

RICHMOND

—A Tale of Two Cities

Richmond has become a popular location for speculators who are eager to profit from its central location within the Bay Area, relatively affordable land, and existing transportation infrastructure. The waterfront and other neighborhoods offer immediate opportunities for the development of luxury apartments, condos, and upscale retail. However, for lower income families, the majority of whom are people of color and immigrants, Richmond remains an area of high crime, poor schools, limited employment opportunities and diminishing affordable housing stock. There are positive efforts currently underway to address these significant challenges and now is the time to forge a clear trail that will lead to the equitable development of Richmond.



REDI core partners include:

Urban Habitat
Contra Costa Faith Works!
East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy
The Center for Community Innovation, UC-Berkeley

Special thanks to our funders:

The Ford Foundation
The San Francisco Foundation
The California Endowment
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

There are many opportunities for Richmond residents to get involved in REDI campaigns.

For more information visit us on the web at <http://urbanhabitat.org/richmond> or call Urban Habitat at 510-839-9510.



Richmond Equitable Development Initiative



REDI promotes policies and planning practices to ensure that the future development of Richmond benefits low income people and communities of color.

What is REDI?

The Richmond Equitable Development Initiative (REDI) advances research, advocacy, organizing, and policy efforts to promote equitable development in Richmond. REDI works in partnership with community organizations, labor leaders, elected officials, and city staff to find creative and just solutions to problems associated with rapid development. We support reinvestment into core urban neighborhoods and policies that prevent the displacement of residents. REDI also encourages community involvement in local and regional decision-making processes, to ensure that policies and programs result in concrete benefits for Richmond's low-income communities and communities of color.

Our Vision

REDI envisions a community in which every Richmond resident has access to affordable housing, safe and reliable public transit that connects to living-wage jobs, quality education, a clean environment, health care and other essential services. We envision a city committed to development that puts existing residents' needs first, where urban revitalization provides opportunities for local businesses to thrive, where residents have access to quality jobs, and where local policies are promoted as part of a regional plan for achieving an equitable and sustainable Bay Area.



REDI Projects:

General Plan Campaign

The city of Richmond is currently revising its General Plan to establish the city's long-term vision, goals, and policy priorities as it grows over the next 25 years. REDI partners support an equitable development vision and are leading a campaign to ensure that the revised General Plan results in specific policies and practices that improve the lives of Richmond's low income residents and communities of color.

Leadership Institutes

To increase effective public participation in the General Plan revision process, REDI is providing an Equitable Development Leadership Institute to members of the following community-based organizations – Asian Pacific Environmental Network, ACORN, Ma'at Youth Academy, and Communities for a Better Environment. Our long-term goal is to build the capacity of community groups to play a leadership role in the city's planning and development processes.

REDI is also offering customized study sessions for Richmond's elected officials and city staff to support their efforts to develop a clear vision and concrete strategies for achieving equitable development goals.

Local Employment

In 2006, REDI and our labor and community partners won a campaign to expand and strengthen the city of Richmond's Local Employment Ordinance. The City Council approved REDI's proposed changes and the new ordinance now applies to all businesses that receive economic development subsidies and contracts from the City. As a result, the more stringent hiring requirement will open up hundreds of job opportunities for Richmond residents.

Tenant Rights Campaign

REDI is actively engaged in a campaign to enact a Just Cause and a Fair Rent Protection Ordinance in Richmond. A Just Cause ordinance would prevent landlords from evicting responsible and law abiding tenants without a legitimate or a valid reason. A Fair Rent Ordinance would limit annual rent increases once a tenant has moved in. REDI partners are building coalitions with community and labor groups in order to educate elected officials and the public through one-on-one meetings and community forums. The Just Cause and Fair Rent Campaign also builds community support for tenants by helping register renters to vote.

