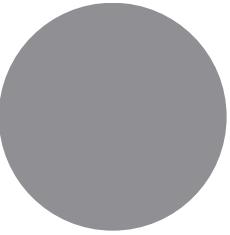


Foundation Blue  
#003C71  
PMS 541-C  
0R 60G 113B  
100C 47M 0Y 56K

Jazzberry Jam  
#7A0037  
PMS 208-C  
122R 0G 55B  
0C 100M 55Y 52K

Sunglow  
#FFD055  
PMS 122-C  
255R 207G 87B  
0C 18M 67Y 0K

## Secondary palette

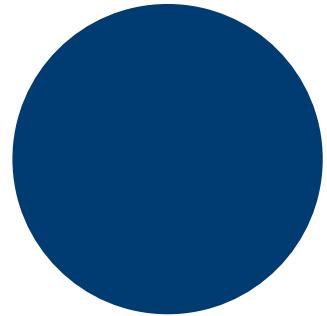


Silver Snippet  
#909094  
PMS 877 C  
144R 144G 148B  
0C 0M 0Y 4K

White Smoke  
#F4F4F4  
PMS P 179-1-C  
245R 245G 245B  
0C 0M 0Y 4K

Old Lace  
#F7F3E3  
PMS P 1-2-C  
247R 243G 227B  
0C 2M 8Y 3K

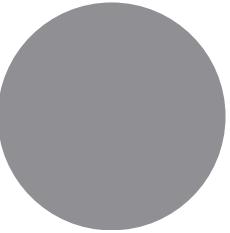
Snow White  
#FFFFFF  
PMS 11-0602 TCX  
255R 255G 255B  
0C 0M 0Y 0K



### Primary color: Foundation Blue #003C1

- Core brand elements (logo, headers, buttons, navigation bars)
- Anchor color for web and print layouts

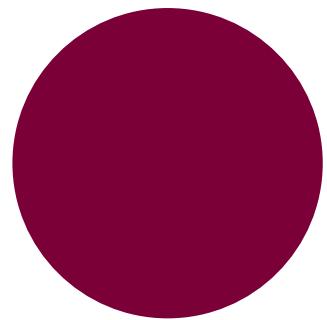
*Why:* Brand's visual foundation—it conveys stability and depth, ideal for mission-driven messaging.



### Silver Snippet #909094

- Subheadings, metadata, or footnotes
- Divider lines and subtle UI elements
- Accessible contrast for body text on light backgrounds

*Why:* Helps maintain hierarchy and readability



### Jazzberry Jam #7A0037

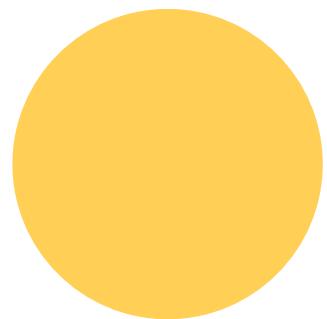
- Emotional storytelling (quotes, impact stats, donor highlights, underlining points)
- Campaign graphics and event materials
- Accent borders or section dividers

*Why:* Bold and expressive—adds warmth and passion without overpowering. Great for drawing attention to values and community impact.



### White Smoke #F4F4F4

- Backgrounds for cards, modules, or content blocks
- Hover effects and soft shadows
- Light mode web layouts



### Sunglow #FFD055

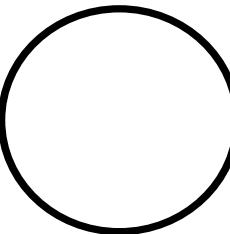
- Call-to-action highlights (donate, subscribe, learn more)
- Highlights and icons (bullets, infographics, hover states)
- Visual contrast in charts or data visualizations

*Why:* Bright and uplifting—injects energy and optimism. Balances the seriousness of Foundation Blue with a sense of possibility.



### Old Lace #F7F3E3

- Warm overlays or section backgrounds
- Accessible contrast for tinted panels



### Snow White #FFFFFF

- Universal background color
- Text contrast on dark elements
- Clean space in print and digital assets

Foreground	Background	Contrast Ratio	WCAG Level
Foundation Blue #003C71	Snow White #FFFFFF	12.6:1	AAA
Jazzberry Jam #7A0037	Snow White #FFFFFF	9.3:1	AAA
Foundation Blue #003C71	Old Lace #F7F3E3	8.1:1	AAA
Silver Snippet #909094	Snow White #FFFFFF	5.9:1	AA
Jazzberry Jam #7A0037	White Smoke #F4F4F4	5.4:1	AA
Foundation Blue #003C71	Sunglow #FFD055	4.6:1	AA

# Typography

3.0

# Georgia

**Georgia** is the Foundation's **primary serif** typeface. It is available as a free Google Font download, and can be used for display or text purposes. Georgia is a variable typeface and offers a wide range of weights, allowing for small and digital use without degradation.

This typographical choice serves to bolster our brand identity and should be consistently applied across all communication channels.

Always consider legibility and readability when choosing typefaces.



# Aa

Italic

*abcdefghijklmnoqrstuvwxyz*

Regular

abcdefghijklmnoqrstuvwxyz

Bold

**abcdefghijklmnoqrstuvwxyz**

# Aptos

**Aptos** is the Foundation's **primary sans-serif** typeface. **This is for documents/typed deliverables only.** It is available as a free Microsoft Font download, and can be used for display or text purposes. Aptos is a variable typeface and offers a wide range of weights, allowing for print use without degradation and clarity.

Always consider legibility and readability when choosing typefaces.



# Aa

*Italic*

Reguler

**Bold**

## Poppins

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o  
p q r s t u v w x y z 1 2 3  
4 5 & % \$ # @ ! ~

*abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz*

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

**abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz**

# Poppins

**Poppins** is the Foundation's **secondary sans-serif** typeface. **Used for graphic design purposes only.** It is available as a free Google Font download and can be used for display or text purposes.

Poppins is a variable typeface and offers a wide range of weights, allowing for all digital use without degradation.

This typographical choice serves to bolster our brand identity and should be consistently applied across all communication channels.

Always consider legibility and readability when choosing typefaces.



# Aa

*Italic*

Reguler

**Bold**

## Poppins

abcdefghijklm  
nopqrstuvwxyz  
12345&%\$#@!~

*abcdefghijklmнопqrstuvwxyz*

abcdefghijklmнопqrstuvwxyz

**abcdefghijklmнопqrstuvwxyz**

# Avenir Next World

**Avenir Next World** is the Foundation's **logo** typeface. It is reserved for **logo use only** and is to be used infrequently for all other communications. **Avenir Next World extra-bold** is the preferred typeface.

Similar font: Fira Sans

**Note:** "Investing in dreams" tagline is in Roboto - Light Italic



# Aa

*Italic*

Reguler

**Bold**

**Avenir Next World**

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz 12345  
&%\$#@!~

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

## Georgia Font

- Formal communications (letters, board packets, donor acknowledgments)
- Long-form content (impact reports, blog posts, policy briefs)
- Print materials where warmth and credibility matter
- Pull quotes

*Why: Georgia's classic serif styling conveys professionalism and legacy. It's highly readable in print and lends emotional weight to storytelling—perfect for donor narratives or mission-driven messaging.*

## Aptos Font:

- Web content (body text, navigation, accessibility-compliant layouts)
- Presentations and internal documents
- Email campaigns and newsletters

*Why: Aptos is clean, neutral, and optimized for digital readability. It bridges technical clarity with a friendly tone—ideal for inclusive, accessible communication across devices.*

## Poppins Font:

- Campaign graphics and social media assets
- Event branding (posters, signage, digital ads)
- Infographics and visual storytelling

*Why: Optimized for tight or tall spaces where horizontal logos feel cramped or unreadable.*

# Title

Georgia Pro in Bold, 60 pt

## Subtitle

Georgia Pro, 40 pt

### *Quote*

Georgia Pro Italic, 38 pt

## Heading

Poppins in Bold, 45 pt

## Subheading

Poppins, 35 pt

## Body

Poppins, 26 pt

## Caption

Poppins, 18 pt

# Headline

**Titles and Main Headlines** Georgia Pro Bold

## *Subhead Labo Sedicto*

**Subheads** Georgia Pro

*“Rio unt lam rem quo dis  
ducillabore quis.”*

**Pull Quotes** Georgia Pro Italic

## Subsection Headline

**Section Header** Poppins Bold

### Subheaded subhead

**Section Subhead** Poppins

**M**uci pere tum mena, sed ad cit venam  
aut grarbis te, culles, etissentiaci tamci i  
ci tum Palabemus ipse niquam nir qui potilicota  
diursuam te dierbi parisquam. Hacchuit, castrec  
ritraed nonfentissis o Catanteme ad pra vernici.

**Initial Cap** Georgia Pro Black

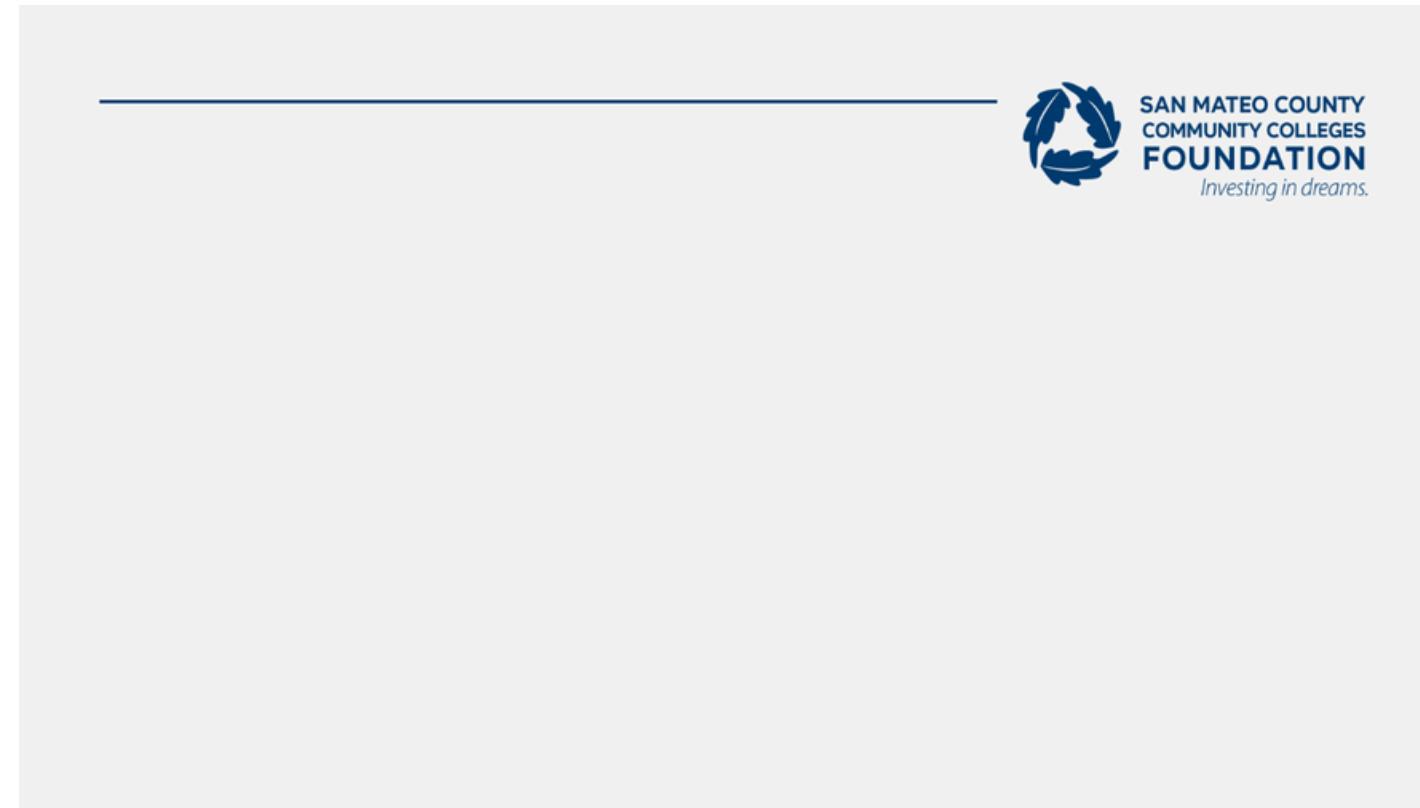
**Body Copy** Poppins

Vid quae peliqua muscideserum quid

**Caption** Poppins

# Templates

4.0



[Download backgrounds](#)

## Canva Image Resizing Templates

Use these templates and Canva to adjust images to some commonly used sizes.

Click the image type for the link:

**PLACE IMAGE HERE**

(1920x1080)

**PLACE IMAGE HERE**

(1080x720)

[Video Image Resizing Template](#)

[Drupal Image Resizing Template](#)

**PLACE IMAGE HERE**

(1200x675)

**PLACE IMAGE HERE**

(1080x1080)

[Facebook/LinkedIn/Twitter Image Resizing Template](#)

**PLACE IMAGE**

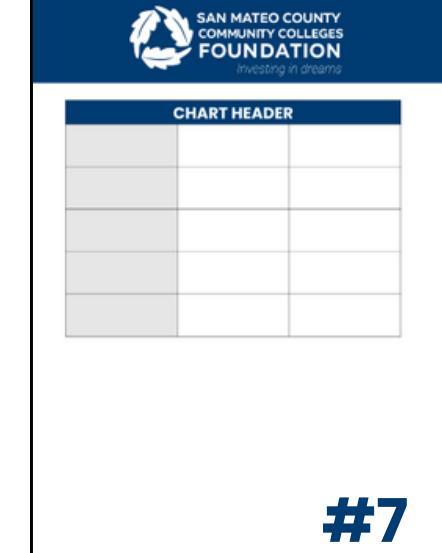
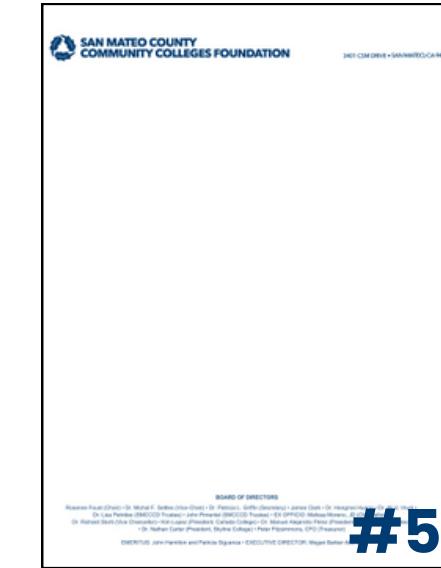
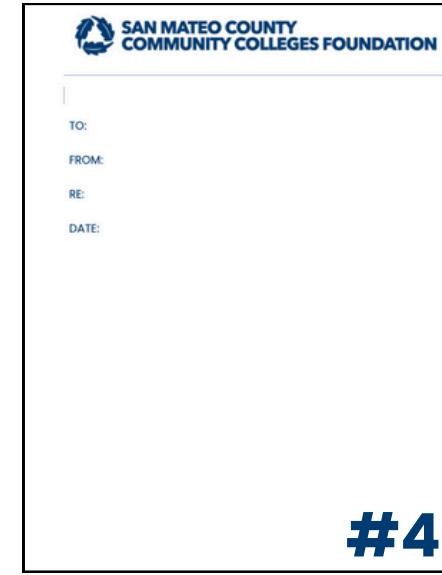
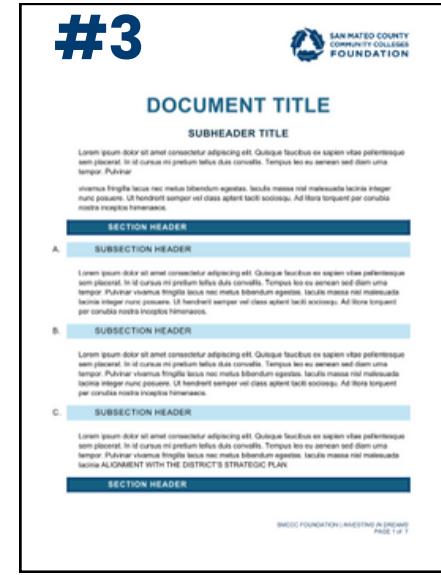
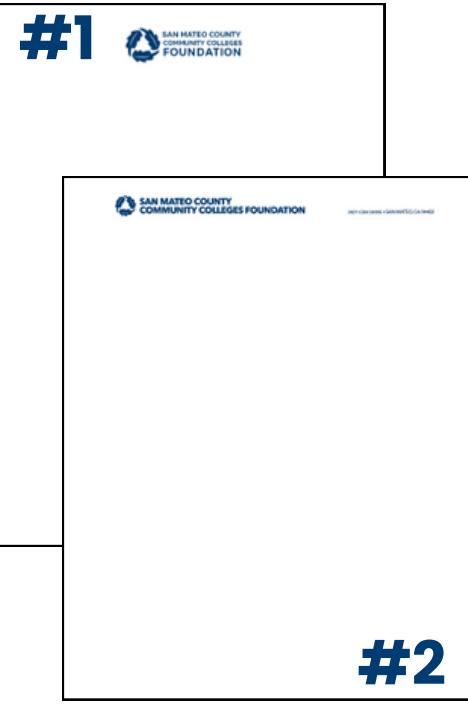
(1080x1920)

[Instagram Post Image Resizing Template](#)

[Instagram Story Image Resizing Template](#)

## 4.4 TEMPLATES

# DOCUMENT TEMPLATES



**Branded blank document**

[Download #1](#)  
 [Download #2](#)

**Branded Report Template**  
 [Download #3](#)

**Memorandum Template**  
 [Download #4](#)

**Board footer template**  
 [Download #5](#)

**Branded Fax Document**  
 [Download #6](#)

**Branded chart document**  
 [Download #7](#)

**Standard Letter Template**  
 [Download #8](#)

### How to make a copy of templates to your Microsoft Word:

1. To make a copy in Microsoft 365/OneDrive, open the document
2. Go to File > Save As
3. Choose a new location and name for the copy
4. Alternatively, you can download a copy from Word for the Web by selecting File > Save As > Save As to save it to your computer or OneDrive

[Learn more from the official Microsoft tutorial](#)

### How to save templates to your Microsoft Word:

1. To save a Microsoft Word document as a template, open the document
2. Go to File > Save As Template
3. Choose a location, select "Word Template (.dotx)" as the file type
4. click Save

[Learn more from the official Microsoft tutorial](#)



SAN MATEO COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
FOUNDATION

### Branded Blank Template

#### Use for:

- Ad hoc notes, brainstorming, or meeting minutes
- Internal drafts and collaborative writing
- Flexible content that doesn't fit other templates

#### Why:

Provides a clean, professional starting point while maintaining brand consistency. Ideal for quick-turn or exploratory work.



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### Branded Board Footer Template

#### Use for:

- Ad hoc notes, brainstorming, or meeting minutes
- Internal drafts and collaborative writing
- Flexible content that doesn't fit other templates

#### Why:

Provides a clean, professional starting point while maintaining brand consistency. Ideal for quick-turn or exploratory work.



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### Branded Chart Template

#### Use for:

- Data visualizations for reports, presentations, or dashboards
- Impact metrics, donor trends, or financial summaries
- Lists

#### Why:

Provides a consistent frame for charts, ensuring accessibility and brand alignment. Great for modular reuse across assets.

### Memorandum Temp



TO:

FROM:

RE:

DATE:

### Branded Report Template



#### DOCUMENT TITLE

##### SUBHEADER TITLE

LOREM IPSUM DOLOR SIT AMET CONSECTETUR ADIPISCING ELIT. QUISQUE FAUCIS EX SAPID VITAE PELLentesQUE SEM PLACERET. IN ID CURSUS MI PRELIMINIS DULIS CONSOLATI. TEMPUS LOE EU AERIEN SED DILLO UMA TEMPOR. PULVINAR VIVAMUS FRINGILLA LOCUS NEC METUS LIBERUM EGESTAS. LOQUA MASSA NEI MALESUADA LOCOM INGERI MUNI POSURE. UT HENDAK SEMPER VEL CLASS APTENT TACI SOCIOSQU. AD HORA TURQUET PER CONDUITA NOSTRA INCIPIT HINERACEA.

##### SECTION HEADER

LOREM IPSUM DOLOR SIT AMET CONSECTETUR ADIPISCING ELIT. QUISQUE FAUCIS EX SAPID VITAE PELLentesQUE SEM PLACERET. IN ID CURSUS MI PRELIMINIS DULIS CONSOLATI. TEMPUS LOE EU AERIEN SED DILLO UMA TEMPOR. PULVINAR VIVAMUS FRINGILLA LOCUS NEC METUS LIBERUM EGESTAS. LOQUA MASSA NEI MALESUADA LOCOM INGERI MUNI POSURE. UT HENDAK SEMPER VEL CLASS APTENT TACI SOCIOSQU. AD HORA TURQUET PER CONDUITA NOSTRA INCIPIT HINERACEA.

##### B. SUBSECTION HEADER

LOREM IPSUM DOLOR SIT AMET CONSECTETUR ADIPISCING ELIT. QUISQUE FAUCIS EX SAPID VITAE PELLentesQUE SEM PLACERET. IN ID CURSUS MI PRELIMINIS DULIS CONSOLATI. TEMPUS LOE EU AERIEN SED DILLO UMA TEMPOR. PULVINAR VIVAMUS FRINGILLA LOCUS NEC METUS LIBERUM EGESTAS. LOQUA MASSA NEI MALESUADA LOCOM INGERI MUNI POSURE. UT HENDAK SEMPER VEL CLASS APTENT TACI SOCIOSQU. AD HORA TURQUET PER CONDUITA NOSTRA INCIPIT HINERACEA.

##### C. SUBSECTION HEADER

LOREM IPSUM DOLOR SIT AMET CONSECTETUR ADIPISCING ELIT. QUISQUE FAUCIS EX SAPID VITAE PELLentesQUE SEM PLACERET. IN ID CURSUS MI PRELIMINIS DULIS CONSOLATI. TEMPUS LOE EU AERIEN SED DILLO UMA TEMPOR. PULVINAR VIVAMUS FRINGILLA LOCUS NEC METUS LIBERUM EGESTAS. LOQUA MASSA NEI MALESUADA LOCOM INGERI MUNI POSURE. UT HENDAK SEMPER VEL CLASS APTENT TACI SOCIOSQU. AD HORA TURQUET PER CONDUITA NOSTRA INCIPIT HINERACEA.

##### SECTION HEADER

SMCCCF FOUNDATION | INVESTING IN DREAMS

PAGE 1 OF 7

#### Use for:

- Donor impact reports and campaign summaries
- Strategic plans, evaluations, and annual reviews
- External-facing documents that require structure and polish

#### Why:

Streamlines formatting and ensures visual consistency across multi-page documents. Built for clarity, hierarchy, and storytelling.



3401 COM DRIVE

• SAN MATEO, CA 94403

### Branded Letter Template

#### Use for:

- Donor thank-you letters and acknowledgments - Foundant
- Formal outreach to partners, vendors, or community leaders
- Personalized correspondence with a professional tone

#### Why:

Balances warmth and formality. Includes logo, contact info, and signature space—ideal for print or PDF delivery.



3401 COM DRIVE

• SAN MATEO, CA 94403

### Branded Fax Temp

#### Use for:

- Legacy communications with institutions or vendors still using fax
- Formal submissions requiring fax transmission
- Archival or compliance-related correspondence

#### Why:

Ensures brand presence even in low-tech formats. Includes required fields (sender, recipient, date) in a clean layout.



## People-centric PowerPoint

Use: Student, Donor, and Employee presentations; People-focused presentations; When requesting funding from potential donors



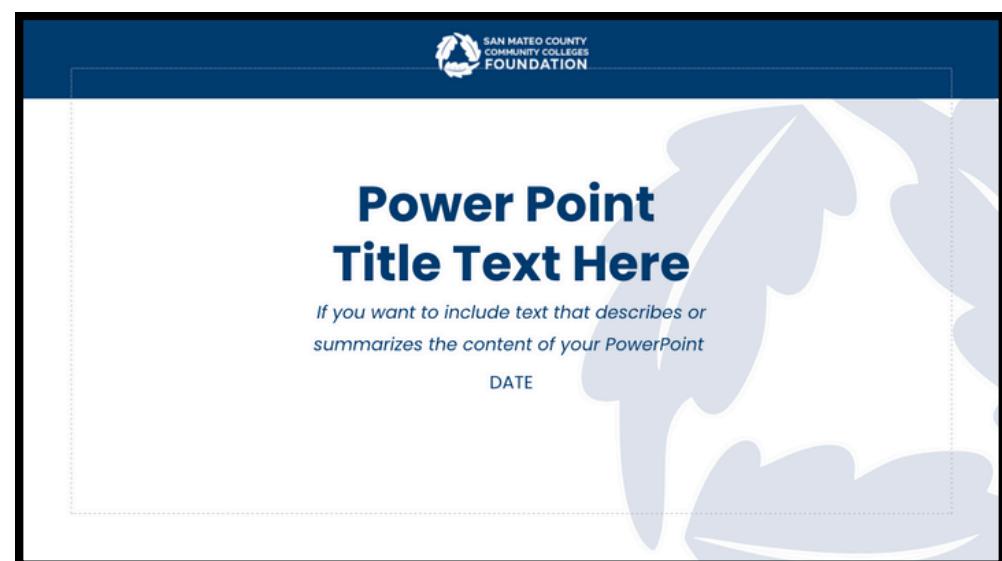
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## Icon backdrop PowerPoint

Use: Professional presentations, Report-outs, Metric Reviews, end-of-year summaries, and Presentations to ex-officio, presentations to SMCCCF board



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## Simple PowerPoint

Use: Clean, clarifying presentations, internal team presentations, other SMCCCD Teams, Fiscal reports



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# Photography

5.0

Photographs are a great way to show the life of students within the district.

This can be photos of students in action, the faculty and staff, as well as activities or events.

To provide consistency, photos will be provided by each of the schools, the district, or will be taken in-house.

1. **Please** use the entire photo whenever possible and refrain from cropping.
2. **All** photos have already been through post-processing.
3. **Please** do not treat with filters or editing unless given prior approval.
4. **Do not** flip the photos.

Like all elements in the SMCCCF brand toolkit, photography must be considered at all points to convey a consistent brand message. Specific photo styles have been selected to properly reinforce the bold, ambitious, "in-the-moment" tone of the SMCCCF brand.

These photographic styles include people-focused, unstaged moments, motion, and stylized portraits.

The photography should represent the spirit of the message strategy and **demonstrate how the SMCCCF community leverages relationships within San Mateo County**, which enhance the academic experience and create unique opportunities that lead to successful outcomes.



## USAGE

Color-washed images are used to allow the information of a creative piece to stand out and to provide a cinematic depth that draws the reader in.

These photos should capture epic environments and sweeping wide-angle shots so that when the viewer is drawn into the piece, it takes on a new and stronger meaning.

Color-washed images can also be used as a textural element, allowing information on a piece to stand out. The content of the image should be directly related to the content of the piece and provide further context, strengthening the piece overall. **When to use color-wash images is at the discretion of the designer, but it should be used primarily for website parent pages, large-scale creative pieces, and content-rich pieces.**

The color of the image should be chosen in conjunction with the color palettes in the color section. To add emphasis to specific parts of photos, grayscale photography can be used with color added to these specific parts.



# Writing

## 6.0

**To maintain a consistent and credible voice across all communications, the Foundation adheres to the following grammar and style standards:**

Associated Press (AP) Style is the official reference for grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and abbreviation.

When AP Style does not address a specific usage, default to Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (American English).

American English is required across all materials.  
Avoid British spellings (e.g., "centre," "programme") and idioms unfamiliar to U.S. audiences.

[AP STYLE CHEAT SHEET](#)

**Inclusive language:** Inclusive terminology (e.g., "students experiencing homelessness" rather than "homeless students")

**Titles & honorifics:** Use formal titles only when relevant (e.g., Dr., Professor) and avoid unnecessary capitalization.

**Acronyms:** Spell out on first reference with acronym in parentheses (e.g., San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD)); use acronym thereafter.

**FOR THE FOUNDATION:** Spell out on the first reference with acronym in parentheses, e.g., San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation (SMCCC Foundation). The 'F' in 'Foundation' **must** be written out entirely.

**Foundation naming:** Always refer to the organization as "[Full Foundation Name]" on first mention, then "the Foundation" thereafter.

**Donor language:** Use active, aspirational language that emphasizes impact (e.g., "Your gift empowers students to thrive").

**District language:** Capitalize "District" on every proper noun use. Capitalize "Foundation" on every proper noun use.

**Headlines:** Sentence case unless otherwise specified.

**Dates:** Write out month (e.x., "August 18, 2025" not "Aug. 18th").

**Time:** Use figures and lowercase a.m./p.m. (e.g., "10:30 a.m.").

**Numbers:** Spell out one through nine; use numerals for 10 and above.

**Lists:** Use parallel structure and consistent punctuation.

**Bullets vs. Dashes:** Use bullets for unordered lists; dashes for emphasis or interruption.

**Alumnus** is masculine singular.

**Alumna** is feminine singular.

**Alumni** is plural, mixed gender.

**Alumnae** is feminine plural.

**Alum(s)** is an informal way to refer to a graduate(s) of any gender

### Academic Titles

Capitalize and spell out formal titles such as chancellor, chairman, etc., when they precede a name. Lowercase elsewhere.

Lowercase modifiers such as department in department Chairman Jerome Wiesner.

### Academic Degrees

If mentioning degrees is necessary to establish someone's credentials:

- Use an apostrophe in bachelor's degree, a master's, etc.
- Use such abbreviations as B.A., M.A., LL.D., and Ph.D. only when the need to identify many individuals by degree on first reference would make the preferred form cumbersome.
- Use these abbreviations only after a full name, never after just a last name.
- Do not precede a name with a courtesy title for an academic degree and follow it with the abbreviation for the degree

# Tips

7.0

# Do's



## Use Official Color Palette

Please ensure the utilization of the brand's designated colors in all assets.



## Typography Consistency

Make sure all written communication follows brand guidelines for fonts and styles.



## Follow Imagery Style

Utilize photography and illustrations that align with the brand's aesthetic.



## Consistent Messaging

Ensure that the conveyed message aligns with our brand values.

# Don'ts



## Modify the Logo

Please avoid changing logo colors without permission.



## Misuse Design Elements

Avoid using the brand's graphic elements inconsistently with the guidelines.



## Inappropriate Color Usage

Please avoid using colors outside the official brand palette for representation.



## Conflicting Messages

Avoid communications that contradict or obscure our brand message.

Legal protection is crucial for brand strength and reputation. Essential legal principles require strict adherence.

## 01 Copyright

Materials associated with the brand are protected by copyright. Permission is required before using third-party materials.

## 02 Trademark

When using trademarks like logos and slogans, follow guidelines for ™ and ® symbols.

## 03 Licensing

It is crucial to follow the terms of specific licenses for assets, including usage guidelines, attribution requirements, and restrictions.

## 04 Unauthorized Use

Avoid the unauthorized or potentially brand-damaging utilization of our brand assets.

## 05 Objections and Violations

Promptly report any objections or violations concerning our brand.

## 06 Marketing Material Approval

Marketing materials require further approval to ensure compliance with guidelines and regulations before distribution.

# Questions?

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Phone: 650-787-6381 (cell)