



BAYVIEW COMMUNITY HEROES RECOGNITION EVENT

MARCH 22, 2024

CELEBRATING REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS
BY AMAZING LEADERS AND COMMUNITY
HEROES IN THE BAYVIEW HUNTERS POINT





The Legacy Foundation was established as part of the Bayview Hunters Point Shipyard Redevelopment Project to intentionally strengthen the Bayview community as the neighborhood's physical environment undergoes transformation. The Legacy Foundation is overseen by a Board of Directors that is reflective of the community and other agencies.

The goal of the Legacy Foundation's programs is to benefit low- and moderate-income families; eliminate blight; and to meet other urgent community development needs of the Bayview Hunters Point community through neighborhood building, education & workforce improvement and expanding homeownership opportunities. The Legacy Foundation firmly believes that a well-educated, highly skilled workforce may be the most important ingredient in strengthening the economy and ensuring a higher quality of life in Bayview Hunters Point.



DR. VERONICA HUNNICUTT
CHAIR OF THE LEGACY FOUNDATION

Dr. Veronica Hunnicutt, Chair of the Legacy Foundation, is also the CEO and Founder of The Hunnicutt Foundation, an organization that offers transformative learning experiences for individuals, families, and communities. Her organization provides scholarships, equity, and access to a multicultural and culturally diverse body of individuals through solutions-oriented workshops, community forums, empowerment festivals, financial literacy programs, self esteem and life skills platforms, men's and women's forums, and re-entry and jobs programs.

EMCEE
OF THE BAYVIEW HEROES
RECOGNITION EVENT

For over 41 years, Dr. Hunnicutt served as the Dean at the Office of Student Affairs, as the Dean of the Southeast Campus, and as an English professor in both the English and Engineering Departments at City College of San Francisco. She is the author of **Straight Talk - How to Survive and Thrive as a Young Man of Color.**



THIS

RECOGNITION EVENT

MADE POSSIBLE BY:

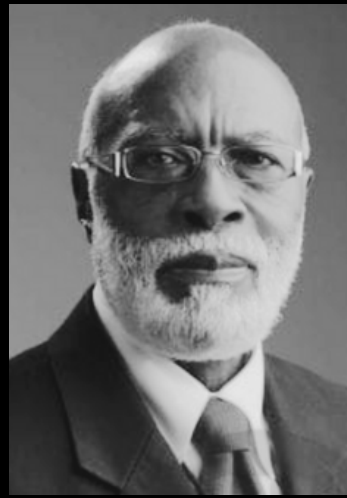


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MEET
The Heroes



Dorris Vincent Changemaker Award



LINDA FADEKE RICHARDSON

Commissioner Linda Fadeke Richardson has made tremendous contributions to the Bayview, the City & County of San Francisco, the Bay Region and the State of California spanning decades. She's a Land Use, Housing, Environmental Justice, Transportation and Sustainable Development expert.

Linda Fadeke Richardson is a nationally recognized leader and pioneer in the environmental movement in San Francisco possessing over three decades of advocacy and leadership in the implementation of Sustainable Development projects in the San Francisco Bay Area, with an emphasis on the Bayview and the San Francisco Southeast Sector.

Commissioner Linda Fadeke Richardson served on the Founding Commission of the Southeast Facility Commission. As President, she worked on the preservation of the legacy of the SECF ensuring the promised community benefits and partnership agreements secured with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and the City are up held. Additionally, she was appointed by San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, JR. to a 12-member ad hoc committee whom were instrumental in securing the first 1.5 billion dollars for the San Francisco Public Utilities Capital Improvements.

She's a proud recipient of numerous awards including recognitions by U.S Congress by Speaker Pelosi, the San Francisco NAACP and other awards. Ms. Richardson is extremely grateful and honored to be recognized with distinguished community leader, Dr. Veronica Hunnicutt, by the Southeast Facility Commission and staff.

Dorris Vincent Changemaker Award



OFFICER JJ (JASON JOHNSON)

Officer Jason Johnson, fondly known as Officer JJ, is a 15-year veteran of the San Francisco Police Department. Officer JJ has dedicated most of his career to serving and mentoring youth in the Bayview District.

With a passion to empower and educate youth, Officer JJ founded Operation Genesis Inc. in May 2015. Officer JJ's signature program is the Genesis Academy-A Journey to Self-Discovery, where He takes youth and adult chaperones on a fully paid trip to Ghana, Africa.

Officer JJ has also created other youth centered programs that include the Youth Career Academy, Glow Up Girls' Group, Body Engineer Fitness, Community Essential Relief, and most recently Neighborhoods United. To date Officer JJ has effortlessly served over 300 youth and their families and continuously shows up for the community and those in need. When Officer JJ is not on duty, he enjoys spending quality time with his family, traveling, reading, and growing spiritually.

Bishop Lee Unsung Hero Award



MAIKA PINKSTON

Maika Pinkston the founder of FROM THE HEART, a community based organization in Bayview Hunters Point, District 10. From The Heart offers a stream of consistent programming initiatives that include providing youth employment opportunities, leading city wide community beautifications and clean ups, addressing food security and environmental justice, supporting the senior population,

violence prevention, and tenant advocacy. She has successfully executed presentations and public testimonies to elected officials at state and local level, regarding the needs and services for tenant and housing advocacy, community inclusion, system improvements, and racial equity.

In 2018, she began educating the community on living a natural and healthy lifestyle. She educates the community by using social media and advancing Healthy Events using sound healing, paint therapy and providing organic healthy groceries to the community with healthy recipes. Maika continues to love and support urban communities, providing youth with employment and cleaning the community streets. Her hard work manifests the concept, **"A clean environment is a healthy and safe environment."**

Bishop Lee Unsung Hero Award



DOROTHY WITHERSPOON

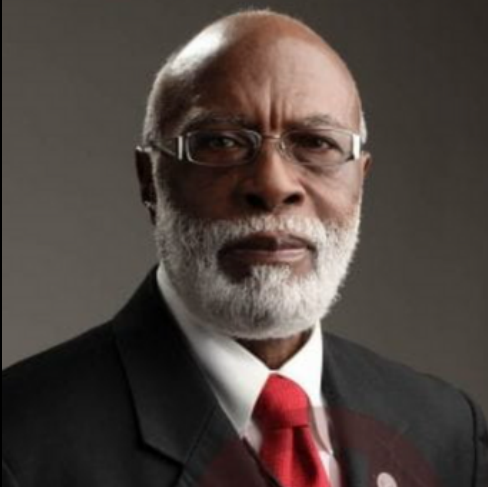
Dorothy Morris Witherspoon is a beacon of hope and resilience in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood of San Francisco, California.

Born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1924, Dorothy's life is a testament to unwavering service, pioneering leadership, and compassionate care.

A natural nurturer from a young age, she has dedicated eighty years to enriching the lives of those in her city, state, and nation through her professional and volunteer work. Dorothy was the first black woman appointed to the State Board of Psychiatric Technicians by Governor Jerry Brown, and earned a Bachelor of Theology at seventy, further highlighting her lifelong commitment to growth and service.

As we celebrate Dorothy M. Witherspoon's 100th birthday and honor her with the Unsung Hero Award, we are reminded of the profound impact one person can have on their world. Dorothy's life teaches us that service is not just an act, but a way of life, and her story continues to inspire us all to cultivate a more compassionate and resilient community.

Oscar James Legacy Award



REVEREND ARELIOUS WALKER

Reverend Arelious Walker, born in small-town Atlanta, Texas, in 1931, moved to San Francisco in 1956 in search of work opportunities. The legendary community pastor opened his True Hope Church of God in Christ in the Bayview District on May 12, 1968, with the help of his wife, Hazel Walker.

He led one of the most effective jail ministries in the nation and aided the lives of countless citizens. His Caring and Restoration Home helped ex-offenders make their transition from prison into the real-world. He was quick to give attention to the vast difference in incarceration between neighborhoods like Pacific Heights and the Tenderloin or Bayview. He was especially influential in offering the church as an alternative to drugs and crime in the Bayview, having gathered hundreds of people for talks of drug rehabilitation, strongly announcing that “when you accept Christ, you have no withdrawal.”

Rev. Arelious Walker has now lived in the Bayview and led the True Hope Church for over 50 years alongside his wife Hazel and his five children. Pastor Walker has continued to passionately work to bring jobs, housing, needed services, and equity to southeast San Francisco.

Oscar James Legacy Award



DR. JOE MARSHALL

Dr. Joseph Marshall is an educator, lecturer, and community organizer, who strives to eliminate or reduce physical and psychic violence in the lives of young people by promoting academic achievement and non-involvement with drugs. He is the Co-founder and Executive Director of Alive & Free, started in 1987 as the Omega Boys Club.

The Alive & Free organization provides at-risk, inner-city youth a support system that functions as a surrogate family by encouraging and supporting them in academic pursuits and helping send young men and women to college. On leave from the San Francisco Unified School District, where he was a teacher and administrator for twenty-five years, he gives motivational lectures throughout the country and serves on the advisory board of the Community Violence Prevention Program at the Harvard University School of Public Health. Dr. Marshall also founded the Alive & Free Movement, which is dedicated to eliminating violence in the lives of young people worldwide.

Dr. Marshall wanted to engage the youth on a personal level, to allow them to speak about real issues in their life. He made it clear to the students that “if you stick with the program, you pick the college and I’ll find a way to get you there.” He believes “that if you do good things, good things will happen” (The Joe Marshall Plan), and his organization has supported hundreds of college graduates.

Omar Butler Youth Leadership Award



SHAVONNE HINES-FOSTER

Shavonne Hines-Fosters was born in San Francisco raised in a single parent household by her mom, Yvonne Hines, a San Francisco small business owner. Growing up, she saw the inequities between different sides of the city. Which later cultivated into a passion for speaking up and representing her community.

Shavonne attended San Francisco's Lowell High School, where she served as the San Francisco Unified School District student delegate to the Board of Education, where she was instrumental in the introduction of new policies to promote culture shifts, such as a resolutions to fix its admissions policy and Title IX reporting process to support survivors. She continued to remain active by serving her new school community at Hampton. In her first year, she served on the Student Government Association Senate as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Co-Chair. Shavonne currently serves on Hampton University's Student Government Association Cabinet and Women's Caucus. Shavonne continues to serve her community by bridging the gap to higher education. In 2022, Shavonne created her own \$2,000 scholarship titled "My Voice, My Power" awarded to a San Francisco public school student that values community based leadership within themselves. Shavonne is also a part of In Our Own Voice's 2022-2024 Next Generation Leadership Institute as a Reproductive Justice Fellow. Recently, Shavonne was recognized by Xceleader as HBCU Student Leader of the Year. She remains active while representing Hampton University when working with organizations like When We All Vote, Supermajority, Running Start, and the Human Rights Campaign. Shavonne plans to continue to serve San Francisco, Hampton, and other communities in need. Shavonne's activism and leadership has been highlighted in the Washington Post, New York Times, and KQED.

Omar Butler Youth Leadership Award



RANDY SERIGUCHI, JR.

"Reform will require more than representation—it will require reflection. Future change agents and leaders need to see themselves in the change agents and leaders of today. I still have a lot more growth to do personally, socially, and professionally, and I think it is too late to count myself as a leader of tomorrow. The time for my contribution will be here sooner than that."

Knowing that I'm not yet ready to jump into the leadership fray, the best gift I can give to the future leaders of the movement is to help prepare the space for their arrival. One of the most important components of that preparation is our presence—we need to be here, whatever we define "here" to be. I've learned firsthand that "if you're not at the table, you're on the menu." Surge is helping us find our seats, and we're hungry."

Randy Seriguchi, Jr. is the former Executive Director of Urban Ed Academy (UEA), a non-profit based in Bayview Hunters Point in San Francisco, CA that serves elementary school boys of color. Randy Seriguchi, Jr. wants to compete with the school-to-prison pipeline and believes that every child can learn at high levels when given the right tools, adult leadership, and environment to thrive. He believes success for our boys should come by any means necessary. Money, resources, and time should be spent until we get our intended result: focused development of boys who will become productive men. Randy was dedicated to recruiting Black male teachers and providing housing support to ensure Black educators can live in the Bay Area.

Randy is an active member of the New York State Bar Association, holds a Juris Doctor degree from the American University Washington College of Law, and received his B.A. in English from the University of Michigan.

Linda Richardson Community Activist Award

DEDRIA SMITH



Dedria Smith was born and raised in Bayview Hunters Point and considers community service to be her lifestyle and life's work. Currently she helps residents get jobs, housing, and other essential resources. She works with community members of all ages and is especially successful in bringing different generations together and reaching diverse groups.

Dedria researches to learn as much information as possible about the programs available to the community members, and travels to various locations like public housing facilities in order to share resources with those in need. She is dedicated to increasing voter registration and getting people to the polls, and works in our community to "get out the vote."

Dedria is willing to help where help is needed and is a voice and steadfast advocate for those who often can't or won't speak up. Believing all deserve chances and opportunities, Dedria helps community members of all ages and backgrounds get into workforce training and apprentice programs and colleges, particularly those reentering the community after incarceration. She supports new pathways and opportunities for seniors and the disabled and hopes her work will leave a legacy that inspires others to serve.

She is a mother of three wonderful college graduates pursuing professional careers; including her son Diangelo, an intern engineer appointed to help build the Southeast Center. She is a member of Calvary Hill Church in the Bayview and of the Hunters Point Shipyard Citizens Advisory Committee.

Linda Richardson Community Activist Award



JANET BROWN

A San Francisco native and Bayview Hunters Point resident, Janet Brown was recruited to Bayview Senior Services (BHPMSS) in 2013. As the Housing Matters Director, Janet leads a team group of dedicated housing case managers who have helped hundreds of families and individuals at risk of losing their housing and helping people experiencing

homelessness overcome barriers to getting into housing. Janet has been a fierce advocate of San Francisco's Certificate of Preference program, which aims to address Black residents' displacement from the Bayview Hunters Point and Western Addition/Fillmore communities.

Before joining BHPMSS, Janet worked as the Director of Resident Services for Northridge Cooperative Homes in Hunters Point, where she provided guidance, advocacy, and technical assistance for residents at risk of eviction by filing appeals, writing letters, calling housing managers, and attending hearings.

Janet is tireless and fearless in her advocacy for those who are marginalized. Even when not at work, Janet can often be seen distributing food, toiletries, blankets, and generators for people living in their vehicles. Her passion and skills for leveraging resources to uplift those in need are invaluable to the community.