



OAKLAND PEACE CENTER

OAKLANDPEACECENTER.ORG

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2018-2019 Annual Report

Bangan

Salām

Nala

Shalom

Kappia

Paz

Béke

Hacaña

Pace

Kedamaian

Paco

Friður

Shaamti

Mihs

Kareenan

K'é

Magogoso

Peace

Khotso

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www.oaklandpeacecenter.org

Letter from Executive Director



SANDHYA JHA
Founder and Executive Director

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Oakland Peace Center was **founded in 2012**
- We are comprised of **over 40** partner organizations that work at the intersections of social service, social and racial justice, inner peace, and culture shift in Oakland
- There are **over 300** community or partner events (and growing) hosted on our campus annually
- Peace is spelled many different ways. **We center Kingian non violence** in our work toward peace.
- **Sandhya Jha**, the founder of Oakland Peace Center, is the author of two books and travels the country as an anti-racism and anti-oppression trainer

IT FEELS ALMOST MAGICAL that a building can turn into something new while remaining the best of what it's always been.

In 1928, a faith community built our building, not foreseeing the numerous evolutions that our neighborhood (and our city) would go through. The building has served our community throughout every single one of those changes, and this past year alone, we've done so in myriad ways:

- We hosted a series of events created to help the community both grieve and resist gentrification through the arts.
- We created a way for the community to connect with the gifts of artists of color who do not get the space and points of connection they deserve.
- We partnered in creating a community garden with food available to all in need and with healing herbs from diverse cultural contexts with the goal of connecting Black youth in our community with their legacies that are connected to the land.
- We hosted legal groups working to protect immigrants and Black people from dangerous legislation.
- We supported partners' work to care for the individual needs of children dealing with trauma and lack of access to things like food and shelter.

For the past 5 years, the Oakland Peace Center has been working closely with our friends at First Christian Church of Oakland (the current owner of the building) to transfer the building into the name of Oakland Peace Center, and during our next fiscal year, we will sign a 99-year lease of the building. The preservation of cultural and social services as well as advocacy and organizing spaces in a quickly changing Oakland is paramount for our communities. Once the building is transferred, work with a nonprofit developer to undertake a multi-million dollar revitalization project to bring the building back to its former glory will begin.

The building is showing its 90 years, but the staff, partners, and the board bring an energy and vitality that mean we are positioning ourselves to do the following things for at least another 90 years to come: We will continue to provide affordable space for the organizations creating peace in Oakland; we will resource our partner organizations and help them resource each other so we can build a better, more effective, and more relational movement for peace and equity in Oakland; and we will continue to connect them to the communities that need what they have to offer and connect them to each other so that we can collectively cast (and implement) a vision for an equitable Oakland that no organization on its own is able to achieve.

I am so grateful to you who are reading this for the role you have played in getting us to this point. We cannot do this work alone. In the face of yet another era of deep shifts in our city, we need your continued support. Journey with us and together, we will build the peace-filled Oakland that we all deserve.

By the Numbers

People Served

+ 100,000

Income

+ 40%

Number of Donors

+ 50%

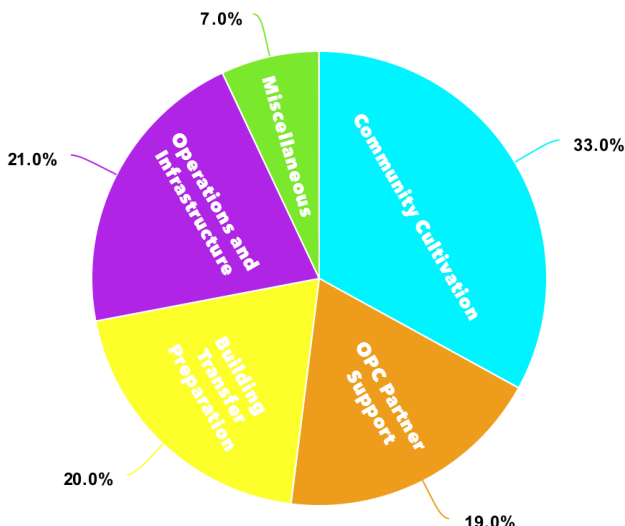
Foundation Income

+ 56%

Individual Gifts

+ 89%

Expenses Breakdown



Mission

The Oakland Peace Center provides needed space, hosts collaborative events and trainings, and creates a network of emotional and spiritual support for the 40+ organizations who partner in its work. These organizations pursue access, opportunity, justice, and inner peace throughout the Bay Area, each in their own way. They turn to the Oakland Peace Center to fortify and amplify these efforts through solidarity and cross-pollination. The Oakland Peace Center inspires these organizations to participate in a vision larger than that of any individual or member organization.

Facility

At over 40,000 square feet, the Oakland Peace Center campus (built in 1928) offers refuge and a unique and expansive space for nonprofits to collaborate in a cityscape that is quickly changing. Clidell "Franceyez" Jackson III, our facilities coordinator, lovingly cares for our building, which requires continual upkeep. Some major additions to the building this year have included the installation of the "Integral Wheel of Nonviolence" mural, a new sign for the Oakland Peace Center on the corner of Fairmount Avenue and 29th Street, and many general, much-needed repairs to water faucets, gas lines, plumbing, and lighting throughout the building.

Programs

Over the course of the year, the Oakland Peace Center housed over 300 events hosted either by the Oakland Peace Center itself or its partners. This included the Oakland Peace Center's annual neighborhood BBQ, an ice cream social, a "living pantry" community garden planting, and Neighborhood Night Out, our community-focused alternative to the National Night Out.

Partners



In May of 2019, Oakland Peace Center partnered with Planting Justice and Hummingbirds Urban Farming Collective to plant a “living pantry” community garden on Fairmount Avenue where we welcome anyone who needs to take fresh, healthy food.



The annual Neighborhood BBQ hosted at the Oakland Peace Center in April of 2019



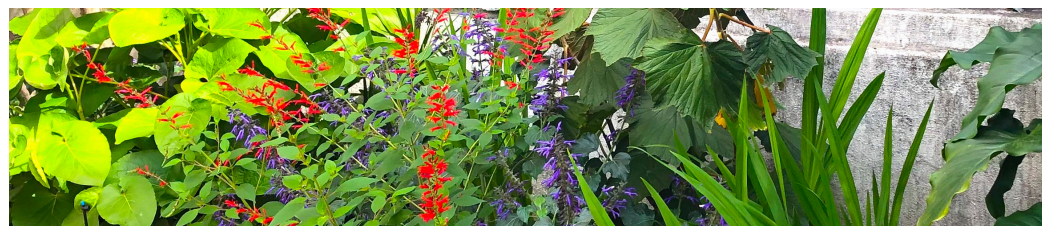
Members of the Oakland Peace Center team helping assemble the lanterns that hung during the inaugural Oakland Peace Festival organized by in-house partner, Nomadic Press

The lifeblood of the Oakland Peace Center are the relationships we hold with partner organizations within the building and outside within our city of Oakland. Our 40+ in-house and at-large partners include educators, advocates, social changemakers, publishers, spiritual activists, justice seekers, empowered youth, prophetic artists, and inspired musicians, all of whom pursue access, opportunity, justice, and inner peace throughout the Bay Area each in their own way.

Alliance of South Asians Taking Action
Better Birth Foundation
Black Alliance for Just Immigration*
Black Organizing Project
boonachepresents
bluu speaks
Buddhist Church of Eternal Enlightenment*
Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency
CircleUp Education
East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy
East Point Peace Academy*
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy
First Christian Church of Oakland*
First Mongolian Christian Church*
Growing Together
Impact Hub Oakland
InSolidarity (Partners for Collaborative Change)
International Peace and Art Center
JustUs Kitchen
Krip Hop Nation
Labrys School
Mind Body Awareness Project
Nafsi ya Jamii

New Beginnings Sister Circle
Niroga Institute*
Nomadic Press*
Oakland Leadership Center
Oakland Peace Ambassadors
OneLife Institute*
Pastors of Oakland
POOR Magazine
Project Darreis
Project Peace East Bay
Seeds of Awareness*
SOS Juice
Soul Shoppe*
St. Mary's Center
Sunflower Alliance
the Table
The Law office of Peggy Bristol/
Mustard Seed Immigration Law
Project (a project of Tapestry
Ministry)
United Roots/Youth Impact Hub
Oakland
Urban Peace Movement
Urban Releaf
YES!

* indicates that the partner is “in house” and has offices within the Oakland Peace Center building



Staff

We were blessed to have two staff members come on board who helped shape the positions of Operations Manager and Peace and Partnerships Communicator, Kristy Higare and Todd Atkins-Whitley, respectively. They helped set these positions up for long-term success.



ALEXANDRA CANDIA
Operations Manager



J. K. FOWLER
Director of
Communications for
Peace and Partnerships



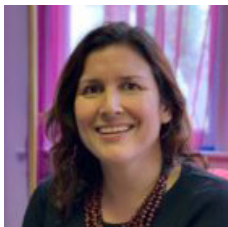
**CLIDELL "FRANCEYEZ"
JACKSON III**
Facilities Coordinator



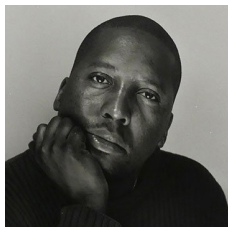
KRISTY HIGARES
Past Operations
Manager



SANDHYA JHA
Executive Director
Founder



SABRINA PATRICK-URRUTIA
Director of Programs and
Partnerships



MARVIN K. WHITE
Past Artist in
Residence

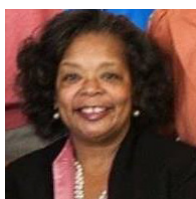


TODD ATKINS-WHITLEY
Past Peace and
Partnerships
Communicator

Board



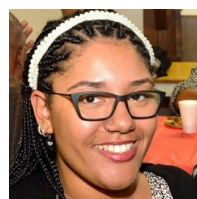
RENATO ALMANZOR



KAREN BARRETT



PEGGY BRISTOL
Secretary



AIMEE FIELDS

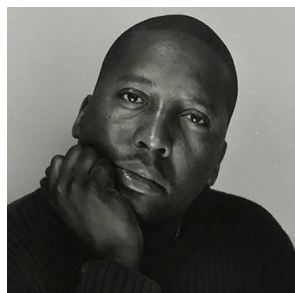


SANDHYA JHA
President



ANGELA URATA
Treasurer

Artist in Residence



The 2018-19 fiscal year gave us the great opportunity to host a year of programming focused around the intersection of the arts and anti-displacement. Thanks to grants from the San Francisco and Akonadi Foundations and generous crowdfunding, we were able to hire Marvin K. White as our Artist-in-Residence. Marvin hosted a monthly series called "The Sanctified Mic" to feature the gifts of undervalued artists of color and particularly Black artists, and another monthly series called "In the Wake of the Quiet Hours," borrowing from Black funerary practices to allow for collective grieving, healing and even movement building in regards to many issues, particularly the way the displacement crisis has destroyed families and communities with no formal way to grieve them. The prophetic and creative voice was a real throughline in the work of the OPC during the 18-19 fiscal year thanks to the visionary talent and connections of Marvin during his residency with us.

Building Highlight

As we have been preparing for a building transfer from First Christian Church of Oakland to the Oakland Peace Center, we have often gleefully reflected on the long history of the building that we call home.

When originally built in 1928, which of the founding inhabitants could have imagined that 111 Fairmount Avenue in Oakland would in 2018-2019 serve as a home base and gathering space collectively serving over 100,000 Oakland residents, all of whom are working toward the peace, dignity, equity, justice, and access of all Oakland and Bay Area residents?



Event Highlights



Co-sponsored International Day of Peace event (September 21) led by OneLife Institute featuring Alice Walker.



Hosted Community Peacemakers Festival where neighbors learned about how ancestors' cooking techniques, mindfulness, photography and writing could all contribute to creating peace in 1,000 different ways.



Launched the Insider/Outsider art exhibit (September/October 2018) at the OPC featuring the art of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated peacemakers trained by OPC partner East Point Peace Academy, with support from the International Peace and Arts Center and with live presentations by Beyond Bars.



Hosted six-month In the Wake of the Quiet Hours series for the community to grieve the impacts of displacement and begin to create new visions together. Co-hosted by Marvin K. White and Angela Hennessey.



Hosted six-month Sanctified Open Mic reading series highlighting the gifts of Black and POC artists as a practice of cultural preservation.



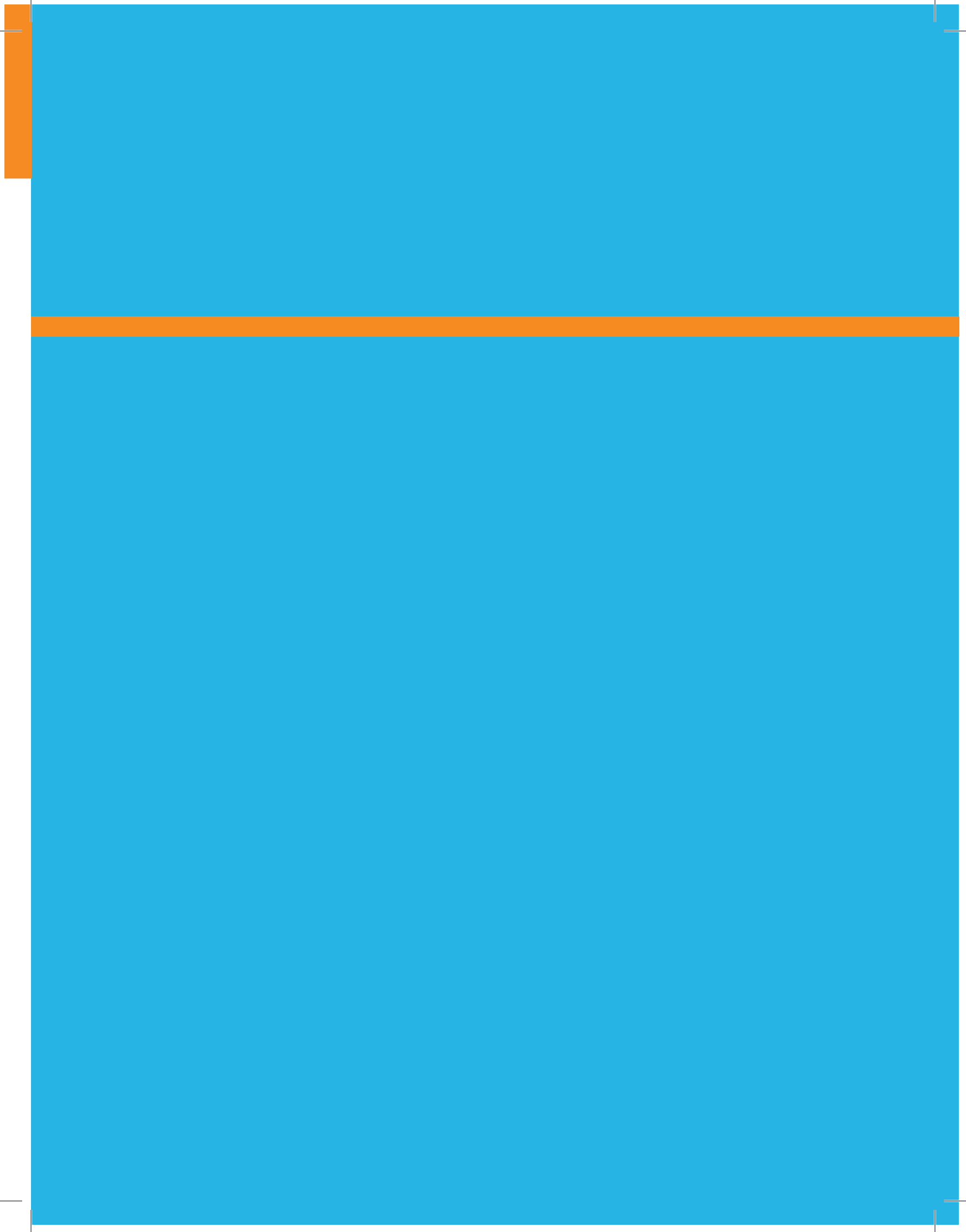
Planted the afrocentric Bayii community garden/living food pantry and healing garden at the Oakland Peace Center, led by Hummingbirds Urban Farm and with support from Planting Justice. Bayii is swahili for "home."

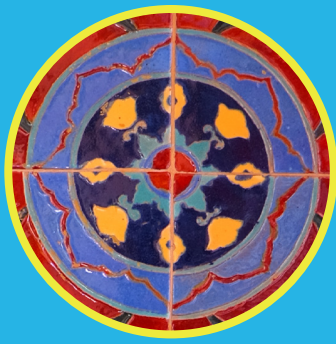


Hosted three neighborhood events (January, May, and July) to deepen neighbor relations. As Oakland demographics shift, this provided an opportunity to create an expectation that living in this neighborhood means knowing each other and investing in each other and peace. Co-sponsored by First Christian Church of Oakland with support by the FAITHs Initiative of the San Francisco Foundation.



Hosted Oakland Peace Center workday 2018 where over 40 volunteers from around the community came together to beautify the OPC campus by painting, cleaning, planting, and building.





Visit us
111 Fairmount Avenue
Oakland, California 94611
oaklandpeacecenter.org

