

A Just Bay Area

Growing Regional Collaborations for
EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

October 30, 2013

The *Equity Collaborative* of the **Bay Area Regional Prosperity Plan Project** invites you to join with advocates, community-based organizations, local leaders, and public agencies to discuss how we can better organize and collaborate for equitable housing, transportation, and jobs.

October 30, 2013

9am - 4pm (includes breakfast & lunch)
Networking Reception to follow (4 - 6pm)

Oakland Asian Cultural Center
388 9th Street, Suite #290
Oakland, CA 94609



REGISTER 

Conference is **free**,
space is limited.

Conference Details

Affordable housing, living wage jobs, access to transportation, and displacement prevention are critical issues for our communities. Attend the conference and:

- Participate in conversations and workshops to share strategies for achieving equity
- Listen to stories from communities around the Bay about the equity challenges they face and what they are doing.
- Share ideas, build partnerships, and innovate together.
- Get actionable insights and creative solutions based on recent wins in the region.

Funding opportunities will be highlighted, including information on the HUD Regional Prosperity Plan's upcoming call for projects.

Think regionally, act locally, ensure equity!



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Conference Schedule

- 9:00 - 9:30 AM **Registration**
- 9:30 - 10:30 AM **Opening Plenary**
- 10:45 - 12:15 PM **Morning Workshops**
- 12:30 - 1:30 PM **Lunch Plenary**
- 1:45 - 3:15 PM **Afternoon Workshops**
- 3:30 - 4:15 PM **Closing Plenary**
- 4:15 - 6:00 PM **Reception**

PLENARIES

Opening

MASTERS OF CEREMONIES:

- Equity Collaborative Co-Chairs:
 - Gen Fujioka, Chinatown Community Development Center
 - Jane Martin, People Organized to Win Employment Rights (POWER)

Welcome

- Steve Heminger, Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
- Ezra Rapport, Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)

Setting the Stage – Why Local Communities Matter in the Region:

- Bob Allen, Urban Habitat
- Peter Cohen, Council of Community Housing Organizations
- Alicia Garza, People Organized to Win Employment Rights (POWER)

Lunch

SPEAKER:

- Supervisor John Gioia, Contra Costa County

HONOREES:

- Dwayne Marsh, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Kalima Rose, PolicyLink

Introduction to Economic Prosperity and Housing the Workforce work groups

Closing

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

- Tina Brooks, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

Towards A Just Bay Area – Reports from the Field:

- Bill Lindsay, City of Richmond
- Dan Martinez, Congregations Organizing for Renewal (COR)
- Oscar Grande, People Organizing to Demand Environmental & Economic Rights (PODER)

Reception

- Spoken word performance: DREGS ONE

WORKSHOPS

AM
1

The Prosperity Plan's Economic Prosperity Working Group and Strategy

The Economic Prosperity Strategy aims to expand economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Economic Prosperity Working Group (EPWG) is charged with achieving this goal by collaborating with local and regional stakeholders, underserved communities and program partners. Come hear the initial research findings from the consultant team that will inform the strategy.

AM
2

The Prosperity Plan's Housing the Workforce Initiative

The Housing the Workforce Initiative promotes affordable housing production and preservation, as well as neighborhood stabilization throughout the Bay Area. This workshop will discuss the goals of the initiative and the work of current grantees to ensure that housing near transit is affordable to households as new investments raise property values.

CONVENERS

Economic Prosperity Working Group
Co-Chairs:

Christina Canaveral,
Coleman Advocates For Children & Youth

Margot Prado,
City of Oakland

AM
3

Scaling Up Grassroots and Neighborhood Organizing for Citywide and Regional Impact

Most neighborhood and place-based organizing mobilizes people on issues of immediate relevance to everyday lives. Translating local issues and identities into larger frameworks of long term plans and abstract policies can be major challenges. This panel highlights different strategies for scaling up – building the elements of the movement for equity that we all need.

AM
4

Regional Plans and Housing Policies: Tools and Challenges for Building Equity

(Intro to Regional Planning I - Housing)

This workshop provides an introduction to the region's housing policies and analyses: the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, Housing Elements and the new Fair Housing and Equity Assessment. The panel will discuss the opportunities and challenges these tools present for local agencies and advocates.

PRESENTERS

Gloria Bruce, East Bay Housing Organizations

Jennifer Martinez,
Peninsula Interfaith Action

Alex Tom, Chinese Progressive Association

Alvina Wong, Asian Pacific Environmental Network

PRESENTERS

Johnny Jaramillo,
Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)

Samuel P. Tepperman-Gelfant, Public Advocates

Laura Thomas, Renewed Hope Housing Advocates

Cindy Wu, Commissioner, San Francisco Planning Commission

PM
1

Assessing and Preventing Displacement in Bay Area Communities

With the Bay Area's housing market recovering and in some areas returning to the over-heated pre-recession high demand levels, different tools are being developed to assess and prevent displacement. Panelists will describe the tools they are developing and how approaches may vary by community and market conditions.

PM
2

Grant Opportunities with the HUD Regional Prosperity Plan's Call for Projects

MTC and ABAG, on behalf of the Prosperity Plan Consortium have released Calls for Projects for up to \$1.67 million in sub-grants through this third and final round of funding solicitations. This workshop will describe all three Calls for Projects: Housing the Workforce (\$230,000); Economic Initiative (\$1.1 million) and Equity Initiative (\$340,000).

PM
3

Living Wage Organizing Strategies

While there is limited job growth in the middle income range, low wage work is on the rise. There needs to be a concentrated focus on lifting the minimum wage and basic benefits for the economic self sufficiency of low wage workers. Come and learn from this panel of organizations across the Bay Area that are fighting for living wages and dignified jobs for low and moderate workers.

PRESENTERS

Karen Chapple, University of California at Berkeley

Miriam Chion, Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)

Dawn Phillips, Causa Justa::Just Cause

Calvin Welch, San Francisco Information Clearinghouse

PRESENTERS

Vikrant Sood, Regional Prosperity Plan Program Manager

PRESENTERS

Christina Canaveral, Coleman Advocates For Children & Youth

Shaw San Liu, Chinese Progressive Association

Derecka Mehrens, Working Partnerships USA

Jahmese Myres, East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy (EBASE)

Jobs With Justice (Invited)

Living Wage Coalition (Invited)

PM
4

Local Innovations in Neighborhood Economic Development

Bay Area LISC with key partners is developing a model that facilitates equal access to wealth-building opportunities. We are identifying and developing competitive niches within our local economy that link employee training for careers in up-and-coming markets, local worker-owned cooperatives, creation of local supply-chain contracts through microbusiness development and the acceleration of small business growth. By working together, partners see the opportunity to inject the economy with new vitality and create jobs serving a wide spectrum of skills sets. In this workshop the partners discuss their strategies on ensuring that economic opportunities are being developed in the inner city.

PM
5

Transit Justice Organizing (Intro to Regional Planning II - Transportation)

The region's decisions about transit funding have long prioritized the needs of big business and invested heavily in highways in wealthy suburbs, but low-income transit dependent riders are pushing back against this paradigm by organizing for more affordable transit and better transit service in their communities. This workshop will share lessons learned from two case studies: the 6 Wins network's advocacy for equity within Plan Bay Area and the free youth transit pass victory in San Francisco. We will explore how we can better coordinate throughout the region to support each other and share organizing efforts that are underway.

PRESENTERS

Michele Clark, Youth Employment Partnership (YEP)

Jose Corona, Inner City Advisors

Viola Gonzales, AnewAmerica Community Corporation

Mike Hannigan, Give Something Back

Marsha Murrington, Bay Area LISC

Sofia Navarro, The Unity Council

Mercedes (Meche) Sansores, Women's Action to Gain Economic Security (WAGES)

PRESENTERS

Bob Allen, Urban Habitat

Claire Haas, Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE)

Mary Lim Lampe, Genesis

Jane Martin, People Organized to Win Employment Rights (POWER)

Guillermo Mayer, Public Advocates



Photo credits: POWER, East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation, and Robert Gumpert

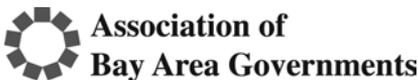
ABOUT

Equity Collaborative

The Equity Collaborative (EC) is an advisory committee to the “Bay Area Regional Prosperity Plan”, a project of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and supported by a grant from HUD. The EC seeks to be an advocate within the regional process for disadvantaged communities in the region, promoting the work of housing and transportation justice organizations and agencies in the field.

Bay Area Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

Bay Area LISC works to make neighborhood dreams a reality by working with cities, residents, nonprofit organizations, and key public and private partners to help neighbors build good places to live, do business, work, play, and raise families. Our transformative community-building programs of affordable housing, neighborhood and family economic development are helping to bridge the economic divide for low-income families across the region.



METROPOLITAN
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COMMISSION



Equity Collaborative



LISC
Bay Area

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BIOGRAPHIES

OPENING PLENARY

Gen Fujioka, Policy Director, Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC)

Gen Fujioka is the Policy Director at Chinatown Community Development Center. CCDC is a community based nonprofit organization based in San Francisco's Chinatown that supports inclusive housing, public transit, and participatory planning throughout the city. Gen previously served as the senior policy analyst for the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development and attorney at the Asian Law Caucus and the Legal Aid Society of Santa Clara County. He has worked on a number of successful legislative and regulatory efforts to strengthen tenant protections and progressive land use policies and has litigated housing, land use and civil rights cases on behalf of low income and other disadvantaged communities.

Jane Martin, Political Director, People Organized to Win Employment Rights (POWER)

Jane has been working as a community and union organizer in the bay area for the past 12 years. Her prior experience includes organizing service workers, public housing tenants and other workers. She is active in the LGBTQ community with queer activism that is focused on economic and social justice. As the political director at POWER Jane is working with POWER members to run strategic campaigns to improve low-income communities access to public transportation like the Free MUNI for Youth campaign. Jane represents POWER on the steering committee of SF Rising working to build the political power of low income people of color in San Francisco.

Steve Heminger, Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)

Steve Heminger is Executive Director of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). MTC is the regional transportation planning and finance agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. It allocates more than \$1 billion per year in funding for the operation, maintenance and expansion of the Bay Area's surface transportation network. In addition, he is Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Mineta Transportation Institute, a member of the Board of Directors for the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and a member of the Executive Committee for the Transportation Research Board. Mr. Heminger received his Master of Arts degree from the University of Chicago and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Georgetown University.

Ezra Rapport, Executive Director, Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)

Ezra Rapport is the Executive Director of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), which is the official Council of Governments representing the Bay Area's nine counties and 101 cities. He provides oversight and supervision of ABAG's planning and service programs, and serves as liaison to the region's city, town, and county managers and administrators. Ezra Rapport brings strong leadership and recognized expertise in municipal management, governmental operations, land use, and transportation to ABAG and is committed to advancing regional collaboration among Bay Area counties, cities and towns. Rapport, ABAG Executive Director since September 1, 2010, also served ABAG as its Deputy Director from 2008-2010. In his public and private service career, he was Deputy City Attorney and Assistant City Manager for the City of Oakland and served as Principal Consultant for the California Senate Select Committee on Bay Area Transportation. Rapport was manager of the DeSilva Group land development division and recently served as the Chief Operating and Development Officer for the City of New Orleans recovery operations. His strong academic background includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the State University of New York at Buffalo, a Master of City and Regional Planning from the University of California at Berkeley, and a *Juris Doctor* from

Hastings College of Law, San Francisco. Rapport is a long-time resident of the Bay Area and resides in Oakland with his wife and children.

Bob Allen, Director of Transportation & Housing, Urban Habitat (UH)

At UH, Bob led the successful 2008 Campaign to help pass a regional measure, Measure VV, which raised funds to keep bus passes affordable for seniors, youth, and disabled riders. Currently, Bob is leading UH's efforts on federal and state transportation advocacy. His background and experience include community planning and policy work both in the United States and overseas with international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Bob received both his bachelor's degree in Political Science and History and his master's in Public Administration from Rutgers University.

Peter Cohen, Co-Director, Council of Community Housing Organizations (CCHO)

Peter Cohen is co-director of the San Francisco Council of Community Housing Organizations and the former policy director at East Bay Housing Organizations. He is an urban geographer by training who has been involved in a variety of land use, housing policy and planning initiatives in San Francisco and other parts of the Bay Area. Peter has served on the boards of the San Francisco Community Land Trust and the Bay Area Greenbelt Alliance, and has been appointed to several policy task forces by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Alicia Garza, Executive Director, POWER

Alicia joined POWER's staff in 2005, helping to launch POWER's Bayview Hunters Point Organizing Project. In 2008, Alicia was recognized as a "Local Hero" by the San Francisco Bay Guardian for her work combating gentrification and environmental racism. She was tapped to co-lead the organization in 2009 by founder and former Executive Director Steve Williams, and was named Executive Director in 2011. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the School of Unity and Liberation (SOUL) as well as an Advisory Board member for Asian Youth Promoting Advocacy and Leadership (AYPAL); both organizations are based in Oakland, California. Alicia is also a contributing writer for WarTimes magazine, and is a member of SoulForce Dance Company, a hip hop fusion dance company based in San Francisco.

LUNCH PLENARY

John Gioia, Supervisor, District 1, Contra Costa County

John Gioia was first elected to the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors in 1998 and was overwhelmingly re-elected three times. He served as chair in 2002, 2006 and 2010. John represents 210,000 residents in the western most urban and diverse area of the county including El Cerrito, Richmond, San Pablo, and Pinole, and the unincorporated communities which include El Sobrante, Montalvin Manor, North Richmond, East Richmond Heights, and others. John is a recognized leader in Bay Area regional government and on air quality issues. He was appointed by Governor Brown to serve on the California Air Resources Board and has served on the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board since 2006 (serving as Chair in 2012). John advocates on behalf of county government as the 1st Vice President of the California State Association of Counties. He chairs the Bay Area Joint Policy Committee (which coordinates the planning for the four regional government agencies) and also serves on the California Cities Counties Schools Partnership Board, Association of Bay Area Governments Executive Board, RYSE Youth Center Board, Bay Area Social Equity Caucus Steering Committee, and many other local and regional boards. John grew up in West Contra Costa County and earned his Bachelor of Arts and law degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He completed the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. John has successfully built coalitions to address issues such as affordable housing, homelessness, violence prevention, environmental justice, access to public transportation and quality health care, air and water quality, San Francisco Bay restoration, and expanding afterschool and summer activities for youth.

Dwayne Marsh, Senior Advisor, Office of Housing & Sustainable Communities, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Dwayne Marsh is a Senior Advisor to the Office of Housing and Sustainable Communities at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. As a partnership between U.S. Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, and HUD to coordinate federal housing and transportation investments with local land use decisions and reduce environmental impacts to nurture healthier, more inclusive communities which provide opportunities for people of all ages, incomes, races, and ethnicities to live, work, and learn together. Contributing his time via the national nonprofit research and action organization PolicyLink, Marsh brings specific expertise in coalition building for regional equity, leadership development and capacity building to equitable development initiatives that address continuing disparities in affordable housing, transportation investment, and environmental justice. Before joining PolicyLink over a decade ago, Marsh worked for eight years at The San Francisco Foundation. Marsh has a Bachelor's degree in architecture and environmental design from Yale University and a Master's degree in city and regional planning from the University of California, Berkeley.

Kalima Rose, Senior Director, PolicyLink

Kalima Rose is the leader of the PolicyLink affordable housing and regional equity team. She manages local and statewide housing initiatives for PolicyLink and has expertise in helping communities pass policies that: finance affordable housing; change land use policy to better support mixed-income housing development; and advance fair housing practices. Rose also coordinates the organization's Louisiana recovery work, collaborating with state officials, community organizations, national institutions, and faith leaders to shape equitable rebuilding of New Orleans and Louisiana. She led the creation of the Equitable Development Toolkit, an online resource that brings best social equity practices for housing, land use, asset building, and financing of equitable development. Her previous experience includes many years of work with rural indigenous communities on economic development and cultural continuity, as well as over a decade of expertise in social change philanthropy, supporting economic justice, community organizing, and civil rights. Rose is also a community leader in the Bay Area on educational equity issues.

CLOSING PLENARY

Tina Brooks, Executive Vice President for Programs, LISC

Ms. Brooks returned to LISC in 2011 as Executive Vice President for Programs. In that capacity, Ms. Brooks oversees the activity of all local LISC offices, the Rural LISC program, all national programs, and is responsible for the successful implementation of LISC's comprehensive community development strategy. She also has responsibility for sharing program innovations and measurable results with partners, funders and policy makers. Ms. Brooks brings an extensive background in housing and community development. Prior to her return to LISC, she served as Undersecretary and Director for the State of Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development. She also has considerable familiarity with LISC, having served seven years as the director for the local Philadelphia LISC program and one year as the Boston LISC director. Ms. Brooks is a graduate of Ohio State University and received her Master of Science in Real Estate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Carlos Castellanos, Director of Real Estate Development, East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (EBALDC)

Carlos Castellanos directs the Real Estate Development Department of the East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (EBALDC). For the last 38 years, EBALDC has integrated housing, community services and community development. EBALDC develops, preserves and manages high-quality and affordable rental and owner-occupied homes, retail properties and community centers, while fostering increased economic opportunities for residents of the East Bay. Carlos has been with EBALDC for 14 years and the most recent five as Director. He has a Master's of City Planning and Master's of Science in Transportation Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley and has been appointed to serve as a regional policy advisor to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Bay Area region's council of governments.

Bill Lindsay, City Manager, City of Richmond

Bill Lindsay has committed his life to public service, from learning the ropes in local government roles throughout the Bay Area to leading the City of Orinda for ten years as its city manager. When he transitioned to become city manager for the City of Richmond in 2005, Lindsay skillfully managed to reverse a downward trend

and set the city on a sustained course of community and financial recovery, while creating a culture of transparency and efficiency, making Richmond one of the most remarkable stories in the Bay Area. Lindsay earned his undergraduate degree in Economics from Yale and an MBA from UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business.

Oscar Grande, Community Organizer, People Organizing to Demand Environmental & Economic Rights (PODER)

Oscar Grande is the son of blue-collar Salvadoran immigrants who came to San Francisco in the late sixties in search of economic opportunities. Born and raised in the Excelsior and Mission Districts of San Francisco, Oscar and his schoolteacher wife Cynthia Meza, are raising their four kids in the same community they live and work. He has been a Community Organizer with PODER since 1999. His work over the years has focused on leading residents and workers to resist against gentrification and the toxic poisoning of working-class immigrant neighborhoods. Oscar has spent much time working alongside neighborhood leaders in an effort to strengthen skills and lead strategies that result in equitable distribution of resources, strong social policies and build grassroots political power for poor working people in San Francisco.

RECEPTION

DREGS ONE

Hip hop started out as a way to organize and uplift the community – with a mixture of civil rights and creative expression, Dregs One is an artist who is doing just that. And as an influential emcee/producer and a community organizer in the movement, he “can’t help but be aware.” “I’m tired of the gangster rap bling bling fantasy that they show on TV,” he says. “We can’t lose sight of what’s real.” His newest project, The Wake Up Call, illuminates the street politics of California’s Bay Area, taking listeners on a journey into the Frisco haze with his jazzy beats and eloquent rhymes. Coming from a background of graffiti, freestyling and beat-boxing he credits his creativity to the diverse style of his rap group, the Gas Mask Colony. Dregs One has made a name for himself in the Golden State appearing on numerous releases and music videos, and touring in other parts of the country. With a passion for justice and a dedication to rapping about issues that plague inner-city youth like homelessness, drug use and violence while sampling artists such as Sade and the Doors, Dregs One is changing the world with his mic and turntables.

MORNING WORKSHOPS

Christina Cañaverl, Director of Parent Organizing and Education Policy, Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth

Christina Cañaverl was born and raised in the Excelsior District in San Francisco. She has a strong background in program management and youth development, serving as the Volunteer Coordinator at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center and Project Manager at the Upward Bound program of the University of Central Florida. Christina has extensive experience developing skills building and political education curriculum and facilitating workshops and leadership development programs, for both youth and parents. In multiple positions, Christina has carried out federal, state and local budget monitoring activities. Christina received her Masters Degree in Political Science in Bogota, Columbia where she also served as the Academic Coordinator of an English Language Institute. While in Columbia, Christina played leadership roles in multiple political campaigns, including the Mayoral Campaign of a member of the Independence Party, in which she served as a precinct captain, event and media coordinator, fundraiser and translator.

Margot Prado, Industrial & Brownfields Specialist, City of Oakland

Margot Prado is an Industrial & Brownfields Specialist for the City of Oakland. She is also a Co-Chair of the Economic Prosperity Working Group (EPWG) as part of the Bay Area Regional Prosperity Plan.

James Pappas, Housing Policy & Preservation Associate, California Housing Partnership Corporation (CHPC)

James manages CHPC’s preservation clearinghouse providing data on affordable housing throughout California to partners in state and local government as well as nonprofit housing developers. He supports preservation of

affordable housing through owner outreach and analysis in partnership with local agencies and community-based groups. James supports affordable housing policy efforts at the state and federal level through communications and research. Prior to joining CHPC, James had worked for over seven years in health and social services including work at a clinic focused on mental health services to address HIV and AIDS and at UCSF Children's Hospital where he provided logistical support to families with sick children from all over California and beyond. While in graduate school James worked at the Oakland Redevelopment Agency on neighborhood revitalization and housing and provided research assistance to a UC Berkeley/UCSF team examining the health impacts of rebuilding a large San Francisco public housing project. James has a B.A. from Eugene Lang College of the New School University and a Master of City Planning from the Department City and Regional Planning at UC Berkeley's College of Environmental Design.

Carlos Romero, Housing Development & Land Use Consultant

Carlos is a housing development and land use consultant for non-profit and community based organizations. Over the past 25 years he has been involved in almost every aspect of developing and operating community housing and economic development organizations as a founder, board member, project manager, and executive director. Prior to consulting, he headed Mission Housing Development Corporation, a San Francisco community-based, affordable housing organization with an annual operating budget of \$6.5 million and a portfolio of over 1200 affordable units. During his tenure at Mission Housing, he was responsible for more than \$110 million dollars of housing and mixed-use development activity. From 2008 to 2012 Carlos was a city councilman in East Palo Alto and served as Mayor in 2011. During that period he also served as chair and vice chair of the East Palo Alto Redevelopment Agency. Prior to being elected, he served on and chaired the city's Planning Commission for six years and was a member and chair of the East Palo Alto Rent Stabilization Board for four years. Keeping with his campaign promise, Carlos chose not to run for re-election in 2012. In addition to his affordable housing development skills, Carlos has extensive experience as a community organizer in low-income neighborhoods. He has worked on a multitude of grassroots organizing projects ranging from the incorporation of East Palo Alto, to citizenship and civic participation trainings for immigrants, to environmental justice campaigns. In 1988, he co-founded EPA CAN DO, a community-based housing and economic development organization that has developed over 330 affordable housing units in East Palo Alto. Carlos has served on numerous boards of directors of non-profit organizations in East Palo Alto and San Francisco. Carlos did his undergraduate studies in international relations and economics at Stanford University, was a Fannie Mae Fellow at the Harvard's Kennedy School of Government in 2001, and in 2004/2005 was a Harvard Loeb Fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Design during which he researched land use and transportation issues, national housing policy, and advanced real estate finance and capital markets.

Gloria Bruce, Deputy Director & Interim Executive Director, East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO)

Gloria is Deputy Director & Interim Executive Director at East Bay Housing Organizations, the leading advocacy coalition promoting affordable housing in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. She co-leads and policy campaigns and organizational development, and coordinates EBHO's annual Affordable Housing Week and Guidebook. Prior to joining EBHO in 2010, Gloria worked at The San Francisco Foundation, supporting affordable housing, safety net services, and neighborhood revitalization through grantmaking to local nonprofits. Gloria has over 12 years of experience as an advocate and educator in her native Washington, D.C. area, Boston, China, and the Bay Area, focusing primarily on community development. She has a master's degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of California, Berkeley and a B.A. from Harvard University. She currently serves on the Alameda County Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee and the EveryOne Home Leadership Board. She lives in Oakland with her wife and young son.

Jennifer Martinez, Executive Director, Peninsula Interfaith Action

Jennifer Martinez has been the Executive Director of Peninsula Interfaith Action since August 2011. Prior to that, she was a community organizer with the San Francisco Organizing Project, and over the years she has professionally consulted with several community organizing projects around the country. Jennifer has a BA in Political Science from Stanford University and an MA and PhD in Social and Global Justice from the University of Nottingham, UK. Both her organizing work and her academic work have focused on strategies to organize low-income residents in order to change land use policies and create low-income housing. Born and raised in Southern California, Jennifer's interest in how communities organize for social change has carried her around the world where she has lived and worked in the United Kingdom, Spain, South Africa, and Venezuela.

Alex Tom, Executive Director, Chinese Progressive Association

Alex T. Tom, Executive Director of the Chinese Progressive Association and the Chinese Progressive Association Action Fund. With nearly fifteen years of experience organizing for social and economic justice, Alex has played a leadership role in building CPA's service, organizing, and civic engagement programs. Before becoming CPA's Executive Director, Alex served as the Campaign Coordinator where he built the CPA Worker Center and led campaigns to organize workers in the garment and restaurant industries, winning over a million dollars in back wages. Prior to CPA, he worked with Sweatshop Watch in Oakland and the Center on Policy Initiatives in San Diego. Alex serves on the Leadership Committee of the San Francisco Rising Alliance, a nine member grassroots multiracial electoral alliance, and the Executive Committee of Jobs with Justice in San Francisco, a community and labor alliance.

Alvina Wong, Community Organizer, Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Born and raised in Washington, Alvina used to spend afternoons selling Chinese jellos and cotton candy to the neighborhood kids in Redmond and summers building more accessible hiking trails in the Cascades, which sparked her passion for environmental justice. Since then, she has organized API Immigrants and Youth, Students of Color, and low-income communities at varying capacities including access to healthy and culturally relevant foods, youth incarceration, access to quality and higher education, and healthcare. Alvina began organizing in the Chinese immigrant community as an Eva Lowe Fellow, the summer of 2010 after graduating from the Evergreen State College in Social Work and Media Production.

Johnny Jaramillo, Sustainable Communities Plan Manager, Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)

Johnny Jaramillo is the Sustainable Communities Plan Manager for the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), which is the official Council of Governments representing the Bay Area's nine counties and 101 cities. He also supports planning efforts in Contra Costa and Solano County and coordinates with City Managers, Planning Directors and locally elected officials. Before joining ABAG in 2012, Johnny served as the Downtown Plan Manager for the City and County of San Francisco and Lead Planner for the Eastern Neighborhoods Community Planning process. His academic background includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of California Los Angeles, and a Master of City and Regional Planning from the University of California at Berkeley

Samuel P. Tepperman-Gelfant, Senior Staff Attorney, Public Advocates

Sam Tepperman-Gelfant advocates for equitable development, community benefits and affordable housing at the local, regional, and statewide levels. He joined Public Advocates as an Equal Justice Works Fellow in 2007 (sponsored by Baker & McKenzie) and was promoted to senior staff attorney in 2012. Sam leads Public Advocates' work with the Community Coalition for a Sustainable Concord, which won a redevelopment plan for a massive decommissioned Navy base that includes 25% affordable housing, a recreation area three times the size of Golden Gate Park, local hire and apprenticeship commitments, and compact transit-served neighborhoods. He also led work in the City of Alameda that resulted in an end to a 39-year ban on new apartment buildings in the city, and has contributed to breakthrough litigation such as Urban Habitat v. City of Pleasanton, Peninsula Interfaith Action v. City of Menlo Park, and Williams v. City of Antioch. Working to stabilize and sustain low-income urban neighborhoods, Sam convenes the Bay Area Investment Without Displacement Working Group, part of the 6 Big Wins for Social Equity campaign. At the local level, he has worked on affordable housing and equitable development campaigns in Oakland and Richmond, and advised community advocates around the Bay on affordable housing issues. Sam is also engaged in statewide regulatory and legislative advocacy on affordable housing, displacement, climate justice and the environment. Before joining Public Advocates, Sam clerked for the Hon. John P. Fullam of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and in the Staff Attorney's Office of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. An Oakland native, Sam plays cello in a community orchestra and is an avid bread baker

Laura Thomas, President, Renewed Hope Housing Advocates

Laura Thomas is president of Renewed Hope, a grassroots organization in the City of Alameda that works to bring affordable housing, both for prospective homeowners and renters, and fights to stop displacement. She worked as a newspaper reporter and editor for over 30 years at the SF Chronicle. As a fourth-generation Californian who grew up in Oakland, she says she was "brought up with diversity and a sense of place. I have seen all kinds of displacement fueled by rising housing costs over the years. The gross injustice of it and its

threat to the social fabric of the Bay Area are the main reasons why I have stuck with Renewed Hope's work all these years.”

Cindy Wu, Vice President of the San Francisco Planning Commission, Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC)

Since February 2012, Cindy Wu serves as the Vice President of the San Francisco Planning Commission. In this role, she advises the Mayor, Board of Supervisors and City departments on San Francisco's long-range goals, policies and programs on a broad array of issues related to land use, transportation and project planning. In addition, Cindy has directed the community planning work at CCDC for the past seven years. With her team, she organizes and empowers residents in a citywide planning dialogue to advocate for improvements to the Chinatown neighborhood. Specifically, she works in the areas of affordable housing, equitable transportation, open space and culturally-sensitive economic development. Cindy also currently serves on the Board of Directors for the San Francisco Planning and Research Association. She holds a Masters in City Planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and BA in Architecture from UC Berkeley.

Joshua Hugg, Program Manager, Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County (Invited)

Josh joined HLC in August 2009. Following a nearly 20-year career in semiconductor engineering, Josh decided to make a transition to public service, and obtained a master's degree in public administration from San Jose State University in fall 2009. Before coming to HLC, he held several management analyst internships with San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. Josh is an active community volunteer and also serves on the Planning Commission for the City of San Mateo and is on the Board of Directors for Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center (PCRC). He holds an undergraduate degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

Karen Chapple, Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning, University of California at Berkeley

Karen Chapple, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley, where she also holds the Theodore Bo Lee and Doris Shoong Chair in Environmental Design. Chapple specializes in community and economic development, metropolitan planning, and poverty, and has published research on spatial mismatch, workforce development in information technology, regional workforce development collaboratives, the relationship between job growth and housing price appreciation, and regional fair share housing programs. In her capacity as faculty director of the UC Berkeley Center for Community Innovation, she has led research on retail revitalization, stable mixed-income neighborhoods, the arts and neighborhood change, affordable housing and transit-oriented development, industrial land supply, and the green economy. Chapple's current book project is on metropolitan poverty policy, and she is also researching a book about community innovation, or how nonprofit organizations embedded in the regional economy are able to organize and innovate solutions to poverty. Chapple holds a B.A. in Urban Studies from Columbia University, an M.S.C.R.P from the Pratt Institute, and a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley. She has served on the faculties of the University of Minnesota and the University of Pennsylvania, in addition to UC-Berkeley. She is a founding member of the MacArthur Foundation's Research Network on Building Resilient Regions. Prior to academia, Chapple spent ten years as a practicing planner in economic development, land use, and transportation in New York and San Francisco. In her courses, which are on community and economic development, neighborhood change, and planning methods, Chapple brings planning practice into the classroom, links scales (from the parcel to the region) and disciplines (from design to economic development), and focuses on critical, balanced evaluation of ideologies and outcomes.

Miriam Chion, Planning & Research Director, Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)

Miriam Chion, Planning & Research Director at the Association of Bay Area Governments, has worked on community development, urban and regional planning, land use analysis, economic policies, and international development. She currently coordinates land use and economic analysis as well as local government efforts on the Sustainable Communities Strategy and the FOCUS program. Between 2004 and 2009, she was a faculty at the Department of International Development, Community, and Environment, at Clark University, Massachusetts. Between 1990 and 2004, she worked for the San Francisco Planning Department, California,

on major community, housing and economic development projects. She completed her doctoral studies at the University of California, Berkeley and her architectural degree in Lima, Peru.

Dawn Phillips, Program Co-Director, Causa Justa :: Just Cause

Dawn has almost two decades of organizing work in the Bay Area. After graduating from the Center for Third World Organizing's Minority Activist Apprenticeship Program (MAAP), Dawn spent six years as an organizer, then director of the community organizing program at Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS). Dawn then worked at People United for a Better Oakland (PUEBLO) for six years as the executive director leading a multi-racial, intergenerational organization. PUEBLO tackled issues from environmental justice, community safety and police accountability, to youth organizing and economic justice. Dawn has also served on the boards of the National Organizer's Alliance (NOA), Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice (ACRJ), and the East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy (EBASE) and is currently a member of the Steering Committee of the Right to the City Alliance.

Calvin Welch, Board Member & Former Program Director, San Francisco Information Clearinghouse

Calvin Welch is the past Program Director and current Board member of the San Francisco Information Clearinghouse, a nonprofit, community-based technical assistance and advocacy organization specializing in affordable housing, community development, and land-use planning issues. He was a founding member of the Council of Community Housing Organizations (CCHO) and the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods. Calvin has served on various city task forces and advisory committees on issues ranging from affordable housing, to financing to living wage and has played a leading role in the passage of numerous ballot measures to strengthen community control over development and to fund affordable housing and social services. He teaches a class in the development history of San Francisco at both SFSU and USF. He received a BS in Interdisciplinary Social Science from San Francisco State and a MA in Political Science from Makerere University College, Kampala, Uganda.

Vikrant Sood, Regional Prosperity Plan Program Manager, Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Vikrant Sood is the Program Manager for the Bay Area Regional Prosperity Plan project at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Vikrant has over 15 years of work experience in planning and public policy in both the private and public sectors. Vikrant holds a Masters degree in Urban and Regional Planning and an Undergraduate degree in Architecture. Vikrant has worked on local and regional projects in East Asia and the US.

Christina Cañaverl, Director of Parent Organizing and Education Policy, Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth
See above.

Shaw San Liu, Lead Organizer, Tenant Worker Center, Chinese Progressive Association

刘茂琦 (小三)

Shaw San Liu has over a decade of experience organizing and developing the leadership of immigrant workers. A graduate of the Center for Third World Organizing's Movement Activist Apprenticeship Program (MAAP), Shaw San has helped workers fight for the right to unionize in Mexico and organized Latino immigrant home healthcare and hospital workers with SEIU Local 715. Prior to joining CPA in 2006, she spent a year in China honing her language skills. Shaw San has played an active role in helping to develop CPA's leadership development program, co-authoring reports about the health and working conditions of workers in Chinatown restaurants, and assisting the Tenant Worker Center in recovering wages owed to workers. In 2012, Shaw San, along with Alex, was named "Best of the Bay Local Heroes" by the SF Bay Guardian (<http://www.sfbg.com/specials/best-bay-2012-local-heroes>). In her spare time, Shaw San likes to dance, explore the outdoors, and find good eats in the Bay Area.

Derecka Mehrens, Executive Director, Working Partnerships USA

Derecka Mehrens is the executive director of Working Partnerships USA, an action-oriented think-tank dedicated to addressing the root causes of inequality for low-wage workers and their communities based in Silicon Valley, California. Since joining the organization in 2008, she has been a leader in organizing to win policies that improve the lives of working families, including the landmark San José minimum wage campaign. Mehrens was named Working Partnerships' executive director in 2013 and under her leadership, Working Partnerships is pushing the frontiers of equitable development, integrating projects such as advocating for Bus Rapid Transit in Silicon Valley, developing new approaches to funding affordable housing in San José, and playing a leading role in creating a Bay Area-wide Economic Prosperity Strategy designed to expand

access to middle-wage jobs. Prior to becoming executive director, Mehrens led Working Partnerships' organizing team including its non-partisan civic engagement programs to engage low-income communities of color in Silicon Valley and statewide in critical public policy issues, particularly budget and fiscal reform. She has been a grassroots, community organizer for more than 13 years and is currently a board member for Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE-CA) and California Calls.

Jahmese Myres, Research & Policy Associate, East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy (EBASE)

Jahmese is a fierce advocate for two things: 1) Justice and 2) Oakland. As EBASE's Research & Policy Associate and Electoral Organizer, she works to ensure that the Town is a place for working people; where communities can unite to manifest peace, self-reliance, and equity. Jahmese holds a B.S in Economics from Saint Mary's College of California and a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning from U.C Irvine.

Michele Clark, Executive Director, Youth Employment Partnership (YEP)

Michele Clark has been the director of the Youth Employment Partnership (YEP)—a high performing job-training organization in Oakland, California, with consistently successful outcomes—for the last 24 years. An effective strategy of Michele's is the creation of living classrooms; teens learn skills by building houses in the neighborhood, operating airport cafes, and renovating YEP's facility. Most recently, Michele has partnered with Mosaic to bring solar energy to YEP, creating a new living classroom that provides solar education and exposure to hundreds of teens annually. Mosaic's crowdfunding model provided the opportunity for YEP to engage the community in the production of clean energy and promote the green education of Oakland's youth. Since the implementation of this successful pilot, Michele is excited about crowdfunding's growing potential in community change.

Jose Corona, Chief Executive Officer, Inner City Advisors

As Chief Executive Officer, Jose leads the ICA team by providing strategic leadership, management and direction. Since joining the organization in 2004, Jose has led ICA in helping local entrepreneurs achieve success by assembling an unparalleled network of the Bay Area's foremost business leaders, and is often sought out for his ability to understand inner city business trends. Jose Corona has championed inner-city job creation efforts with a comprehensive series of community and economic development programs and partnerships. The centerpiece of Corona's efforts has been the creation of strong and vibrant public-private partnerships with an emphasis on a shared commitment ensure the presence of sustainable, responsible inner-city companies that provide quality jobs, reinvest in the community, and contribute to the local economy. Jose's primary focus is on effective and innovative management, the cultivation of a strong network of high-caliber consultants and advisers, and on promoting a fundamental change in the way communities invest into inner-city economic development and revitalization. This formula has led to Inner City Advisors reliably delivering high-caliber pro bono business consulting, strategic advice, practical entrepreneurial education, and smart capital to inner-city entrepreneurs. Prior to ICA, Jose served as development director at Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA), a San Francisco-based non-profit organization that provides business technical assistance and neighborhood planning services to mostly Latino-owned small businesses. He is a founding director and secretary of the Board of ICA's affiliate investment fund, Fund Good Jobs, Inc, which he helped launch in 2013. He also serves as vice chairman the Board of Directors of the YMCA of The East Bay and serves on the Selection Advisory Board of The GreenLight Fund. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from UC Davis, and Entrepreneur Management Development Certification from the UCLA Anderson School of Management. When he is not busy doing community development work, you will find him coaching and playing soccer and learning to be a father to his 3-year-old son, Mateo Vincent Corona.

Viola Gonzales, Chief Executive Officer, AnewAmerica Community Corporation

In January 2011, Viola Gonzales was appointed to serve as the Chief Executive Officer of AnewAmerica Community Corporation, bringing over three decades of experience in direct service, public policy and advocacy for community development issues that impact low-income families. The mission of AnewAmerica was a perfect match for Ms Gonzales' experience with its long-term commitment to the economic empowerment of new citizens, immigrants and refugees by encouraging their full participation in the political, social and cultural growth of America. Prior to joining AnewAmerica, Ms. Gonzales served as executive director of the Latino Community Foundation, a Northern California regional philanthropic organization, and Latino Issues Forum, a California-based public policy and advocacy institute. Ms. Gonzales has been an advocate for small business development within local city government and has served on a variety of commissions and community boards. She currently serves on the board of Health Access Foundation and the Community Advisory Board to

Union Bank. She has a BA in business economics from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas and an MBA from Harvard.

Mike Hannigan, President & Co-Founder, Give Something Back

Mike Hannigan was born in Pensacola Florida. He earned his B.A. in Philosophy from U.C. San Diego and his M.A. in Criminology from U.C. Berkeley. He began work for the Xerox corporation and built his career in management for business products companies for the next decade until starting GSB. Says Hannigan, "I was active in the usual social movements of the late '60s and '70s, and although I was very successful as a businessperson, I was never really comfortable in that role and never happy unless I was involved in some type of community political activism. I approached Sean Marx with the idea of forming a company that would combine our business skills and our values. We saw an opportunity to use the power of business to further the goals of community service through funding non profit organizations. We started the company in 1991 with \$20,000 each from our savings and started making sales calls from my living room."

Marsha Murrington, Senior Program Officer, Bay Area LISC

Marsha Murrington is the Senior Program Officer leading the neighborhood economic development initiatives for the Bay Area LISC office for the last four years. She has extensive economic development experience that she gained during her 15 years of employment with the Unity Council in Oakland's Fruitvale neighborhood. While at the Unity Council, Marsha instituted a comprehensive approach to developing programs and community partnerships that included some of the following accomplishments: developed a LISC sponsored urban neighborhood Main Street program that transitioned to a business improvement district; established social enterprise businesses to create jobs for low-income residents; developed micro-enterprise opportunities through a public market business incubator; and built a workforce development program that included an industry sector partnership with educators and employers; all of which increased the economy of the community and created job opportunities for the residents. Marsha has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of California at Berkeley.

Sofia Navarro, Chief Operating Officer, The Unity Council

Sofia Navarro joined the Unity Council in 2005 as a Program Assistant to the Community and Family Asset Development programs. During her tenure, Sofia has demonstrated her leadership and passion for serving low-income community members in the Fruitvale and has steadily excelled by taking on various leadership positions within the organization. In October 2012, Sofia was promoted to Vice President of Programs. As Vice President of Programs, Navarro was in charge of planning and overseeing the program activities and worked to accelerate the growth of the Workforce Development program to its current budget of over \$1 million. In her new role as Chief Operating Officer (COO), Navarro's responsibilities include overseeing the management of all programs, projects, and administrative operations for the non-profit. Programs that she oversees include Head Start, Early Head Start, Development Play Groups, State Funded Pre-Kindergarten, AmeriCorps, Workforce Development, Fruitvale Business Improvement District, Real Estate Development, Property Management, Latino Men and Boys, Home Ownership Center, Peralta Service Corporation, Senior Services, and the Fruitvale Public Market. As a native to Northern California, Navarro is sympathetic to the needs and adversities of Latin communities around the Greater Bay Area. Born to Mexican immigrants, she and her three brothers make up the first-generation Americans in her family. Navarro is also first in her family to be a college graduate, despite being the youngest, having earned her B.A in Sociology and Masters in Leadership at St. Mary's College.

Mercedes (Meche) Sansores, Executive Director, WAGES

Meche joined WAGES in November 2011, bringing eighteen years of experience in running economic development programs serving the Latino community throughout the San Francisco Bay Area to her role as Executive Director. Meche has pursued her core passion for advancing the economic empowerment of women in many arenas. During her leadership of the ALAS Program (at Women's Initiative for Self Employment), ALAS reached over 1,300 Latinas and evolved into a nationally-recognized and award-winning microenterprise development program. Meche also served as Business Technical Assistance Program Manager at Lenders for Community Development, as Microenterprise Development Manager at the Unity Council, and as the Business Development Program Lead at the Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA). Meche's consulting projects have included program development for La Cocina Kitchen Incubator Project in San Francisco, assessment of needs for a commercial corridor in San Jose California, and program and curriculum development as well as training projects throughout California. For her innovation and dedication, Meche's work was honored with the Small Business Advocate of the Year 2000 award by the Small Business Administration

(SBA). Under Meche's leadership, the ALAS program was also recognized in the 2000 US Presidential Award for Excellence in Microenterprise Development. Meche is a native of Veracruz, Mexico, where she received her CPA accreditation and Diploma in Public Accounting and Auditing from the University of Veracruz.

Bob Allen, Director of Transportation & Housing, UH

See above.

Margaret Gordon, Co-Director, West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (WOEIP)

Margaret Gordon is a lifetime community activist. As a young single mother she worked her way off of welfare by attending commercial cooking school, after which she cooked for various institutions including Children's Hospital and a UC Berkeley fraternity house. Ms. Gordon is a founding member of the WOEIP, having volunteered for the first three years of operation. She has work experience in mental health services, parent training in the public schools and community organizing. In 2007, Margaret Gordon was appointed by new Oakland Mayor, Ron Dellums, to the Oakland Port Commission where she stridently promotes the interests of community health, workers health and fiscal responsibility in Port operations. Ms. Gordon was the Community representative on the California Goods Movement Action Plan task force and is a 2010 National Purpose Prize winner.

Mary Lim Lampe, Lead Organizer, Genesis

Mary is the lead organizer of GENESIS, an affiliate of the Gamaliel network in Oakland, California. GENESIS is dedicated to creating a unified voice for social justice and public policy reform, with a focus on leadership development, relationship building and successful action in the public arena. Mary grew up in Kansas City, Missouri and currently lives in Oakland, California. She is also a part of the Corpus Christi Catholic Church.

Jane Martin, Political Director, POWER

See above.

Guillermo Mayer, Senior Staff Attorney, Public Advocates

Guillermo Mayer, senior staff attorney, advocates for transportation justice, seeking equitable distribution of transit funding and services for low-income riders of color. He has played a key role in civil rights enforcement related to California's public transit systems. For example, Guillermo was a leading member of the legal team that filed a groundbreaking administrative complaint with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) against Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) for failing to analyze whether the Oakland Airport Connector would have a disproportionately negative impact on low-income and minority populations. He is also heavily involved in coalition-building efforts to shape national transportation policies that increase federal funding for operating buses and other existing transit services, which are a lifeline for many low-income communities. Prior to attending law school, Guillermo worked in the California Senate, first as legislative aide for former Senator Hilda Solis, and subsequently as legislative director for former Senator Tom Hayden. Guillermo graduated from the UCLA School of Law in 2004 with concentrations in critical race theory and public interest law and policy. As a law student, he helped immigrant workers in Los Angeles file wage claims against abusive downtown employers, and co-authored a paper cited by the California Legislature in passing wage-protection legislation for car wash workers. He was selected as a 2001-2003 fellow by the Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans, and served as a summer law clerk for the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles and for Hadsell & Stormer, Inc., a public interest law firm in Pasadena.

Alia Phelps, Transit Justice Organizer, Oakland Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE)

Alia was born and raised in Oakland and started organizing at her high school in 2000 with Y.A.C.I.N. (Youth Against Community Injustices Nia) around healthier food in the cafeteria, locked bathroom doors and chained gates. After 2 years of her involvement the group decided to open a small school named School of Social Justice and Community Development which ensured student voice throughout all their work. Years later becoming not only a member of ACCE Riders for Transit Justice but the Chair of the chapter she began organizing fellow bus riders around fare increases and service cuts. Shortly after Alia was asked to step up and officially become the Organizer for the chapter. She is currently still organizing with ACCE and is fighting bus issues ranging from Stroller Access to restoring service to low income communities.