

Celebrating Our Impact

Dear Community,

EBCF's strength has always come from partnership. As the Foundation approaches its 100th anniversary, our mission is carried forward by a robust community: the donors who show up when it matters most, nonprofit partners who know their communities better than anyone, local leaders willing to try something new, and a staff and board who believe in what's possible when we build together.

This year, that commitment to building together showed up everywhere we looked. Richmond's young people organized to renew a \$99 million investment in their own futures. Immigrant rights organizations won new protections for their neighbors. Artists turned memory into murals, film, and story. Small business owners rebuilt, block by block.

This report also arrives at a moment of transition. After nearly four years of leadership, Brandi Howard has stepped down as our president and CEO, and I am grateful for all she gave to this community. What you'll read in these pages is a testament to what she, our team, and all of you have accomplished.

None of this happened because of any single grant, or any single leader. It happened because people came together and refused to wait for someone else to act.

As the organizer and activist Grace Lee Boggs put it, "We are the leaders we've been looking for." That's the spirit behind everything in the pages ahead: not EBCF acting alone, but EBCF alongside you, our partners and our community, doing the work together.

Thank you for standing with us.



X
Xavier Morales
BOARD CHAIR, EBCF



Our Impact by the Numbers

For nearly 100 years, EBCF has been resourcing efforts to build a better East Bay. Today, we advance our mission through grantmaking, public-philanthropic partnerships, nonprofit services, pooled funds, and philanthropic advising.

\$87.5M

TOTAL GRANTMAKING

Resources moved through donor-advised funds, public-private partnerships, funder collaboratives, and EBCF's own strategic grantmaking

1,838

NONPROFITS FUNDED

East Bay, national, and international organizations that received funding through EBCF this year, from local projects to global causes

590

CHARITABLE FUNDS

The number of donor-advised, legacy, and other funds EBCF stewards on behalf of families, individuals, corporations, and nonprofits

\$25.4M

INVESTED IN
THE EAST BAY

Giving directed specifically to our home region, reflecting the full range of causes our East Bay community cares about

\$9.8M

EBCF'S STRATEGIC
GRANTMAKING

Funds EBCF raises and deploys to meet the East Bay's urgent and long-term needs, through trusted community partners

231

COMMUNITY
PARTNERS

Local, mission-aligned organizations that EBCF supports with funding, coaching, and connections to build a more just and inclusive East Bay

Leading with Our Values

EBCF's investment strategy optimizes both financial returns and community impact, and our administrative fees are reinvested in the East Bay's resilience—not a financial firm's bottom line.

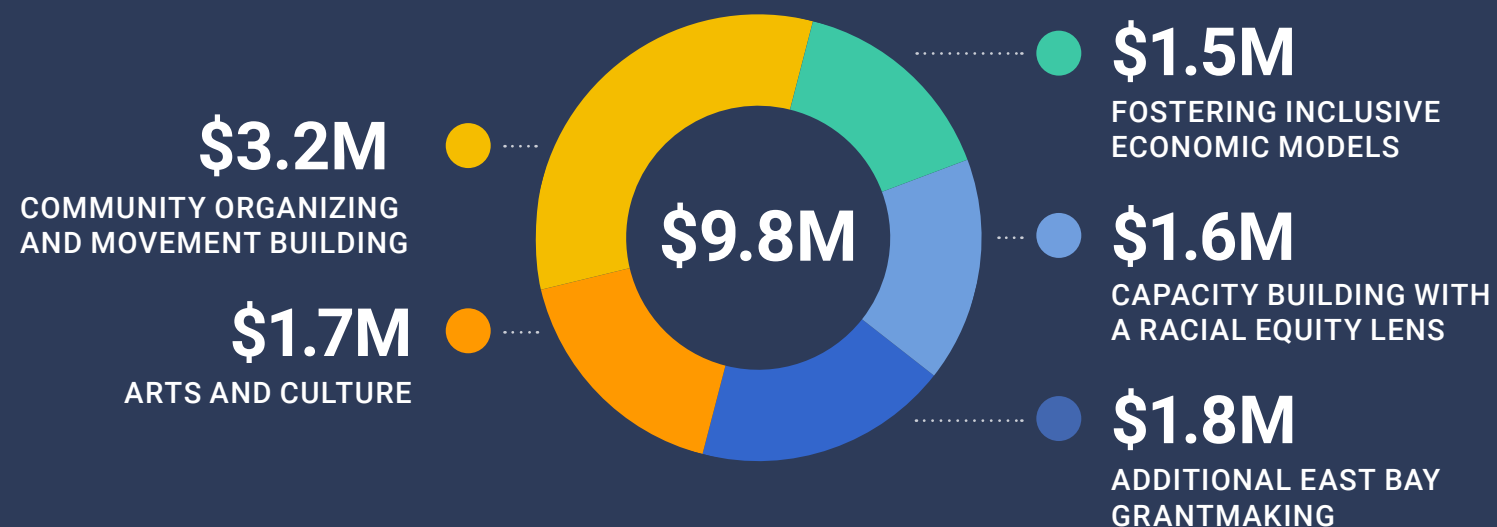
\$533M

TOTAL ASSETS UNDER
MANAGEMENT

100%

OF INVESTMENTS
SCREENED FOR IMPACT

Here's how EBCF's \$9.8 million in strategic grantmaking reached our community this year:



Stronger Together

Social movements have the power to change the world. That's why EBCF funds community organizing and power-building—helping people join together, build skills, and gain lasting influence over the decisions that affect their lives. In addition to funding individual organizations, we invest in the connections between them. Because communities are strongest, and change comes fastest, when we act together.



STANDING UP FOR IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

In response to escalating attacks on East Bay immigrant communities, EBCF committed \$325,000 toward rapid response support.

EBCF grantees **Trabajadores Unidos Workers United** and **Faith in Action East Bay** have been organizing know-your-rights trainings, connecting residents with legal defense, and recruiting volunteers to monitor ICE activity in neighborhoods and near schools.

Months of collaboration resulted in a major victory when Alameda County approved the creation of “ICE-Free Zones” in January 2026. The ordinance bars ICE from all county-owned facilities and establishes a coordinated countywide response to federal immigration enforcement. The City of Oakland followed suit two weeks later with its own ordinance.

BACKING THE NEXT GENERATION

Young people are often on the front lines of movements for change, questioning the status quo and bringing creativity and boldness to their advocacy and organizing. To support this work, EBCF is a core member of the **California Youth Power Fund** (YPF), a statewide collaborative that funds youth-led organizing and invites young people to help decide where the money goes.

Last year, YPF chose Josh Lee, former EBCF senior program officer, as its inaugural director. In his first year, Josh launched “The Boldest Among Us,” a series of convenings that brought funders together to learn from youth organizers and commit new money to their work. YPF’s goal is to raise \$5 million in new funds to expand their work statewide.

YOUTH POWER IN RICHMOND

This spring, the **RYSE Center** won a major fight to reauthorize the Richmond Fund for Children and Youth. The fund directs 3% of the city’s general fund to programs and services for young people from birth to age 24. Over the next 10 years, that’s \$99 million for arts and music, mental health services, and more.

The RYSE Center helped create the fund in 2018 through the passage of the Richmond Kids First Initiative and organized more than 40 youth advocates and allies to speak at a March hearing in support of renewal. The win matters even more this year. As state and federal funding for youth programs faces steep cuts, Richmond’s young people will still have dedicated city support.

RENTERS WIN IN SAN PABLO

For over 20 years, **Rising Juntos** has organized Black and brown volunteers of all ages across six cities in Contra Costa County. Together, they work for fair housing and economic opportunities, immigrant and racial justice, healthy parks and communities, and fair representation.

This year, after a yearslong campaign to support families impacted by the Bay Area’s housing crisis, Rising Juntos got a measure onto the November 2026 ballot to protect San Pablo’s renters from harassment and unjust eviction.



From Imagination to Impact

Art is a vital tool for survival, healing, resistance, and memory. As the East Bay’s affordability crisis deepens, sustaining artists and cultural organizations is essential to preserving what makes our region so special.



MURALS AND MOVEMENTS

The East Bay Fund for Artists (EBFA) supports visionaries who help us imagine new landscapes, rewrite narratives, and spark radical hope. In late 2025, EBFA provided \$275,000 to 15 individual artists and organizations working in mediums ranging from storytelling and spoken word to murals and dance.

Among this year’s grantees, filmmaker **Ariana Proehl** created “Art and Everyday People: The Story of the Betti Ono Foundation,” a documentary following visionary curator Anyka Howard. Howard created the original Betti Ono gallery in Oakland to “smash the box of your typical art gallery experience,” drawing inspiration from the city’s Black Panther Party and the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and ’70s.

The EastSide Arts Alliance also unveiled a new mural by artist **Xochitl Nevel Guerrero** at an exhibition honoring her work: “A Breath of Life to Our Seeds of Resistance.” Like Howard, Guerrero has deep roots in Oakland, including during the Chicano arts and theatre movement of the 1970s. She has spent the last 50 years devoted to community arts, education, and mentoring the next generation of artists.

“

We’re investing in creatives who are deeply rooted in their communities, ensuring they have the resources to tell stories, demand change, and build collective power.”

— Debrah Giles
SENIOR PROGRAM DIRECTOR



BELONGING AND CULTURE

What would it take to build a racially just Oakland—a city where everyone belongs? That’s the question at the heart of the Just City Cultural Fund (JCCF), a partnership between the City of Oakland, the Akonadi Foundation, and EBCF that funds collaborations between the city’s cultural and social change organizations. Together, these groups are imagining and building a more just and inclusive future.

Black Cultural Zone Community Development Corporation and **EastSide Arts Alliance** are working to create Black Cultural Hubs in Deep East Oakland and West Oakland. These cooperatively owned spaces will bring together affordable housing and Black-owned arts, culture, and commerce.

Asian Prisoner Support Committee and **Asian Refugees United** use storytelling and healing arts as tools for advocacy, supporting incarcerated and formerly incarcerated Asian and Pacific Islander community members while advancing policy change.

Oakland Bloom and the **Sticky Rice Club** are building cooperative business and real estate models to preserve Chinatown’s cultural roots and grow lasting economic power for its merchants and residents, especially women of color with immigrant experience.

INVESTING IN THE TOWN

Through the **One Oakland Fund**, a public-private partnership with Mayor Barbara Lee’s office and local philanthropic organizations, EBCF has helped boost city capacity and reserves, advancing efforts to improve public safety, strengthen government systems, and expand economic opportunity. So far, that includes hiring Oakland’s first director of innovation, funding the East Oakland Youth Development Center, and supporting arts and culture programs across the city.



Faces of the Foundation

At EBCF, our people are our power. Our board members have deep roots in the East Bay and decades of experience across philanthropy, nonprofit leadership, business, law, and organizing. They share a commitment to racial equity and economic justice, and a conviction that the people closest to a challenge are best positioned to solve it. Meet the eight leaders steering our work.



Xavier Morales

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE PRAXIS PROJECT
BOARD CHAIR, EBCF

- 📍 Lives in Berkeley
- ★ Advancing equity in policy and practice, everywhere
- ♥ Joe Dimaggio Fields in Martinez



Bernard Boudreaux

FOUNDER, BE BENEFICENT CONSULTING

- 📍 Lives in Oakland — Maxwell Park
- ★ Connecting people to achieve common goals
- ♥ Paramount Theatre



Mona Williams

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, BIVIUM WESTFULLER
VICE CHAIR, EBCF

- 📍 Lives in Oakland — Caballo Hills
- ★ Democratizing capital and “myth-busting” around investments
- ♥ Desta Ethiopian Cafe



Joe Dougherty

SENIOR PARTNER, DALBERG ADVISORS

- 📍 Lives in Emeryville
- ★ Unlocking potential through education and economic freedom
- ♥ Emeryville Marina Park



John Govea

RETIRED FOUNDATION PROFESSIONAL
TREASURER, EBCF

- 📍 Lives in Oakland — Lincoln Highlands
- ★ Supporting organizations building power in communities
- ♥ East Bay Regional Park District Trails



Katherine Ritchey

VP & REGIONAL COUNSEL FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, KAISER
FOUNDATION HEALTH PLAN AND HOSPITALS

- 📍 Lives in Orinda
- ★ Bringing compassion for individuals to every decision
- ♥ Sideboard Neighborhood Kitchen & Coffee Bar in Lafayette



Shirley McLaughlin

PRINCIPAL, ADLER & COLVIN
SECRETARY, EBCF

- 📍 Lives in Orinda
- ★ Providing legal advice to help nonprofit leaders do what’s best for their communities
- ♥ Lafayette Community Center



Shilpa Andalkar

WEALTH ADVISOR, CORIENT PRIVATE WEALTH

- 📍 Lives in Oakland — Piedmont Avenue
- ★ Balancing risk mitigating and value generating activities
- ♥ Grand Lake Farmers Market



LOCATION



SUPER
POWER



FAVORITE
GEM

Fostering Inclusive Economies

Across the East Bay, many of our neighbors face a common reality: it's just too expensive to live here. EBCF's Inclusive Economies program works to shift economic power and decision-making back to communities—especially low-income, immigrant, and BIPOC communities. With the right resources in hand, our communities can access the economic freedom to dream, heal, and belong in the East Bay.



OWNERSHIP IN THE EAST BAY

Community land trusts prevent displacement by creating affordable homeownership and giving residents lasting control over their neighborhoods. The **Eden Community Land Trust** brings that model to the Eden area of unincorporated Alameda County, where Eden CLT is contracting with the county to preserve mobile home communities. This year, Eden CLT and fellow EBCF partner My Eden Voice completed a feasibility study on acquiring the Paradise mobile home park in Ashland, a key site of both organizations' tenant organizing.

East Bay Permanent Real Estate Cooperative (EB PREC) helps communities acquire and steward residential and commercial properties and arts spaces—keeping them in community ownership and preserving affordability for future generations. In West Oakland, EB PREC is working with LISC Bay Area to revive 7th Street as a Black arts, business, and cultural district. They've already acquired multiple properties along the corridor, and this year's Black Earth Day event brought community members and volunteers to the neighborhood for a cleanup, free food, and a block party.

Immigrant women bring entrepreneurial talent to the East Bay but face barriers to capital, networks, and business support. **Prospera** closes that gap, partnering with Latina entrepreneurs to launch social enterprises. From El Tiny Cafe in Berkeley to Dance Studio Maseuani in Bay Point, these small businesses build wealth and foster community across the East Bay. In 2025, Prospera supported 506 entrepreneurs through culturally specific courses, workshops, and community events—helping create 38 new jobs, retain 72 more, and launch 13 new businesses.



SMALL BUSINESSES, BIG IMPACT

As the East Bay's small businesses struggled to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, EBCF stepped up with \$2.2 million in funding for local entrepreneurs. In early 2025, the Oakland Small Business Resiliency Fund supported 170 businesses with debt-free grants, among them **Towne Cycles** and **Understory Collective**.

EBCF's support helped Towne Cycles owner David Boone complete much-needed renovations and repairs, keeping West Oakland's only full-service bike shop open for local cyclists. And when Understory Oakland, a worker-owned

restaurant, bar, and community space, was on the brink of closure in downtown Oakland, an EBCF grant helped it relocate to Fruitvale and revive its mission. Its team has blossomed in the new location, where it maintains a sliding-scale meal program open to all of its neighbors.

Stories like these reveal the depth of need and opportunity in our communities. Now, we're building the next chapter: a regional fund targeting \$5 million, expanded into Alameda and Contra Costa counties, pairing grants with advising and technical assistance.

Giving with Purpose

EBCF's community of donors moves resources toward the organizers, artists, and entrepreneurs doing the work of building a more just East Bay. The people on these pages didn't set out to become philanthropists, but their stories show what's possible when generosity meets purpose.

MARTIA NELSON AND JAY HARLOW BECOMING PHILANTHROPISTS

When Martia sold the home she'd owned for 35 years, she wanted to donate some of the proceeds as reparations to help close the racial wealth gap. She knew that generations of housing policies had enabled her family to build wealth while excluding families of color. So, she directed a quarter of the profits to help first-time homeowners of color with down payments.

Soon after, Martia and Jay met with Marta Grajeda, EBCF's director of philanthropy, to talk through ways to expand their impact. For Jay, a longtime East Bay resident, EBCF offered an opportunity to give back to the community he loves. For Martia, it offered something else, too: a community of fellow "do-gooders" and a chance to learn about local organizations that need support.

Today, their EBCF donor-advised fund (DAF) is Jay and Martia's primary vehicle for giving. They've become supporters of organizations like Radical Monarchs and Kingmakers of Oakland. And something else changed along the way. As Martia puts it, "Philanthropy evolved from something we did to a core part of who we are—we are philanthropists now."

"When we updated our trusts and wills, we realized we had more than we needed to live comfortably. We wanted guidance on how to make a greater impact with our giving, and EBCF has been a great fit."

- JAY HARLOW



AYOUB & DODSON BUILDING LEGACIES

For Alexandra Ayoub, an Oakland-based trust and estate attorney, philanthropy and estate planning go hand in hand. Many clients come to her with ideas about passing on their wealth, often with a vision of giving back to the community. Since she isn't a philanthropy specialist, Alexandra points clients toward EBCF. With a DAF, clients can name the fund in their trust, then work with EBCF to adjust where the money goes with no lawyer or amendment required. Clients with local giving interests—like Martia and Jay—are an especially good fit.



"People want sound advice and an easy way to give. The warm handoff to EBCF's team makes it simple."

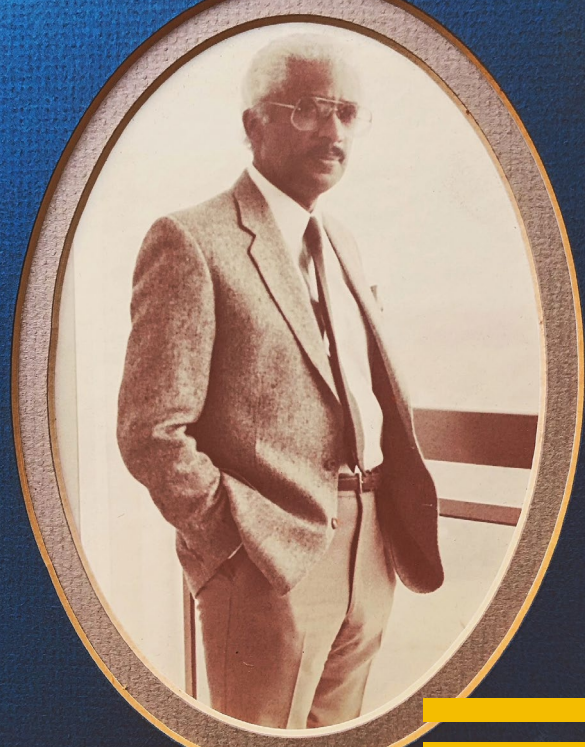
- ALEXANDRA AYOUB

Join Our Professional Advisors' Leadership Council

EBCF's Professional Advisors' Leadership Council (PALC) brings together estate, financial, and tax-planning professionals looking for smart, effective ways to support their clients' giving. PALC members gain access to EBCF's philanthropic expertise, timely updates on giving trends and tools, and exclusive opportunities to connect with like-minded professionals.

Want to get involved? Contact us to join today:

PHILANTHROPY@EASTBAYCF.ORG



CATHERINE LEW AND LLOYD EDWARDS BREAKING BARRIERS

For Catherine Lew, working people have always come first. Her north star—shifting resources and power to communities—has often put her at odds with traditional philanthropy. “Foundations move at a glacial pace,” she said. But with EBCF, she found a partnership built on shared urgency.

Catherine grew up the daughter of Chinese immigrants in the Salinas Valley at the height of the farmworkers movement. Her husband, Lloyd Edwards, a Black and Blackfoot Seminole boy from Berkeley, came of age in a city divided by an unofficial color line.

Together, they built the Lew Edwards Group. Over 30 years, the firm has helped elect nearly 100 candidates, most of them women and people of color, including Oakland’s first Black woman mayor, Barbara Lee. They also take on less visible work: helping agencies, unions, and nonprofits mobilize resources in communities across the state. As Lloyd used to say, “We go where we’re called.”

After Lloyd’s death, Catherine honored him by establishing a DAF at EBCF. Guided by Lloyd’s belief that education opens doors for the mind, the fund supports young people in Berkeley and Oakland who are headed to a trade school, university, or community college.

Ultimately, Catherine came to philanthropy the way she’s come to everything else: from the ground up. Decades of organizing taught her to judge an organization by one yardstick: does it reflect the people it serves, and move fast when it matters? At EBCF, she found a partner that does both.



“Lloyd believed that education opens doors for the mind. Investing in the next generation is how I carry his legacy forward.”

— CATHERINE LEW

Sophia Castellan

Sustaining the Work, Sustaining Each Other

EBCF invests in capacity building to ensure that the people at the heart of community organizations are well-resourced and supported. In Contra Costa County, we're funding the coaching, partnerships, and resources local organizations need to serve their communities.



A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO WELLNESS

Through our partnership with **Contra Costa County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ)**, EBCF issued grants and provided coaching and resources to 14 organizations supporting the county's growing Black community. These groups fill important gaps in public services—providing fresh locally grown produce, holistic health services, mentoring, and more.

One grantee, **Breast Friends Lactation and Support Services**, works to increase breastfeeding rates in Black and brown communities through one-on-one support, group classes, and lactation training. Their “Boob-E-Que” event brings together community members and wellness providers for a day of connection and healing. Residents also receive free baby clothes, diapers, and more.



STRONG ROOTS IN EAST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Despite being home to some of the Bay Area's fastest growing and most diverse communities, Contra Costa County receives just 3% of the region's philanthropic funding, with even less directed toward East Contra Costa County (ECCC) specifically. The **STRONG Funder Collaborative** is working to change that. Housed at EBCF, STRONG has invested over \$3.5 million in ECCC since its founding in 2015.

In 2025, STRONG launched a \$600,000 community-advised grantmaking pilot that drew on the expertise of local leaders and regional funders. Thirteen groups, including **ACCE, PAAACT, and Rising Juntos**, are receiving two years of funding, support, and resources to build a more resilient region. Funds will also go toward local media organizations, **El Tímpano** and **Contra Costa Pulse**, helping to amplify community-led, culturally relevant information channels.

In light of unprecedented budget cuts under federal law H.R. 1, STRONG is also participating in a multisector effort to protect healthcare, food assistance, and social services for thousands of residents in Contra Costa County. The campaign will mobilize governance and resources by January 2027, when the cuts are planned to take effect.



Doubling Down on Wellness

By funding staff and volunteer wellness, coaching, and infrastructure, we help organizations and movements avoid burnout and build a strong foundation for the future.



CAPACITY THROUGH CARE

In 2018, EBCF launched **ASCEND: BLO** to uplift Black-led organizations (BLOs) and build a culture of support across the Bay Area. Since then, the program has raised \$5.9 million, funded more than 41 grantee partners, and built a network of 350+ BLOs.

In addition to convenings, resources, and capacity building, the program recently began offering six-month, unrestricted wellness grants to help staff and volunteers rest, recover, and stay in the work. Recipients have used these funds for retreats, staff outings, arts and cultural experiences, bereavement support, and care from Black wellness practitioners.

This commitment to wellness is spreading. One grantee, the **Black Teacher Project (BTP)**, launched its own grant program in 2023 and recently expanded it to include wellness and community impact. The latest grant round drew more than 1,400 applications from educators eager for support. To date, BTP has awarded \$500 grants to more than 80 Black educators and plans to offer 20 grants every year moving forward.



“

ASCEND: BLO was born from listening—to Black-led organizations doing extraordinary work without the resources or trust they deserved. Seven years later, it’s changed how we think about community-led philanthropy.”

— Julius Crowe Hampton
ASCEND: BLO PROGRAM MANAGER

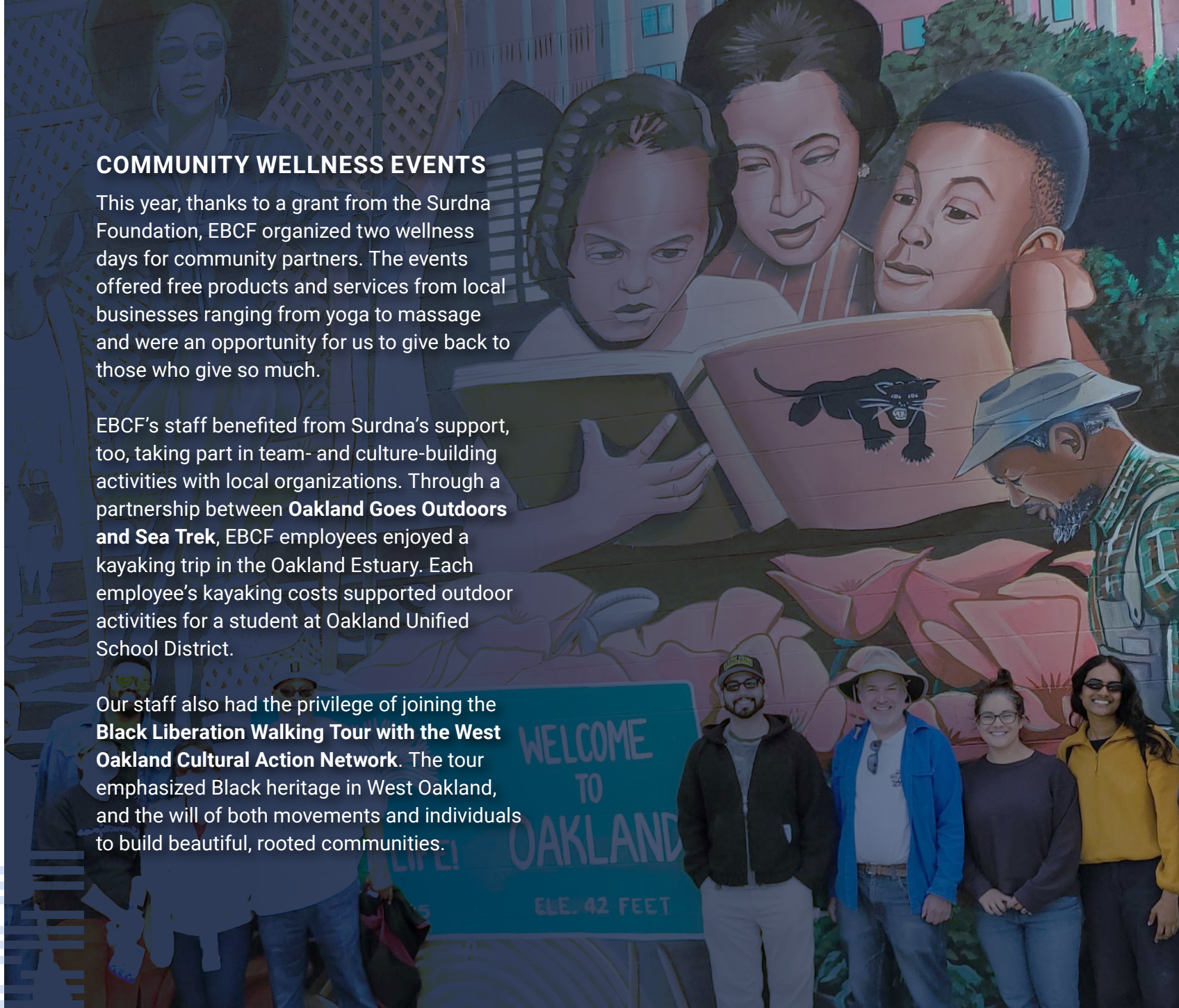


COMMUNITY WELLNESS EVENTS

This year, thanks to a grant from the Surdna Foundation, EBCF organized two wellness days for community partners. The events offered free products and services from local businesses ranging from yoga to massage and were an opportunity for us to give back to those who give so much.

EBCF’s staff benefited from Surdna’s support, too, taking part in team- and culture-building activities with local organizations. Through a partnership between **Oakland Goes Outdoors** and **Sea Trek**, EBCF employees enjoyed a kayaking trip in the Oakland Estuary. Each employee’s kayaking costs supported outdoor activities for a student at Oakland Unified School District.

Our staff also had the privilege of joining the **Black Liberation Walking Tour with the West Oakland Cultural Action Network**. The tour emphasized Black heritage in West Oakland, and the will of both movements and individuals to build beautiful, rooted communities.



People often ask me what makes East Bay Community Foundation different from other donor-advised fund (DAF) providers. Here's the simplest answer: we do much more than hold and process charitable dollars.

When national DAF providers stopped allowing grants to the Southern Poverty Law Center in early 2026, many donors called us looking for a partner whose values aligned with their own. We were glad to take those calls, but at EBCF, values alignment is just the beginning.

Every day, our philanthropic advisors keep donors informed about emerging community needs, connect them directly to the people and projects shaping the East Bay's future, and help them see around corners to tomorrow's opportunities. Whatever your passion—youth leadership, affordable housing, immigrant rights, or something else entirely—our team is here for you.

Whether you're considering an outright gift or want a partner in planning your legacy, we'll help you make an impact. It's our privilege to help put your values to work in ways that strengthen the East Bay and beyond.



Janelle Cavanagh
Janelle Cavanagh
CHIEF PHILANTHROPY OFFICER

Start a new
fund at EBCF

Replenish your fund to
increase your impact

Support
EBCF's work in
the East Bay

Join us!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY

philanthropy@eastbaycf.org

Join our
community of
professional
advisors

Include the East Bay
in your estate plan

Make a gift
to a community
partner