

33 years of creative grantmaking

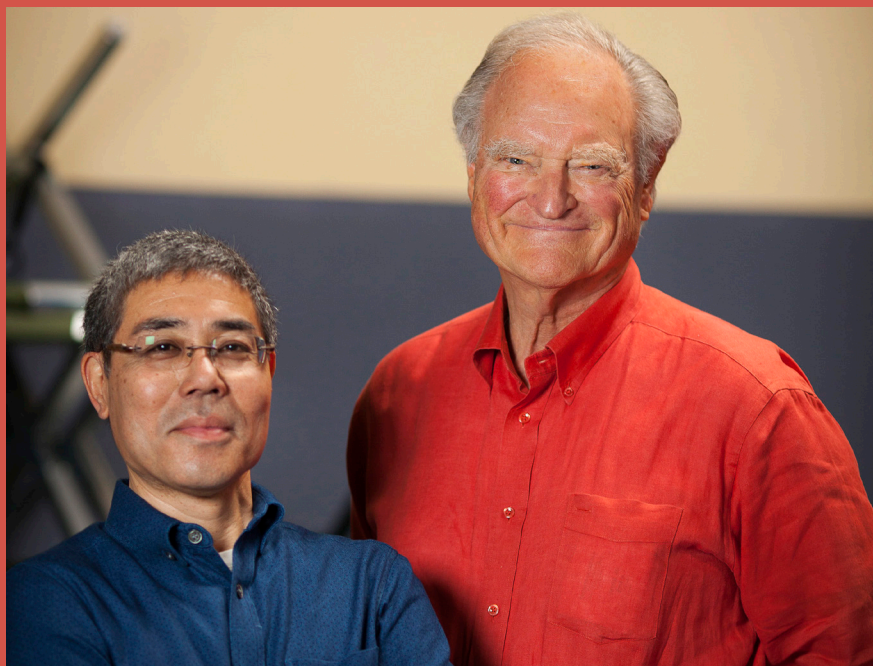


2023 Report



philanthropic
ventures
foundation

A Year in Review



Reflecting Back and Looking Forward

2023 was a year of both reflection and looking forward. The \$23.6M in grants made is an all time high watermark for PVF in giving. Cumulatively we have contributed \$232M into our communities.

We take the time to reflect that Bill Somerville, our founder, retired after founding PVF 33 years ago. Bill has transformed and shaped what philanthropy could and should be. And we honor and keep aloft the flame of his ‘find them and fund them’ grassroots philanthropy principals.

Yet, as we peer into the future, though things remain the same, everything is also different. The need remains great. The need for dignity amongst an ocean of hunger, poverty, lack of shelter and opportunity, is even greater today. But so are entirely unforeseen and unimagined challenges and opportunities like the waves of transformation that AI is bringing to our shores. PVF is already making our first grants into AI education for underrepresented communities, and universal basic income through a pilot program for very low-income new mothers in San Mateo County.

It is here, as we peer over the horizon, that PVF will continue to be a demonstration foundation to bring our ‘think different’ and ‘radical collaboration’ mindset to bear to find and support the innovative ideas and the innovators of the most pressing problems in our brave new world.

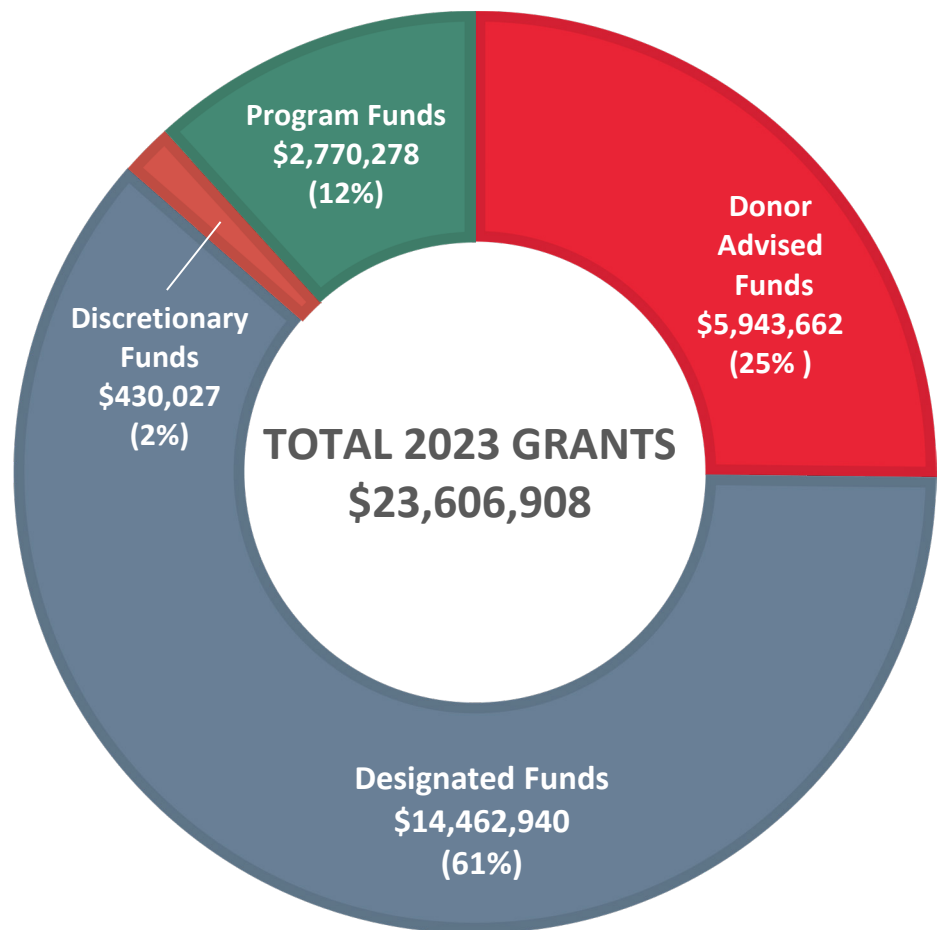
By James Higa, Executive Director



2023 Grants

1991-2023 Total Grants: \$231,803,412

2023	\$ 23,606,908
2022	\$ 20,791,459
2021	\$ 16,664,611
2020	\$ 12,679,134
2019	\$ 9,923,834
2018	\$ 9,682,479
2017	\$ 9,542,360
2016	\$ 9,728,767
2015	\$ 12,930,666
2014	\$ 8,101,645
2013	\$ 11,074,198
2012	\$ 10,790,794
2011	\$ 8,153,167
2010	\$ 5,631,548
2009	\$ 4,351,187
2008	\$ 4,339,116
2007	\$ 4,537,652
2006	\$ 5,073,979
2005	\$ 4,609,819
2004	\$ 5,219,721
2003	\$ 5,267,973
2002	\$ 4,047,374
2001	\$ 3,798,773
2000	\$ 4,562,190
1999	\$ 2,470,228
1998	\$ 2,665,877
1997	\$ 1,862,006
1996	\$ 1,081,189
1995	\$ 1,775,415
1994	\$ 3,832,494
1993	\$ 2,116,342
1992	\$ 666,113
1991	\$ 224,394





Programs

We aspire to transform philanthropy and make it more responsive and collaborative to meet the needs of our community. We identify needs that can be met with philanthropic support, and then we devise program ideas to help tackle the issues head on. From this drive to address unmet needs came the idea of immediate-response grants, in which we provide funds within a 48-hour turnaround. We have established a variety of immediate-response grant programs, benefiting teachers as well as social workers and juvenile court judges who work with youth in foster care.

Foundations, individual donors, and businesses partner with PVF to establish unique immediate-response grant programs because of our grassroots giving expertise. We have created and administered programs for the following donors:

Ballmer Group
The Barkley Fund
Brit + Co.
Cocokind

Emily Benatar Foundation
Frank H. & Eva B. Buck Foundation
The California Endowment
David & Lucile Packard Foundation
Emerging Bilingual Collaborative
Eucalyptus Foundation
Flora Family Foundation

GIRLBOSS Foundation
Walter & Elise Haas Fund
Heising-Simons Foundation
Hellman Foundation
Herbst Foundation
James B. McClatchy Foundation
Lampert Byrd Foundation
The Lurie Foundation
Maxwell|Hanrahan Foundation
Meta (formerly Facebook)
John & Marcia Goldman Foundation

Peery Foundation
Sand Hill Foundation
San Francisco Foundation
Sobrato Philanthropies
Thomas J. Long Foundation
United Way Bay Area
van Loben Sels/RembeRock Foundation
The Westly Foundation
Y&H Soda Foundation

We are open to new ideas and are ready to tackle pressing issues.

Are you interested in setting up a customized giving program?

Please contact:

Dawn Hawk, Chief Operating Officer
dhawk@venturesfoundation.org
(510) 645-1890

"Bill Somerville has helped hundreds of foundations to use their money with vision and effectiveness. His approach and ability to build enthusiasm and get boards and staff to change has made a tremendous difference to millions of people." — Cole Wilbur, PVF Board Member and Former President, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation



Program Grants

In 2023, we administered the following programs in partnership with our donors:

Program	Location	Description	Amount
Arts Resource Grants	Santa Clara & San Mateo Counties, CA	Grants for public school teachers to enhance TK-8th grade art programs. Supported by the Westly Foundation.	\$22,500
Buck Education Mini Grants	Northern California	Grants for public school teachers to enhance instruction.	\$10,666
Environmental Science Resource Grants	Bay Area, CA	Grants for public school teachers to enhance TK-12th grade environmental science curriculum. Supported by the Maxwell Hanrahan Foundation and the Lampert Byrd Foundation.	\$130,500
Excursion Grants	Bay Area, CA	Grants for public school teachers to take TK-5th grade students on field trips. Supported by the Maxwell Hanrahan Foundation and the Eucalyptus Foundation.	\$150,000
Grace Scholarships	United States	Undergraduate scholarships to international students from Zimbabwe to attend U.S. colleges.	\$75,290
English Learners Workforce Initiative (EL-WIN) Fund	California	Grants to provide strapped school system leaders with sustained supports to help them link the available resources to their local needs and apply for the funding opportunities.	\$825,418
Communications Responsive Fund	United States	Grants for Heising-Simons Foundation grantees to pilot new communications ideas or expand/enhance existing communications projects.	\$331,251
Universal Pre-Kindergarten Fund	California	Campaign that aims to strengthen the developmental and learning foundations for all children in California from Preschool to 3rd grade and beyond.	\$239,107
Childress Family Foundation Scholarship	Lakewood, CA	Scholarships to recognize student athletes at Mayfair High School and support their college education.	\$15,000
Judy Macias Young Leaders Scholarship Fund	Half Moon Bay, CA	College scholarships for graduating Half Moon Bay High School female students.	\$12,500
Mathematics Resource Grants	Santa Clara & San Mateo Counties, CA	Grants for public school teachers to enhance their math lessons for TK-3rd grade students. Supported by the Heising-Simons Foundation.	\$20,950
Meta (formerly Facebook) Local Community Fund	San Mateo County, CA	Grants to support non-profit programs providing services to the local community. Supported by Meta.	\$200,000



Program Grants

Program	Location	Description	Amount
Sand Hill & Tom Ford Fellowships	Stanford, CA	Fellowships for Stanford University students to intern at foundations. Supported by the Sand Hill Foundation.	\$175,000
Science Resource Grants	Bay Area, CA	Grants to TK-12th grade public school teachers to enhance science instruction in the classroom.	\$13,500
Social Worker/CASA Grants	Bay Area, CA	Grants to support the critical needs of foster youth as requested by social workers and Court Appointed Special Advocates.	\$62,000
Special Education Grants	Alameda & Contra Costa Counties, CA	Grants for public school teachers and therapists serving TK-12th grade students with moderate to severe disabilities. Supported by the Thomas J. Long Foundation.	\$45,445
Technology, Engineering & Design Thinking Resource Grants	Alameda & San Mateo County, CA	Grants for public school teachers, grades TK-12, to support stem/ STEAM curriculum in their classrooms. Supported by the Maxwell Hanrahan Foundation.	\$23,144
Visiting Artist in the Classroom Grants	Bay Area, CA	Grants for public school teachers, grades TK-12, to have a visual or material artist visit their classrooms. Supported by the Maxwell Hanrahan Foundation and the Eucalyptus Foundation	\$25,500
James & Ursula Williams Family Fund Teacher Grants	Vallejo, CA	Grants for public school teachers at specific schools in Vallejo, CA.	\$7,000
Women of Courage Award	San Mateo County, CA	Awards for young women who exemplify courage in service to others.	\$24,265
Youth Joy and Wellness Fund	Oakland, CA	Supports innovative and creative approaches to youth mental health and wellness in Oakland, CA	\$5,220
Youth Opportunity Scholarships	Bay Area, CA	Grants for middle school students to participate in extracurricular activities. Supported by the Lampert Byrd Foundation.	\$75,000
Various other program funds	Bay Area, CA	----	\$11,500

2023 Program Grants: \$2,770,278.61



Donor Advised Funds

We think of our donors as investors, people who see philanthropy as investments in positive change.

When people want to do exciting giving, they turn to PVF. PVF offers a variety of services to individuals, families, businesses, and foundations through Donor Advised Funds. We make grants to charitable projects that donors recommend, consult and strategize with donors on their giving plan, and help them navigate through the world of nonprofit programs. Donors benefit from our philanthropic expertise, extensive knowledge of the nonprofit community, and experience in turning ideas into action.

In 2023, we administered the following donor advised funds:

Anonymous III Fund
 Albert J. Horn Philanthropic Fund
 Bailard Foundation Fund
 Bergstrom Foundation Fund
 Peter & Jane Carpenter Fund
 Colby & Sonali Giving Fund
 Childress Family Foundation
 Doberstyn Fund
 Esperanza Fund
 Farmhill Scholarship Fund
 Gerber-Doyle Fund
 Barbara Jean & Allen L. Grimm Fund
 Horizons Unlimited Fund
 Hellman-Breslau Fund

Issac Yunhu Lee Memorial Fund
 Joanna Katz Fund
 Katchadourian Family Fund
 Lance Hope Warrior Fund
 Lockard-Marduel Fund
 Lurie Family Fund
 Maloney Family Fund
 Margaret Lamping Fund
 Medvin Fund
 Millar-Montrose Fund
 Orr Family Fund
 Pasturel Family Fund
 Peery Family Fund
 Jason & Lisa Peery Fund

James & Ursula Williams Fund
 Petersmeyer Fund
 Purcell Family Fund
 Relfe Fund
 Mike Scott Fund
 Task Rabbit for Good
 TruLove Cares Fund
 Waverley Fund
 Whitehouse-Heffernan Family Fund
 Williams Family Fund
 Cole Wilbur Fund
 Yochum-Otani Fund
 YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula Fund

**Are you interested in setting up a
 Donor Advised Fund?**

Please contact:

Dawn Hawk, Chief Operating Officer
dhawk@venturesfoundation.org
 (510) 645-1890

2023 Donor Advised Grants: \$5,943,662.54

“The partnership of PVF and the YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula is an example of philanthropy at its best. At PVF, radical collaboration is in their DNA. We are proud and grateful to work together.” - Grace Wilbur, YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula Board Member

Safety Net Grants

We began PVF to do something different — to bring joy, simplicity, trust and effectiveness to grantmaking. We knew the answer was not more — more paper, more procedures, more obstacles, more time. We believed that if giving grants involved fewer, simpler processes, every dollar would work harder and do more.

PVF places high trust in outstanding individuals and programs, demonstrates flexibility and creativity in grantmaking, and takes the initiative in providing funding when it is needed. These grants, made without applications and based on trust, are unique in the grantmaking sector. Our ability to respond to community needs on a discretionary and immediate basis is made possible by bequests and gifts to PVF's endowment and by undesignated gifts from donors. PVF is proud to have their confidence.

2023 Safety Net Grants: \$430,027.65



**Would you like to learn how you
can support PVF's endowment?**

Please contact:

James Higa, Executive Director
jhiga@venturesfoundation.org
(510) 645-1890

"Through over 60 years in nonprofit work, Bill has singlehandedly transformed what philanthropy could be. He brought ad(venture) back into philanthropy. He approached making a difference in our communities in a wholly different way. He believed in people most of all." - James Higa, Executive Director of PVF



Designated Funds

In the spirit of expanding philanthropy and promoting outstanding charitable work, PVF serves as the fiscal sponsor for projects that do not yet have their tax exempt status but do charitable work. PVF's Designated Funds allow multiple donors to receive a tax deduction for contributing to a charitable program. A Designated Fund provides donors with flexibility, enabling them to target support for innovative ideas. PVF manages the funds and prepares financial reports for the program leaders.

Are you interested in setting up a Designated Fund?

Please contact:

Dawn Hawk, Chief Operating Officer
dhawk@venturesfoundation.org
 (510) 645-1890

In 2023, we administered the following designated funds:

Fund	Location	Mission	Amount
15 Percent Pledge	United States	Charitable initiative created with the goal of advocating for and supporting Black-owned businesses and Black entrepreneurs.	\$4,003,660
3Ls: The Academy	Oakland, CA	Charitable initiative committed to helping children break cycles of poverty by providing them with opportunities for literacy in their own neighborhoods.	\$99,314
Aide Au Zanskar - USA	India	Project to support the Lamdon Model High School in the Zanskar region of Kashmir, India.	\$11,040
ACTAI Global	International	Supports environmental conservation and economic empowerment via entrepreneurship.	\$47,269
Agency by Design Oakland	Bay Area, CA	Aims to redefine what learning looks like in schools through maker-centered education.	\$429,406
All in Alameda County	Alameda County, CA	Aims to reduce poverty and eliminate food insecurity in Alameda County.	\$643,845
API Giving Fund	Bay Area, CA	Strengthening Asian and Pacific Islander communities in the Bay Area through local investments in community-led programs.	\$20,542
Bay Area Border Relief, Estamos Contigo	Bay Area, CA & McAllen, TX	Aims to assist immigrating families and the nonprofit agencies that support them with immediate urgent needs.	\$54,276
Beatitude House Catholic Worker	Guadalupe, CA	Serves the working poor of Guadalupe, CA through food, clothing, medical clinic, hospitality, and advocacy.	\$31,850
Birth Queen	United States	Educates and supports Black women, parents and birthing people, enriching the Black birth experience and saving lives.	\$27,188
Bright Minds	Nigeria and Cameroon	Charitable initiative transforming the life trajectories of girls from young brides to educated, empowered young women.	\$154,234
Building Belonging	United States	Mission is to build a world where everyone and everything belongs.	\$154,665
CZI Capacity Building	San Mateo County, CA	Strengthens the organizational capacity of nonprofits serving San Mateo County and participating in CZI's local grantmaking.	\$367,500



Designated Fund Grants

Fund	Location	Mission	Amount
Catholic Worker House	Bay Area, CA	Assistance to the poor through housing, food, and education programs.	\$376,015
Computing Connections	United States	Mission is to help computer scientists secure the resources needed to access healthy work environments.	\$46,448
Conflict Transformation Fund	United States	Strengthens conflict literacy in progressive movement organizations through funding, research and organizing.	\$93,971
Coralus (formerly SheEO)	United States	Aims to democratize venture capital and create a new economic model of radically generous women creating change through local communities and impact through global scale.	\$732,378
Delta Education Collective	Uganda	Charitable initiative whose mission is to revolutionize the quality of primary education available to all children.	\$227,319
Direct Impact Africa	Zambia	Creates economic self-sufficiency and empowerment amongst rural African villagers by fostering co-op based community owned projects	\$80,120
Fashion CEOs	United States	Accelerator for fashion entrepreneurs of color who are addressing climate change and inclusion challenges to accelerate innovative sustainable fashion business models, products, and solutions.	\$344,004
Generative Art	United States	To promote and elevate generative art and creative coding as a meaningful artistic practice.	\$75,085
Generosity in Action	International	Supports educational and health projects in communities identified by travelers to developing countries.	\$127,589
Giving Gap	United States	Movement to showcase Black-founded nonprofits and to make it easy for you and your organization to connect with them.	\$388,968
Hate Is A Virus	United States	Movement to combat the xenophobia and racism against Asian Americans fueled by COVID-19.	\$159,496
IDEAL Bay Area	Bay Area, CA	Fosters innovative teaching and learning through creative arts-based practice that cultivates liberatory learning spaces.	\$141,949
Isiain Foundation	Bay Area, CA	Aims to dismantle racism and bring an overt change by using art, education, information and media to liberate those most impacted by systemic racism.	\$39,664
Jorge Villarreal Fund	Latin America	Supports safe, high quality and low-cost services for sexual and reproductive healthcare.	\$60,080
Jackie Speier Foundation	San Mateo County, CA	Supports solutions to issues of the feminization of poverty in San Mateo County.	\$113,059
Lesedi Schools & Clinic	Zimbabwe	Mission is the prevention or relief of poverty in Zimbabwe through education, training, and healthcare.	\$324,922
Libraries Without Borders	International	Committed to expanding access to information for underserved communities and families.	\$15,680
Manzanita Works	Bay Area, CA	Directs financial resources where most needed to support workers and workers' families.	\$14,580
Maui Organizers Mālama Fund	Maui, HI	Supports local Maui community organizers and centers kanaka maoli leadership following the devastating Maui wildfires	\$60,552



Designated Fund Grants

Fund	Location	Mission	Amount
Oakstop Effect	Oakland, CA	Focuses on increasing social inclusion and curating accessible environments for BIPOC professionals in Oakland.	\$1,012,082
Oakland Thrives	Oakland, CA	Mission is to create the conditions for Oakland's children, families, and communities to be the healthiest in the nation.	\$1,515,277
Project Luangwa	Zambia	Charitable initiative working to empower the impoverished communities of the South Luangwa valley in Zambia.	\$71,920
Peninsula Book Collaborative	Daly City, CA	Charitable initiative whose mission is to build and grow the next generation of book lovers.	\$22,752
Perennial Sunflower Project	United States	Supports the movement of white men who are committed to sharing and building power with marginalized people and communities.	\$35,310
Q Cares	Bay Area, CA	Charitable initiative to help KQED audience members respond to featured stories that highlight a hardship.	\$11,473
Reckon With	United States	Envisions a country where the truth about our history of racial inequality is confronted, and racial justice is realized.	\$27,068
Resilia Academy	United States	Strengthens the capacity of nonprofit organizations and leaders who are on the front lines of the world's most important issues.	\$1,267,821
Route 66 Pathway Project	United States	Supports the research, documentation, visualization and communication of historic Route 66.	\$22,579
Silicon Valley Next	Bay Area, CA	Mission is to cultivate the next generation of non-profit executive leaders in the Bay Area, especially among people of color.	\$43,860
Sustainable Future Outdoor Academy	Bay Area, CA	Aims to teach young people how to lead sustainable lives and influence their families, schools and communities to do the same.	\$140,502
Tafika Fund	Zambia	Charitable initiative whose mission is to sustainably uplift the Mwanya community in Eastern Zambia.	\$20,040
Toledo Institute for Development & Environment	Belize	Engages stakeholders in the sustainable management of natural resources within the Maya Mountain Marine Corridor of southern Belize for the benefit of all.	\$37,203
Time + Tide	Zambia	Facilitates economic and educational opportunities for traditionally under valued groups of children and adults.	\$59,227
Turning Basin Labs	Bay Area, CA	Aims to develop a platform and infrastructure to support low income workers in the Bay Area.	\$413,120
We Are Enough	United States	Aims to grow women's wealth, especially women of color, and educate women how and why to invest in women owned and led businesses.	\$48,522
Yuri Kochiyama Solidarity	United States	Aims to inspire grassroots activism and education, to connect organizations and communities to each other, and to "build bridges, not walls".	\$53,178
Various other designated funds	United States	----	\$64,765

2023 Designated Fund Grants: \$14,462,940.18



Our Team

Foundation Staff

James Higa
Executive Director

Dawn Hawk
Chief Operating Officer

Sheryl Young
San Mateo County Program Director

Savannah Lira
Program Officer

Aly Quiroz-Perez
Program Associate

Cayman Bentley
Program and Communications Associate

Catie Davis
Administrative Associate

Kari Jo Bliss
Bookkeeper

Board of Directors

Moira C. Walsh, Chair
Former Managing Attorney,
Office of the San Francisco City Attorney

Alicia Aguirre
Council Member, Redwood City
Professor, Cañada College

Duncan Beardsley
Director, Generosity in Action

James R. Cody
Director of Estate & Gift Planning,
Rosewood Family Advisors, LLP

James Higa
Executive Director, Philanthropic Ventures Foundation

Bill Somerville
Founder, Philanthropic Ventures Foundation

Kamba Tshionyi
Director of External Relations, Vice Provost for
Undergraduate Education and Haas Center for Public
Service

Colburn S. Wilbur
Former President,
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Philanthropic Ventures Foundation
1222 Preservation Park Way, Oakland, CA 94612
t: (510) 645-1890 | info@venturesfoundation.org