

Letter from the Executive Director

"We Can Do More Together"

The team at the Oakland Peace Center is gearing up for a year of phenomenal programs in 2017, but I could not let this moment pass without acknowledging what we accomplished together in our last fiscal year (August 2015-July 2016).

San Francisco, San Jose and Oakland show up in lists of the Top Five Most Expensive Cities to Live In. Five years ago, we did not anticipate that the Oakland Peace Center would play a crucial role in stopping the displacement of a dozen essential nonprofits in Oakland. But we are so glad we had the foresight to create an affordable space for nonprofits to serve the community. **In the last year, partly thanks to our 40,000 square foot facility, our 40 partners served over 86,000 people.** That includes groceries distributed to neighbors in need, It includes yoga classes for underserved communities. It includes wrestling classes for Mongolian children and youth. It includes nonviolence trainings in jails and prisons. It includes workshops on addressing the needs of the Black immigrant community. It includes work to de-escalate violence in the street as well as work to end state-sanctioned violence.

We could not accomplish all this work on our own: we are a staff of 1.5 plus occasional dynamic interns. But our forty partner organizations accomplish so much more because of our space and our support and our ability to connect them with each other. We are excited to expand on that work in the coming year, thanks to your support.

*Peace Starts With You. Violence, Hate, and Injustice End With Us.
We Can Do More Together.*

Peace,



Sandhya Jha, executive director

PS: You can support the work of the Oakland Peace Center by joining our volunteers (email info@oaklandpeacecenter.org) or by donating to support the amazing programs happening in the coming year (<http://oaklandpeacecenter.org/donation>). You can also sign up for our monthly newsletter to learn about our partners' work every month by emailing caleb@oaklandpeacecenter.org!

The Oakland Peace Center is a community of artists, activists, cultural workers, educators and non-profits collaborating to bring about a city of hope, justice, nonviolence and compassion.



Where would we be without amazing volunteers?! In May 2016, 75 volunteers and 100 donors came together for a mini-Miracle Day where we did some serious building beautification!

Volunteers also curated major events, helped promote partner organizations, and much more!

PRIORITIES FOR FY '15-'16 AND BEYOND Doing More Together For the Sake of Peace

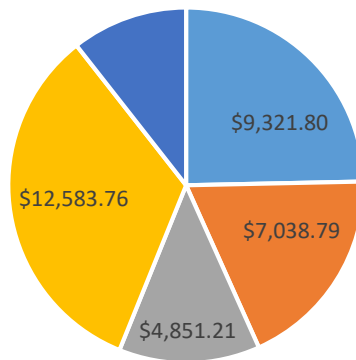
The Oakland Peace Center is two things: (1) a **physical space** with a very small staff and board and (2) a **collective** of 40 organizations working together to create **equity, access and dignity for all (people and creation) in the Bay Area**. Believing that together we can do more, the Oakland Peace Center seeks to support and connect its partners through the following priorities, all of which began in the 2015-16 fiscal year and will continue in the coming fiscal year:

1. Serving as a **nonprofit incubator** and community "one-stop shop" to help nonprofits not only stay in the area but alleviate their non-program related burdens (administrative, reception, mail, faxing, etc.). We hope to support our partners so they can focus on what they do best: provide programs to create peace.
2. The development of a **Community Advisory Board** to guide our priorities. As the Bay Area faces increasing gentrification, we are building a community advisory board of people served by our partner organizations to help us remain grounded in the needs and gifts of longtime Oakland and Bay Area residents.
3. In 'FY 2016-2017, the Oakland Peace Center will inherit our 40,000 square foot historic building from First Christian Church of Oakland. We have begun to engage in a **capital campaign to refurbish the building** and hope to build affordable housing on our property to serve our community better.
4. Our partners and others are developing a strategy to **expose a minimum of 20% of Oakland residents to nonviolent movement building strategies** by connecting them to great programs that already exist. The project's nickname is The Flatlander School, in honor of the Highlander School in Tennessee, which was central to the civil rights' movement's great victories.



The Oakland Peace Center co-sponsored a powerful and diverse interfaith International Women's Day event in March 2016 focusing on the role of women in ending violence, joining with women all over the world. Thanks to OPC friend Rev. Cheryl Ward for her leadership!

Oakland Peace Center Expenses August 2015-July 2016



■ Program ■ Administration and taxes ■ Fundraising ■ Salary ■ Strategic planning and organizational development

Total income: \$41,169.63
In-kind donations: \$15,000, est.

Total expenses: \$38,795.56
Volunteer hours: 3,500, est.

Oakland Peace Center staff FY '15-'16:

Sandhya Jha (Executive Director)
 Stevens Carter (Facilities Coordinator)
 Rachel Thomson (Intern)

Oakland Peace Center Board FY '15-'16:

Karen Barrett
 Peggy Bristol
 Patricia Contreras Flores
 Aimee Fields
 Sandhya Jha (President)
 Gus Newport
 E.J. Pavia (Secretary)
 Angela Urata (Treasurer)



Partners new and old

Some of our 40 partner organizations are off site, and a dozen have office space in our building. Our longtime partners include **Niroga Institute**, providing yoga and mindfulness to underserved communities; **Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy**, making sure workers have peace of mind by earning enough to support their families; and **Ella Baker Center**, creating alternatives to incarceration.

This year we were thrilled to welcome a new partner: **Seeds of Awareness**, transforming schools and lives through empathy work with children dealing with trauma. The sounds of staff playing basketball in the back yard with their students brings a little extra joy to our space. What amazing work our partners do!

The donors who make it possible for us to create peace:

Thank you to over 200 generous individual and organizational donors as well as the Gay Chemists Fund of the Horizons Foundation, Beneficial State Bank Foundation, and National Benevolent Association for your financial support.. Thanks to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California-Nevada and the Northern CA Conference of the United Church of Christ. We thank First Christian Church of Oakland for their vision almost ten years ago to repurpose this building for peace and partnership: the dream is real!

We can do more together!