

FAITHS

Foundation Alliance through Interfaith to Heal Society

Michelle L. Myles Chambers

FAITHS Program Officer

MISSION

Foundation Alliance with Interfaith To Heal Society (FAITHS) enhances the human service delivery and advocacy capacity of San Francisco Bay Area faith organizations, builds relationships within and beyond the faith community, identifies opportunities to support strategic community development efforts, and educates philanthropy about strengthening communities through faith-based institutions.

May 2020



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HISTORY

The faith community has historically been at the forefront of advocating for racial and economic equity, and it remains a crucial voice today. In 1993, the foundation created the Foundation Alliance with Interfaith to Heal Society (FAITHS) — now a nationally recognized program — to enhance the work of faith-based organizations to organize and advocate for equitable policies and improve community services in their neighborhoods. Since its inception, the program has built an interfaith network of more than 600 congregations and other faith-based organizations that address critical community issues in the Bay Area, such as criminal justice, immigration reform, and affordable housing.

Directors/Program Officers of FAITHS

Dwayne S. Marsh (1994-1998)

Landon R. Williams (1998-2004)

Tessa Rouverol Callejo (2004-2016)

Michelle L. Myles Chambers (2016-present)



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FAITHS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



FAITHS consists of a diverse representation of the Bay Area's faith-based community leaders representing 5 counties: San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, and San Mateo. Quarterly meetings bring leaders together for trainings, information/resource sharing, and community reconnection.

SFF Equity Statement: Together with community leaders, nonprofits, and donors, we are committed to advancing racial equity and economic inclusion to ensure that everyone in the Bay Area has a chance to attend a good school, get a good job, live in a safe and affordable home, and have a strong political voice.

This list references a sample of our community leadership.

Community Leaders:

San Francisco Interfaith Council

Islamic Networks Group

Marin Interfaith Council

Interfaith Council of Alameda County

Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County

Northern California Board of Rabbis



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PROGRAMS

CAPACITY-BUILDING TRAININGS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

FAITHS Program presents the "A Model Built on Faith" program which is an annual workshop series designed to support faith-based and other non-profit leaders in creating communities of opportunity throughout the Bay Area. Our trainings are **FREE** and equip participants with the skills they need to develop stable organizations, design impactful programs and build passionate teams. Sessions are presented in workshop settings and small group intensives. Individual coaching sessions are also available. For more information, visit amodelbuiltonfaith.org.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

In partnership with the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, FAITHS provides trainings and policy briefings for its grantees and broader network. Through these trainings, faith- and community-based organizations learn how to successfully engage in nonpartisan voter registration, education and policy work that supports the foundation-wide focus on racial and economic equity.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS GRANTS

Every year, the FAITHS program provides grants to assist congregations and faith-based organizations to strengthen interfaith and race relations, increase civic and cultural participation, support leadership, and provide community service to low-income residents and communities of color.

Faith-based organizations in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo counties are eligible to apply for a grant for one to two years. Grants range from \$5,000-\$8,000 per year. Applications will be accepted in the fall of 2020.



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PARTNER COMMUNITY WORKS

We are multicultural/ethnic/spiritual base of faith leaders that provide different services in the areas of housing, food, community, COVID-19.... These are some of our partners in the community.



HOUSING

"Housing is tenuous, work is tenuous, securing food is tenuous for people that are newcomers. We knew when the crisis hit the population at large, that meant this community would be hit even harder. This community does not have reserves. This is not a matter of living check to check or week to week, for the people we work with it is day to day."

Deborah Lee, Executive Director
Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity



POLICY / ADVOCACY

"What can we do where we can highlight acts of radical welcome and inclusion in order to inspire more?" Quinn says of the thought behind the initiative. He hopes the positivity of the program becomes contagious, "so that the entire community can stand in solidarity and say, 'You are welcome here in the fullness of your humanity as you are.'"

Scott Quinn, Executive Director
Marin Interfaith Council



HOMELESSNESS

In 2018, the ICAC launched a program in which homeless people who live in their cars in Oakland will now be able to park overnight in church parking lots without being harassed.

Each site will feature an on-site security guard, portable toilets, hand-washing stations, drinking water, and security cameras.

Reverend Ken Chambers, President
Interfaith Council of Alameda County



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COVID-19 RESPONSE

COVID-19 BI-WEEKLY COMMUNITY RESPONSE MEETINGS

FAITHS implemented a bi-weekly call to provide timely support, information and resources to Bay Area faith-based organizations. These calls have included presentations by SF Mayor's Office of Housing, Bolder Advocacy training, Federal resources, and Nonprofit Housing Association of NorCal. We will continue these meetings until we have returned to our 'new' normal.

COVID-19 RAPID RESPONSE FUND

"We established the SFF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to support small nonprofits that are working on housing, food security, job loss, and to address people targeted by racism as a result of the pandemic. We have been inundated with proposals; as of today, 522 have been submitted, totaling more than \$11.8 million in requests. Faced with such an overwhelming need, we opted to give out more grants at lower funding levels since our fund is one of the few focusing on smaller grassroots organizations and is open for any nonprofit organization to apply. The fund is also responsive to the needs that have arisen over the past weeks, providing grants in emerging areas of need such as domestic violence." –Fred Blackwell, CEO SFF [Read more.](#)

[See full listing of Grantees.](#)



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PARTNER COMMUNITY WORKS

FOOD INSECURITY

FAITHS has partnered with the FruitGuys to distribute food boxes to FAITHS communities. They are planning on preparing a box of food approximately 16-18lbs.

MEDITATION FOR NONPROFIT STAFF

SFF is partnering with our longtime grantee Mindful Life Project to offer a series of virtual mindfulness workshops open to staff and volunteers at SFF grantee organizations and all Bay Area nonprofits.

CENSUS 2020

FAITHS has partnered with the Golden State Warriors to table for some of our home games to engage our fans around participating in the 2020 Census.



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SFF COMMUNITY WORKS

ADVOCACY/LEADERSHIP TRAINING

FAITHS has partnered with Bolder Advocacy provide practical tips to learn how to engage policymakers, candidates, and voters while remaining nonpartisan. Leaders will learn the basics of nonprofit advocacy law and gain the confidence to protect their communities and achieve deep systems change in these challenging times. Learn from Alliance for Justice's Bolder Advocacy attorney-trainers. Bolder Advocacy is the leading expert on the legal framework for nonprofit advocacy efforts. With training, technical assistance, and resources, they decode and demystify advocacy rules so that nonprofits can confidently and lawfully advocate for community change. [Read more.](#)

SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES FIRST

East Bay Community Foundation, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and The San Francisco Foundation, and the FAITHS program announced their support for the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act. If passed, this statewide ballot measure would restore more than \$11 billion annually to California's schools, health clinics, infrastructure, and other vital community services. The landmark initiative would close the commercial property tax loophole created by the passage of Proposition 13 while continuing to protect homeowners, renters, and small businesses. [Read more.](#)



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LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Leadership Team, with the partnership of LeaderSpring, is hosting a series of peer learning discussions for Women of Color Leaders as they navigate the multiple challenges of leadership in this unprecedented time of COVID-19, economic distress, and focus on racial injustice. The peer learning discussions focus on topics selected by participants and provide a unique and intimate forum for these extraordinary leaders to address the multiple challenges and opportunities they face in this moment.

The Leadership Team, comprised of four women of color staff at the San Francisco Foundation, advances our racial equity and economic inclusion agenda through direct community programs, grantmaking, and innovative projects all focused on the dynamic leaders in the Bay Area.

In addition to our joint Women of Color Leadership project, the Leadership Team members each lead SFF programs. We maintain two long-standing community-based programs: the Koshland Civic Unity Program, led by Retha Robinson, works with local leaders within a specific neighborhood, providing training, networking opportunities, and five years of funding for each neighborhood; and the FAITHS (Foundation Alliance with Interfaith to Heal Society) Program led by Michelle Myles Chambers works with faith-based organizations, providing training opportunities for congregations, and a forum for discussions and leadership on current regional issues. The Multicultural Fellowship Program, led by Claudia Paredes Corne, employs mid-career people of color for a two-year fellowship at the Foundation. Grants for leadership, led by Yolanda Alindor, serves to support organizations that provide training for leaders of color focused on systemic change.



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KOSHLAND FUND PARTNERSHIP



The Daniel E. Koshland Civic Unity Program was established in 1982 by the San Francisco Foundation as a memorial to one of its founders and major benefactors, Daniel E. Koshland, a businessman and philanthropist who committed himself to making the Bay Area a better place for all. The Koshland program recognizes Bay Area grassroots risk-takers and makes a five-year \$300,000 investment in their community. To date, the program has cultivated more than 500 fellows in nearly 30 neighborhoods throughout the Bay Area. Fellows have made great strides in their neighborhoods, including:

A neighborhood **welcome center** for immigrants and other newcomers in San Rafael's Canal neighborhood

A **workforce development** center in San Francisco's Excelsior neighborhood

A **scholarship program** for students in Hayward's Jackson Triangle/Harder Tennyson neighborhoods

A neighborhood-wide **mini-grants program** in San Pablo

An **after-school mentorship and tutoring** program in North Fair Oaks, an unincorporated area of Redwood City



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CONTACT US



Michelle L. Myles Chambers

FAITHS Program Officer

[mmc\[at\]sff.org](mailto:mmc[at]sff.org)

www.sff.org

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