

# Celebrating Our Impact

*Dear Community,*

It's difficult to convey the level of change our nation, state, and region have undergone in the course of one fiscal year. In a matter of months, decades of progress on racial, gender, and environmental justice have been erased or endangered. If you are like me, you have faced moments of deep despair and grief for our country, especially for our immigrant, transgender, and unhoused neighbors who are most impacted by these cruel changes.

*So, what are we to do? I keep coming back to this: focus on the here and now. Get local.*

In my three years as EBCF's President and CEO, I have never felt more grateful to lead this team or more determined to see our work through. Every day, I am inspired and energized by the love and resolve that I see in our East Bay communities.

Donors and fund advisors are reaching out to ask what they can do, many of them doubling or even tripling their grantmaking. Nonprofit partners are defending their communities, getting creative about resources, and testing new strategies. And philanthropy and local governments are working together to mitigate budget cuts and protect our neighbors. I hope you enjoy reading about these bright spots in the pages ahead.

As author Octavia Butler says, "It's amazing what we can do if we simply refuse to give up." We are going to see more dark days ahead, but we will not give up. EBCF will continue to fight for an East Bay where everyone is free to dream, heal, and belong. Thank you for fighting with us.

Onward,



*Brandi Howard*  
PRESIDENT & CEO



**EAST  
BAY** COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION



# Meeting the Moment

*In times of crisis, collaboration and solidarity are more important than ever. Over the past year, federal funding freezes and local budget deficits have become more common. Against this challenging backdrop, public-philanthropic partnerships build power and magnify our impact.*



## Stepping up for the Town

### SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM

During the school year, more than 30,000 Oakland children rely on school meals to get the nutrients they need to thrive. So, when funding was threatened for a decades-old summer food program for Oakland children, EBCF understood the potential impact.

Our team partnered with the Eat.Learn.Play. Foundation to lead the philanthropic response. Together, we raised \$375,000 to provide 1,200 meals per day at 21 community-based sites. With the City of Oakland providing funding for 950 daily meals at 26 city-run sites, we were able to bridge the gap.

### ARTS AND CULTURE FUNDING

In the East Bay, arts and culture organizations are the heart and soul of our neighborhoods. When Oakland's arts and culture institutions faced unexpected budget cuts this year, EBCF worked with the City of Oakland and eight other funders to create a one-time, \$600,000 emergency pooled fund. Together, we supported over 600 Oakland-based artists and 10,000 arts and cultural activities.

Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee championed the public-philanthropic partnership. "Oakland's cultural organizations are more than businesses—they are the heartbeat of our neighborhoods," Lee said. "They are where stories are shared, movements are born, and communities are knit together."

### HOLISTIC WELLNESS IN CONTRA COSTA

Rising income inequality, housing prices, and gentrification continue to displace Black communities across Oakland. Many residents have left the region or relocated to exurbs in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. But while growing cities like Antioch promise a lower cost of living, they often have fewer transit, health, and community services.

In early 2025, Contra Costa County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) announced plans for an African American Holistic Wellness and Resource Hub to support Black communities across the county. Shaped by the voices of over 4,000 residents, this countywide network of services is slated to grow over several years.

EBCF is a critical partner in the effort, administering grants on behalf of Contra Costa County and providing capacity-building resources. As a first phase of the project, ORESJ announced funding for 14 projects aimed at increasing community health, safety, and well-being. With support from ORESJ and EBCF, initiatives like the Healthy Hearts Institute's urban farm in Pittsburg and the Healing Spot Counseling Center in Antioch will be able to maintain and expand their programs.

### ALAMEDA COUNTY TOGETHER FOR ALL

Concerned about federal budget cuts and anti-immigrant rhetoric, Alameda County Supervisors Nikki Fortunato Bas and Elisa Márquez formed Alameda County Together (ACT) for All. This committee brings together key constituents, including philanthropy, to protect health and social services for Alameda residents.

In early 2025, the county approved \$3.5 million for deportation defense, immigrant rights education, and preparedness. This includes \$2.2 million for over a dozen community organizations with strong connections to immigrant communities, including EBCF partners like Mujeres Unidas y Activas and Faith in Action East Bay.

When Fortunato Bas and Márquez asked local philanthropy to match the county's commitment to community organizations, EBCF and other philanthropic partners answered the call. Our team helped staff the fundraising effort, and together, we raised \$1.6 million and counting.

# Community Partners: The Heart of Our Work

EBCF’s community partners have a profound impact on Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Through their collaboration, campaigns, and capacity-building work, they advance change across key impact areas: affordable housing, good jobs, healing arts and culture, healthy environment, entrepreneurship, land ownership, and equitable education.

## CLEAN AIR, SHARED POWER

Richmond residents are leaders in the fight for environmental justice in the East Bay. For more than a century, the community’s health has been impacted by pollution from Chevron’s nearby refinery. Through EBCF’s Community Organizing grantmaking, we fund partners like the Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) and Communities for a Better Environment that advance a vision of a healthy, inclusive, and vibrant Richmond.

As a community foundation, EBCF can provide much-needed funding to 501(c)4 organizations for nonpartisan lobbying, ballot measure advocacy, and voter mobilization. In 2024, we supported APEN Action in its efforts to get a Polluters Pay measure added to the ballot in Richmond.

APEN Action leveraged EBCF’s funding to great effect. The credible threat of legislation brought Chevron to the bargaining table, resulting in a \$550 million settlement for the city. Now, EBCF grantees are partnering with allies in labor and local politics to ensure a transition away from fossil fuels and toward a regenerative economy.

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EBCF’s partners are deeply rooted in our communities, providing gathering spaces, familiar faces, and essential services in neighborhoods across the East Bay.

– Autumn McDonald  
VP OF COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS & PARTNERSHIPS



## FROM LAND TO LEGACY

At EBCF, we want our neighbors to be able to build deep roots in the East Bay. With corporate ownership of land and housing on the rise, affordable, community-owned properties are more important than ever. We are proud to support grantee partners that are creating sustainable models to house this generation and the next.

Richmond LAND, Contra Costa County’s first community land trust, is partnering with Urban Tilth to develop a North Richmond Eco Village. This unique project will revitalize vacant public land and create 18-22 sustainably constructed cottage units. The team also plans to integrate supportive programming around financial literacy, education, and land stewardship.

In North Oakland, the East Bay Permanent Real Estate Cooperative partnered with the Collective Action and Land Liberation Institute to acquire its newest property, Omni Commons, in 2024. By removing Omni Commons from the speculative market, EB PREC was able to protect a valued cultural space that can serve the community for years to come.

## ECONOMIES OF BELONGING

Local businesses are at the heart of a thriving, healthy region. In the East Bay, we are dedicated to creating lasting pathways for business ownership and growth among communities of color.

Through our Oakland Small Business Resiliency Fund, EBCF awarded \$2.2 million to 170 businesses, ensuring that they can continue to serve as anchors for some of the city’s most under-resourced communities. Recipients include Juice Joint, a downtown Mexican deli; Radically Fit, an East Oakland gym and personal training studio; and Understory, a Fruitvale worker-owned restaurant and community space.

We also committed over \$850,000 to work that shifts capital, economic decision-making, and the stewardship of resources toward communities building inclusive local economies. This includes organizations advancing local co-ownership models, like the Bay Area Community Land Trust and Cooperation Richmond.



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Small businesses are more than just economic engines—they are the heart and soul of our communities. When small businesses flourish, they contribute to the culture, community building, and health of our neighborhoods.”

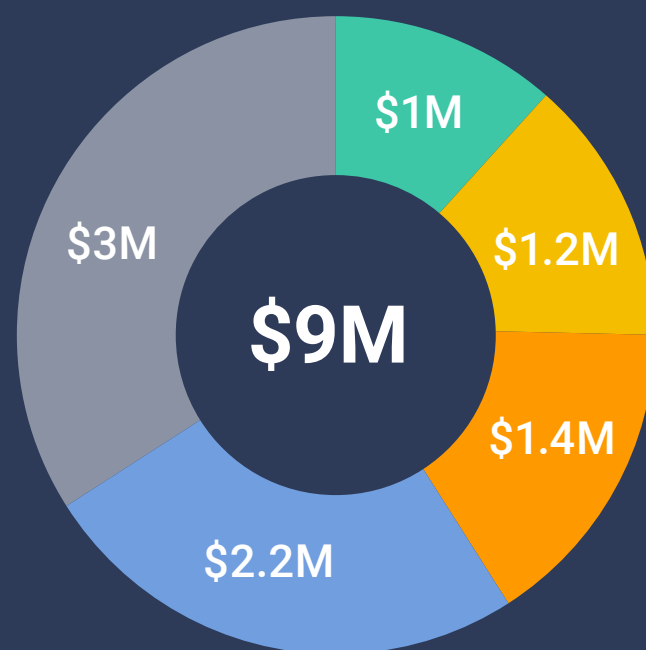
– Sabrina Wu  
SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER



## Our Impact by the Numbers

For nearly 100 years, EBCF has been resourcing efforts to build a better East Bay. In 2025, we invested in hundreds of nonprofits, artists, cooperatives, and small businesses across the region.

### \$9M IN STRATEGIC GRANTS TO 362 COMMUNITY PARTNERS



- **\$1M** CAPACITY BUILDING WITH A RACIAL EQUITY LENS
- **\$1.2M** ARTS AND CULTURE
- **\$1.4M** INCLUSIVE ECONOMIES
- **\$2.2M** RESILIENT SMALL BUSINESSES
- **\$3M** COMMUNITY ORGANIZING AND MOVEMENT BUILDING

*Giving in  
Community*

**323**  
DONOR-ADVISED  
FUNDS



**\$54.2M**  
IN GRANTS



**1,967**  
ORGANIZATIONS

## Cultivating a Community of Philanthropists

EBCF's philanthropy team provides personalized services to donors and fund advisors, helping them achieve their philanthropic goals. Together, we move resources quickly, build long-term relationships, and free community leaders to focus on what matters most: their work with and for the people of the East Bay.

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We want EBCF to be recognized as a catalytic agent for social change that contributes significantly to living standards in the region. It's about enabling our communities to thrive and lifting up the people that have been left behind.”

– Jim King and Lili Pratt King  
LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS AND FORMER BOARD CHAIR (JIM)



## Building a Thriving East Bay, Together

Dear East Bay Community,

As the new Chief Philanthropy Officer at EBCF and a proud Oakland resident for over 25 years, I know philanthropy can be a powerful force for transformation. I hope the stories in these pages inspire you and remind you of what's possible when we act together.

At EBCF, we're more than a foundation—we're your partner in purpose. With our real-time knowledge of the changing conditions in the East Bay, we help you meet the moment with confidence. When the challenges facing our community feel overwhelming, we identify strategic and timely giving opportunities. And when donors join forces through our curated pooled funds, your generosity becomes a catalyst for real, lasting change.

Together, we're not just reacting to challenges; we're shaping a future rooted in justice and opportunity. Thank you for your continued support.

*Janelle Cavanagh*  
**Janelle Cavanagh**  
CHIEF PHILANTHROPY OFFICER



## At Home in the East Bay

From the flats of Oakland to the hills of Mount Diablo, the East Bay is a microcosm of urban, suburban, and rural America. Whether we're facing a crisis like the pandemic or navigating shifts in federal funding, EBCF remains deeply connected to the changing landscape. We're proud to support those who live, work, and do business in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.



### UPLIFTING ANTIOCH ENTREPRENEURS

The City of Antioch partnered with Alliance for Community Development, Uptima Entrepreneur Cooperative, and other organizations to launch the Antioch Business Collaborative. This place-based initiative supports the small business community through one-on-one advising, workshops, training, and access to capital. The alliance anchors this effort through its role as a navigator, streamlining the process for entrepreneurs and businesses, and connecting them to the technical support and capital they need. At the same time, Uptima provides business advising for capital readiness.

### A WIN FOR CONCORD TENANTS

After a seven-year effort, tenant advocates and organizers from Rising Juntos, East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy, Monument Impact, and others celebrated a victory for tenants' rights in Concord. In January 2024, the Concord City Council passed a measure to implement Rent Stabilization and Just Cause evictions. This year, the coalition successfully defended this victory against a referendum drafted by landlords and realtors that sought to overturn the measure.

### HOLISTIC CARE IN RICHMOND

Opened in 2023, the RYSE Commons campus is a hub for healing, personal development, and expression for young people in Richmond. Visitors can connect with universities and community partners, and access offerings ranging from performance art to business incubation. This year, RYSE Commons also celebrated the opening of the Health Justice Center on the campus. This liberatory health care center provides holistic services to West Contra Costa County youth and young adults in a loving, responsive, and affirming environment.

### THRIVING ARTS AND HOUSING IN OAKLAND

The Black Cultural Zone (BCZ) has made significant strides in preserving and revitalizing East Oakland's Black community. This year, the City of Oakland approved the development of Liberation Park Market Hall and Cultural Hub and Liberation Park Residences, which will provide 119 units of affordable housing and dedicated spaces for Black artists and entrepreneurs.

This landmark decision, along with a major fundraising success that secured \$100 million for the Rise East initiative, will be transformative for East Oakland. In the meantime, Liberation Park remains a vibrant hub, hosting expanded "Saturdays in the Zone" events like the Umoja Outdoor Roller Skating Rink and the Levitt VIBE Summer Concert Series, all of which strengthen the local economy and foster a thriving community.

### RESTORING CASTRO VALLEY LAND

Sogorea Te' Land Trust and Eden Housing worked together to return 3 acres of land along the San Lorenzo Creek in Castro Valley to its ancestral caretakers. Also known as Lisjan Creek, the site is culturally significant for the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation and is the first waterway to be returned to the Indigenous women-led Sogorea Te' Land Trust. The creek will be protected in perpetuity under a conservation easement, and the land trust will oversee restoration efforts.

### SECURITY FOR EDEN RENTERS

After six years of tireless organizing, tenants in Alameda County's unincorporated Eden Area celebrated a historic victory this year. Thanks to the powerful advocacy of My Eden Voice and its tenant committee, Eden Renters United, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a Just Cause for Eviction ordinance. This new law—covering Ashland, Cherryland, Hayward Acres, Castro Valley, Fairview, and San Lorenzo—protects over 65,000 renting families from unjust evictions.

# Grantmaking Programs in Action

*EBCF's team dives deep into specific neighborhoods, coalitions, and issue areas to understand the social change landscape of the East Bay. From pooled funds to open calls and community-advised grantmaking, we move resources into the community in innovative ways.*



## FROM MURALS TO MOVEMENTS

Art is a vital tool for survival, healing, and resistance. EBCF's East Bay Fund for Artists (EBFA) supports visionaries who help us imagine new landscapes, rewrite narratives, and spark radical hope. In late 2024, EBFA provided \$311,980 to 12 individual artists and 10 organizations. Awardees created pieces using various mediums, including storytelling, spoken word, dance, and murals across the East Bay.

For example, Oakland Ballet Company's "Angel Island Project" brings to life the haunting poems carved by detainees at the historic Angel Island Immigration Station. And in a series of drag performances, Oaklash's "Tragic Queendom" features new works by 20 BIPOC queer and trans artists.

Over EBFA's 20-year history, we have partnered with more than 9,500 generous donors and 200 nonprofit organizations. As a result, more than 300 local artists have created art that beautifies East Bay neighborhoods and inspires residents to dream of a brighter future.

## STRONG ROOTS IN EAST CONTRA COSTA

Communities in East Contra Costa County face ongoing racial and economic inequity that impacts everything from job opportunities to public services and even philanthropy. Despite having 15% of the Bay Area's population, Contra Costa receives just 3% of philanthropic funding. To address this issue, EBCF and other funders launched the East Contra Costa STRONG Collaborative Fund a decade ago. The goal: increase equity by building nonprofit capacity, leadership, and community power.

In 2025, STRONG launched a \$600,000 community-advised grantmaking pilot. Drawing on the expertise of local leaders and regional funders, the committee selected 13 grassroots and nonprofit organizations that will receive funding over two years. This infusion of capital will give groups like El Tímpano, ACCE, PAAACT, and Rising Juntos a timely boost and build a more resilient East County.

## BUILDING CAPACITY THROUGH CARE

From its beginnings in 2018, our ASCEND: BLO initiative has prioritized wellness and capacity-building for its grantee partners. ASCEND: BLO sharpened this focus in fall 2023 by awarding the first round of \$20,000 wellness grants to 10 Black-led organizations. Recipients reported using the grants on retreats and staff outings, arts and cultural experiences, bereavement support, and more.

This year, ASCEND: BLO increased the grants to \$30,000 and targeted funding to 10 Alameda County-based organizations that focus on teachers, parents, and youth advocacy. Groups like the Black Teacher Project, The Village Method, and MISSEY will report back on their activities this fall, and the next round of funding will focus on organizations in Contra Costa County.

“*Together, we are not just weathering the storm.  
We are helping lead the way forward.*”

### *Dear Friends,*

The struggles facing our communities today are very real, but so is our collective resilience, creativity, and courage. At EBCF, we are continually inspired by the leaders and organizations that show up every day, despite the odds, to build a more just East Bay.

You may know the saying, “If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together.” Now more than ever, we must move together. That’s why EBCF is leaning into collaboration—with nonprofits, donors, businesses, and communities—to co-create the future we all deserve.

Under Brandi Howard’s visionary leadership, we are deepening EBCF’s role as a transformative force for racial justice and economic freedom across the East Bay. That means centering community voice in our grantmaking, ensuring our partners have the resources and relationships they need to thrive, and leaning into our role as a philanthropic partner for family foundations, individual donors, local government, and corporate funders seeking to make a lasting impact in our region.

Together, we are not just weathering the storm. We are helping lead the way forward.

This moment requires bold action and bold hope. At EBCF, we are embracing both, and we invite you to stand with us as we shape a future defined not by scarcity and fear, but by solidarity, abundance, and equity.

In community,



*Iara Peng*  
Iara Peng  
BOARD CHAIR



Want to know more about how you can make  
an impact in the East Bay? Contact us:

**PHILANTHROPY@EASTBAYCF.ORG**