



# Procurement Excellence Network Two-Year Anniversary Event

Charting the next frontier for our virtual community of change agents

PROCUREMENT  
EXCELLENCE  
NETWORK

Partners for Public Good

December 5, 2024

# How can you engage in this session?



Please use the  
**“Raise Hand”**  
function on Zoom!




If able, please  
**turn on your**  
**Zoom camera!**



Look out for  
**discussions** in the  
Zoom chat!

# Why Procurement Matters – New Bedford, MA



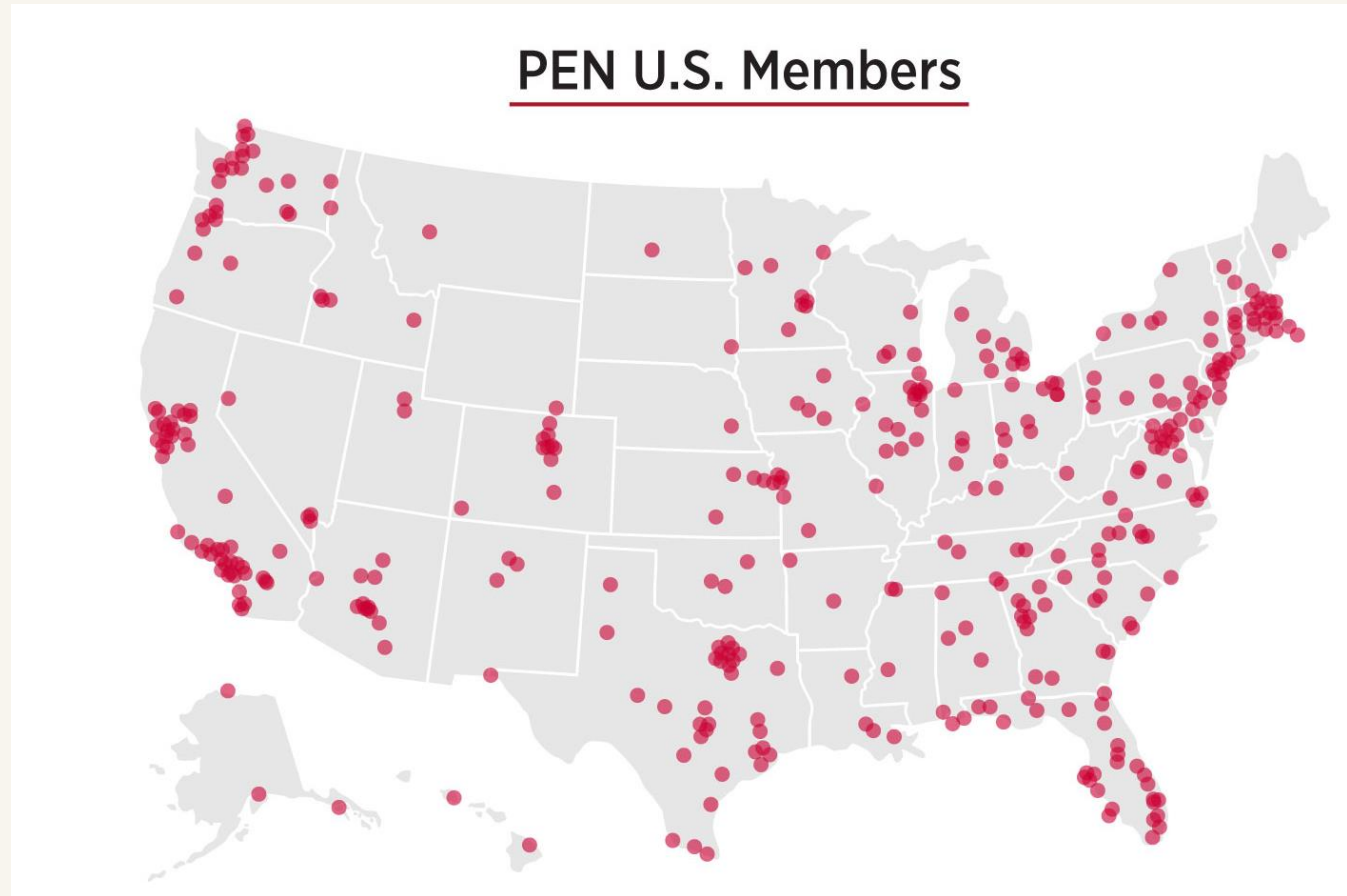
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- A vertical blue bar on the left side of the slide with the word "Agenda" written vertically in a light blue, serif font.
1. Membership Celebration – Where We've Been
  2. Showcasing Examples of Procurement Excellence
  3. PEN in 2025
  4. Next Steps and Opportunities for Engagement

# Membership Celebration – Where We've Been

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# Procurement Excellence Network Members



# The Procurement Excellence Network: Two-Year Recap

## Gathering procurement leaders



**2200+  
PEN Members**

Jurisdictions with the most members:

- Little Rock, AR  
*City w/ pop. < 300K*
- New York City, NY  
*City w/ pop. > 300K*
- San Diego County, CA  
*County Government*
- State of Washington  
*State Government*

## Documenting leading practices



**100 Publications  
with 40,000 views**

Most viewed publications:

1. Contract Management Plan
2. RFP Response Workbook and Question Bank
3. What is Procurement Excellence?

## Sharing solutions



**30 virtual events  
200 coaching calls**

Top attended events:

1. Overcoming Resistance to Change: The Real Catalyst to Achieve Procurement Transformation
2. How to Design and Deliver Effective Trainings
3. Managing Contracts to Improve Results

## Achieving procurement results



**250 members  
implementing reforms**

As a result of being a PEN member:

- 100 felt increased confidence in launching a procurement reform
- 125 shared an idea they learned with colleagues
- 50 made a significant change to business operations



# PEN Impact Word Cloud



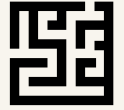


# Showcasing Examples of Procurement Excellence

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# Public Procurement Top Themes in 2024



Public procurement is **navigating greater complexity** and ambiguity, needing to manage the noise of it all.



Procurement teams are finding themselves in **more regional, cooperative, and networked opportunities**, including via the use of joint purchasing.



Public procurement is increasingly **shaping markets in local communities**.



Public procurement teams are striving to **balance rapid technological change with appropriate governance**.



Procurement teams are looking for **new stakeholders for problem solving**.

# PEN Poll



**Which of these top  
themes most  
resonates in your  
jurisdiction?**

### Featured Speaker: Ash Shetty

Chief Procurement Officer  
Montgomery County Office of Procurement

#### Defining the Challenge

- Manage nearly 3000 contracts worth \$5B at any given time
- Contracts associated with nearly 10,000 procurement actions
- Challenging to keep user departments/vendors up to date on all procurement related activity

#### Action Plan for Reform

- Developed public facing solicitation tracker
- All solicitations tracked from issuance to contract execution
- Also shows historical data/past contract holder for associated solicitation

#### Impact

- 43% increase in procurement website traffic
- Cost savings from decrease in information requests
- Memorializes why solicitation delayed, informs future reforms

### Featured Speaker: Brooke Smith

City Recorder

Manages Records Division, Purchasing, and Passport Office

#### Defining the Challenge

- Small jurisdiction (~50K) with few staff focused on procurement
- Cycle times often multiple years (3 months for minor contracts)
- Generative AI tools very exciting, but no clear roadmap for where to start for procurement teams

#### Action Plan for Reform

- Procurement started experimenting with Gen AI
- Early pilots involved drafting RFPs and negotiation prep
- Lessons learned include importance of prompt engineering, closed loop systems, and staff training

#### Impact

- Cycle time now only weeks for priority contracts
- AI tools improving subject matter expert collaboration
- Leveraging AI Committee to put appropriate guardrails on usage

### Featured Speaker: Daniel Mullery

Contracting Officer  
Department of Procurement Services

#### Defining the Challenge

- Insufficient capacity to handle increased demand
- 70% turnover of frontline procurement staff
- Inability to prioritize strategic activities given procurement in reactive mode

#### Action Plan for Reform

- Developed data-driven staffing analysis for senior leadership
- Defined success (reduced workloads, shorter cycle times)
- Conversations with senior leadership resulted in doubling headcount to 28 FTEs

#### Impact

- Workload ratio improved by ~65% (avg reqs down)
- No frontline procurement staff turnover in two years
- Now time for key activities (eProcurement launch, new vendor outreach initiatives)

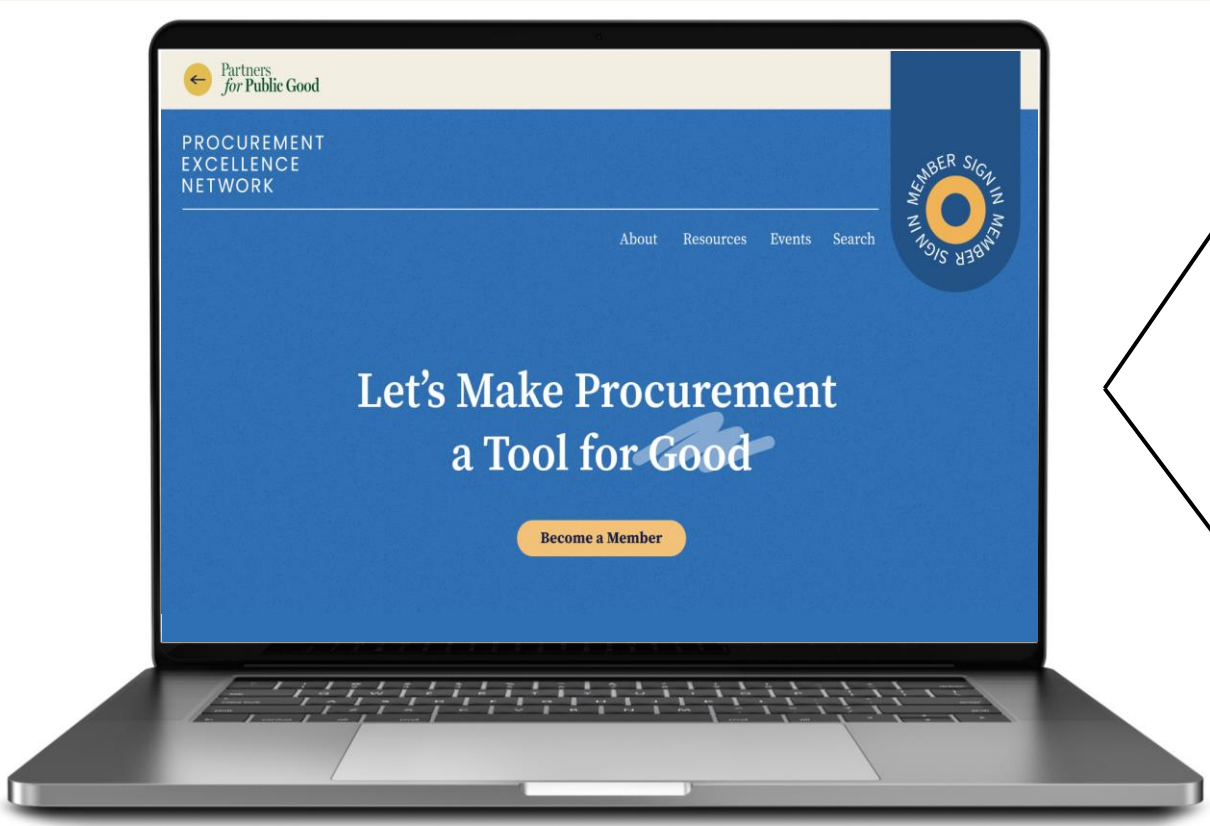
# PEN in 2025

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# New PEN Website




## Events and Opportunities

Join us for face-to-face trainings, round table discussions, community building, and more with PEN experts and your fellow procurement pros.

[Upcoming Events](#) | [Past Events](#)



**WELCOME SESSION**  
**PEN Welcome Session**  
Oct 31, 2004  
2 pm—3:30 pm ET



**TRAINING**  
**Improving Vendor Certification**  
Sep 20, 2024  
2 pm—3:30 pm ET

## My Bookmarks

Save the resources and conversations you keep coming back to.

[Resources](#) | [Conversations](#) | [Events Attended](#)

**INTERVIEW**

**Market Research: The Key to your Next RFP's Success**

[View Resource →](#)

**COMMUNITY RESOURCE**

**Solicitation Getting Started Toolkit: Intake Form**

[View Resource →](#)

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