

For Immediate Release --

Ten community/campus partnerships funded to improve quality of life in Richmond.

Richmond, CA, October 23, 2017: The Richmond Community Foundation and UC Berkeley are pleased to announce the funding of ten community/campus partnerships in Richmond that are collaborating to improve education, provide recreational activities for youth, strengthen local businesses, and address a variety of community needs. The one-time grants were made possible through a community partnership fund established by the university two years ago and administered through a partnership with the Richmond Community Foundation.

The grant recipients include a diverse array of Richmond organizations, including: RYSE, a youth development and leadership organization; the Richmond Main Street Initiative, which provides technical assistance to local businesses; the Safe Return Project, which provides support and leadership development to women and men who are returning to their communities from incarceration; and the RichmondBUILD Contractor's Resource Center which provides technical assistance to women and minority owned construction companies.

Chancellor Carol Christ said, "UC Berkeley is pleased to partner with this amazing set of community and public-sector organizations, and is grateful to each of them for providing our students and faculty with the opportunity to engage in applied research and public service projects that lead to community change."

The ten partnerships will receive grants ranging from \$5000 to \$15,000, totaling \$95,000. The Richmond Community Foundation managed the selection process with assistance from an advisory board of three community and three campus leaders who reviewed a total of 29 proposals for community improvement projects in the following areas: education and youth development; economic development; public health; and arts, culture and place-making. Summaries of the full set of funded projects can be reviewed [here](https://chancellor.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/ucb_rcpf_grant_recipients.pdf):
https://chancellor.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/ucb_rcpf_grant_recipients.pdf.

Eligibility to apply for the grants was limited to applicants that included at least one community and one campus partner, with a proven track record of working in partnership; and a viable strategy to address an urgent community need. Advisory Board Member Tammeil Gilkerson, who served as Vice President of Contra Costa College, said about the selection process, "This was a difficult task because we had so many good proposals. It's a real testament to the long history of collaboration between leading Richmond organizations and the university, that so many proposals were submitted," said Gilkerson.

"The Fund came along at just the right time for us to partner with UC Berkeley's Underground Scholars who are building a prison-to-university pipeline for formerly incarcerated Berkeley and Laney College students," said Tamisha Walker, the Executive Director of the Safe Return Project. "Now, with Contra Costa College on board, we expect to be supporting a new group of Underground Scholars from Richmond next year."

Amanda Elliott, Executive Director of the Richmond Main Street Initiative, which received a grant to work with the UC Berkeley Supply Chain, echoed Walker's comment about the timeliness of the fund's support. "This funding will make it possible for us to deepen our partnership with UC Berkeley, the City of Richmond and other local business capacity-building programs. The training workshops are designed

to help companies get certified to do business with UC Berkeley and other anchor institutions,” said Elliott.

“The Richmond Community Foundation is happy to help the university tap into the creativity and expertise here in Richmond,” said Jim Becker, the Foundation’s Director. “Many of the recipients have a history of doing impactful work. We know that by collaborating with their university partners, they can take their work further.”

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