

## **Our Children, Our Families Council**

### **Summary of Resilient Bayview**

*(Last Updated 6/23/15)*

#### **Goals of the Effort**

Resilient Bayview (RBV) is a community based planning project that leverages the framework of the Neighborhood Empowerment Network's (NEN) Empowered Communities Program. The mission of the Empowered Communities Program is to empower the leaders of San Francisco communities to build strong and resilient neighborhoods by providing them streamlined access to the expertise and resources of the members of the NEN as they work to develop and implement a Resilient Action Plan. Resilient Bayview's vision, as articulated in the Bayview Resilient Action Plan from April 2015, is that "in times of stress, this community [i.e. Bayview] will collectively respond with confidence and compassion and is ideally positioned to receive increased investment as a result of leadership vision and actionable plans.

#### **Focal Population of the Effort**

Resilient Bayview is a project focused on empowering the entire Bayview community, yet "with a focus on supporting members of the population who may be in a more vulnerable state to respond to a time of stress or recover quickly after a disaster," namely youth, seniors, and monolingual, non-English speaking populations.

#### **Impact**

One major effort of the RBV initiative has been the creation of the Resilient Youth Leadership Academy. In the fall of 2014 two Resilient Bayview partners, the A. Philip Randolph Institute and the SF Dept. of Environment, partnered to develop an eight week immersive learning program for young people ages 15 to 17. The goal of the program is to help them secure the skills and abilities to achieve their individual professional goals as well as strengthen their capacity to be civic leaders in their community in the face of stressors such as climate change and changing socio-economic conditions. In June of 2015, 10 young people began the first annual Resilient Youth Leadership Academy, which will conclude in July. RBV also officially launched its 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Corridor initiative in May of 2015, which brings together community leaders to enliven and revitalize 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Bayview's central commercial corridor

#### **Challenges**

Bayview is a community with many needs, and RBV has found it difficult to generate community consensus on which issues to prioritize. The community leaders involved in the RBV initiative represent a diverse array of stakeholders, each of which has a different idea on how best to empower the community. In its first two years, RBV has worked hard to hear the input from many community members and pursue initiatives that the community can agree will move Bayview in the right direction.

#### **Origins of the Effort**

In 2007, an alliance of residents, neighborhood and merchant associations, non-profits and faith-based organizations, foundations and academic institutions was created around a simple mission – empowering the neighborhoods of San Francisco with the capacity to steward themselves to a resilient condition. The alliance assumed the name of the Neighborhood Empowerment Network (NEN) and over the last six years it has leveraged the resources and expertise within its ranks to advance resilience at the community level with a bottom up grass roots approach. In early 2013, NEN's Empowered Communities Program spread to Bayview. A group of Bayview's non-profits, small businesses, faith-based organizations, residents, and city agency stakeholders came together to create Resilient Bayview.

#### **Leading the Effort**

Daniel Homsey currently serves as the Director of Neighborhood Resilience for the City and County of San Francisco, and he oversees Resilient Bayview and other Resilient Communities across the city. He was appointed Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services in 2004 and came into his current position in 2008 after launching the Neighborhood Empowerment Network with the SF General Services Agency and the Department of Emergency

Management in 2007. Among RBV community members, leadership consists of six appointed Community Leads who shape the long-term vision of the initiative and who also take ownership over the six RBV work groups.

### **Members of the Effort**

Daniel Homsey serves as the only full-time staff member of the Resilient Bayview initiative, and he receives substantial support from Amanda Trescott, a part-time intern through San Francisco State University. Daniel Homsey is a salaried employee of the City and County of San Francisco, while Amanda Trescott's internship is funded through the Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund. RBV more broadly is entirely funded through the City Administrator's Office. Aside from the staff, RBV consists of 34 community leaders, divided into six work groups, with support from 18 Program Partners.

### Work Groups:

- Executive Steering Committee
- Crisis Management
- Vulnerable Populations
- Nonprofit and Small Business
- Youth and Families
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Corridor / Neighborhood Support Center Activation

### Members (\* denotes Community Lead):

- \*Andrea Baker, Bayview Town Center Activation
- \*Dan Dodt, Bayview Office of Community Planning
- \*G.L. Hodge, Providence Baptist Church
- \*Lyslynn Lacoste, BMAGIC
- \*Felisia Thibodeaux, BVHP Multi-Purpose Senior Services
- \*Eddy Zheng, Community Youth Center
- Amber Russel
- Anietie Ekanem
- Ashley DeSmeth
- Carol Domino-Twegbe
- Cyndy Comerford
- Daniel Homsey
- Daniel James
- Donna Fontenot
- Haley Curier
- Jessica Martin
- Judy Nemzoff
- Julie Veronica Perez
- Karen Nemsick
- LaMonte Bishop
- Malia Cohen
- Matt Wolff
- Mawuli Tugbenyoh
- Megan Stephenson
- Neil Hatten
- Robert Franklin
- Robert Watkins
- Sister Grace
- Sraddha Mehta
- Susan Schmitz
- Takija Gardner
- Teri Dowline
- Yamilet Gonzalez
- Yo Yoshida

### Program Partners:

- Appallicious
- BMAGIC
- Bayview Office of Community Planning
- Bayview YMCA
- City Administrator's Office
- Community Youth Center
- Department of Emergency Management
- Department of Public Health
- George Davis Senior Center
- Mercy Housing
- NERT
- Providence Church
- Public Utilities Commission
- Rebuilding Together
- San Francisco Housing Development
- San Francisco State University
- SF Card
- Southeast Health Center

### **Structure of the Effort**

Members of RBV's six work groups meet monthly, while the executive steering committee meets quarterly. At the work group meetings, community members set the agenda, action items, and next steps. The work group meetings also contain trainings run by Amanda Trescott or outside experts on community action. Meetings are posted online, so members of the public are welcome to attend. The majority of attendees, however, are RBV members. At any given Work Group meeting, roughly 15 RBV members are invited based on their assigned work group, and generally between 10 and 13 members attend.

### **The Role of Data**

Data plays an important role in informing RBV strategies and priorities. As evident in the RBV's Bayview Resilience Action Plan 2015, RBV compiles data from the American Community Survey, U.S. Census data, the San Francisco Planning Department, and other sources to gather a detailed understanding of the Bayview community.

### **Related Documents**

- San Francisco's Neighborhood Empowerment Network website <<http://empowersf.org/>>
- Resilient Bayview webpage within the NEN website <<http://empowersf.org/resilientbayview/>>
- Resilient Bayview Program Guide <<http://empowersf.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/RBV-Program-Guide.pdf>>
- Bayview Resilience Action Plan – April 2015