

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fresno DRIVE Neighborhood Hubs Selected

Nonprofits will provide resident leadership opportunities in six neighborhoods

FRESNO, CA - The Central Valley Community Foundation (CVCF) announced the selection of eight neighborhood nonprofit organizations to establish a permanent network of resident-led “hubs” that will engage and equip residents to lead change efforts in their own neighborhoods.

This initiative is a cornerstone of Fresno DRIVE, the largest, most comprehensive community investment plan in 40 years. Over the next decade, Fresno DRIVE’s Civic Infrastructure initiative will establish resident engagement structures in half of Fresno’s 32 extreme poverty neighborhoods.

“The building of this infrastructure is all about developing relationships with the residents so that they can be leaders in their own neighborhood,” said Artie Padilla, Senior Program Officer at CVCF.

The selection of these eight nonprofits working in six neighborhoods is the first round of investment, with other neighborhoods coming online over the next several years. Fresno Building Communities and Every Neighborhood Partnership will provide the hubs with ongoing technical assistance to guide their community organizing and engagement efforts. Hubs will provide training and leadership development for over 2,500 residents annually. Resident leaders will also provide ongoing direction for Fresno DRIVE as members of a DRIVE Residents Leadership Council.

“Building civic infrastructure and investing in people power results in real outcomes and real changes for people,” said Sandra Celedon, President & Chief Executive Officer at Fresno Building Communities. “Civic infrastructure is about being the microphone for a community; it’s about listening, taking their words and their experiences and putting them into action.”

The Fresno DRIVE neighborhood hubs are:

- Live Again Fresno, Richard Burrell (Addams neighborhood)
- A Hopeful Encounter, Susan Xiong (Birney neighborhood)
- Friends of Calwa, Laura Moreno (Calwa neighborhood)
- Familias En Accion, Lilia Becerril (Winchell/Jackson neighborhood)
- Another Level Training Academy, Nia Hodge-Grier & Martin Park, Oscar Rodriguez (Webster neighborhood)
- Fresno Street Saints, Joby Jones & Image Church, Jason Spencer (King/Lincoln neighborhood)

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FRESNO DRIVE NEIGHBORHOOD HUBS SELECTED



“There’s a saying that I always say, ‘We can’t change the world, but we can change the spots in where we live.’ So if we work as a team, then we can have a better world for everyone,” said Lilia Becerril of Familias En Accion.

The neighborhood hubs were selected from a pool of 23 applicants through a competitive RFP process. Applications were evaluated on the organization’s experience in working with community residents, Understanding of Racial Equity and Fresno’s historical impact from racial inequities, their ability to connect with diverse populations, and their commitment to developing residents’ leadership and power.

The selection committee consisted staff from two intermediaries, Every Neighborhood Partnership & Fresno Building Communities; two representatives from the Fresno DRIVE Racial Equity Committee; three residents from the community; three staff from local community-based organizations; and Dr. Tania Pacheco-Werner from the Central Valley Health Policy Institute.

“This is about community engagement as well as economic development. We know that as folks get involved and civically engaged, their odds of being employed raise by 31%. This matters,” said Andrew Feil, Executive Director of Every Neighborhood Partnership.

Fresno is one of the most diverse, youngest, and fastest growing cities in the nation. It is also the most distressed and segregated city in California, ranking near the bottom for economic performance (55th out of 59) and dead last for racial inclusion (59th out of 59) among large cities, according to Urban Institute. To address these challenges, a coalition of over 150 local nonprofits, community groups, and civic leaders developed Fresno DRIVE (Developing the Region’s Inclusive and Vibrant Economy), a 10-year, \$4.2 b community investment plan comprised of 19 initiatives in human capital, economic development, and neighborhood revitalization with a central focus on racial equity. CVCF is coordinating the DRIVE coalition. More information can be found at www.FresnoDRIVE.org.

Founded in 1966, the Central Valley Community Foundation is a trusted community partner in California’s Central Valley. Our mission is to cultivate smart philanthropy, lead, and invest in solutions that build stronger communities. Our service area includes 2 million people living in six counties: Merced, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, and Kings. CVCF attracts investment and deploys resources to solve persistent challenges in four key areas: education, economic development, environmental stewardship, and neighborhood renewal.

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