

Sun-Reporter



A NEWS JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE CAUSE OF THE PEOPLE * 77 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ENTIRE BAY AREA

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BEST BUY IN THE WEST

Celebrating Our TALENTED 25 CLASS OF 2024



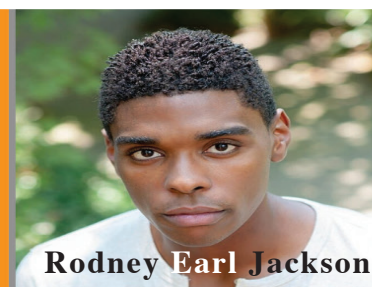
Terry Wiley



Shunise Criswell



Tamara Steele



Rodney Earl Jackson



Gary Banks



Petra Brady



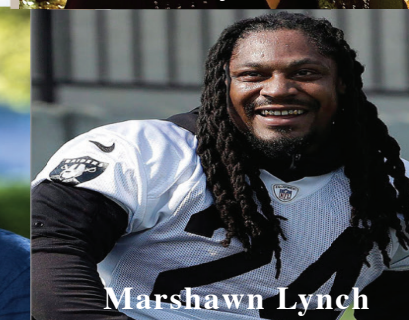
Phaedra Ellis-Lamkins



Mistah F.A.B.



Monifa Willis



Marshawn Lynch



Michael Tubbs



Lytoria Little



Keisha Browder



Joshlyn Norman



Jamario Jackson



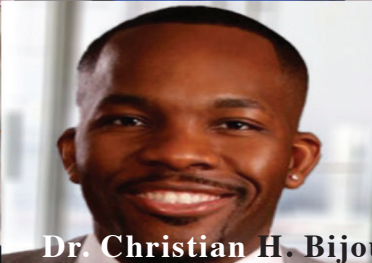
Sherrice Dorsey-Smith



Felisia Thibodeaux



Elisha Greenwell



Dr. Christian H. Bijoux



Derreck Johnson



Corey Monroe



Del Seymour



Carolyn Wysinger



Anthony McNeal



Carol Tatum

Sun-Reporter



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Dedicated to the cause of the people--

that no good cause shall lack a champion and evil shall not thrive unopposed.

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Carlton B. Goodlett, PH.D., MD., Editor/Publisher

1945-1997

Amelia Ashley-Ward
Editor/Publisher

The Time Is Now!!

Editorial

By *Amelia Ashley-Ward*
Sun-Reporter Publisher

I What an amazing class for the Sun-Reporter's Talented 25 for 2024! You are tried and tested, true to uplifting your community. We salute you! You are needed now more than ever.

Unfortunately, all is not right in the world. These are troubling times, with sick and slick national leadership. Yes, we are marching backwards and back to singing "We Shall Overcome."

But there is good news. You, the Talented 25, are our community's bright light. Just as you are working to make the world better, you must

be our leaders to help us plot our survival and revival. You can do it. Don't be frightened by the power grab trying to take us back to a dark time in history. We've come too far by faith. Working together, we can defeat the mighty forces that are working to further disarm the have-nots, the disadvantaged, and minorities, so that the filthy rich can rule the world.

We must take to the streets and use our voices to condemn injustice. We must hold our politicians accountable and prepare for next year's midterm elections.

We know this all seems like a bad dream. How did the country allow this coup to happen? No more time for questions—the

time is now to fight and stop it! No more blame games, we're in it now. We must fight to win it! We must withhold our dollars from those who don't support us.

This Talented 25 class, along with our honorees of years past, are equipped for the battle ahead. It won't be easy. It won't be pretty...

We must not just stand in circles holding hands and singing "A Change Is Gonna Come," but we must also prepare for victory and sing:

"We're a winner
And never let anybody say
Boy, you can't make it
Cause a feeble mind is in your way



Dr. Amelia Ashley-Ward

No more tears do we cry
And we have finally dried our eyes
And we're movin' on up
Lord, have mercy
We're movin' on up"
We'll see you on the battlefield!!



Sherrice Dorsey-Smith, Acting Director of San Francisco's Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families (DCYF), oversees a \$350 million budget serving over 42,000 young people. Since joining the department in 2007, she has been instrumental in launching key initiatives such as the Literacy and Math School Pilot, Summer Together, and the Community Hub Initiative—efforts that earned her the 2022 San Francisco Good Government Award for supporting students and families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With nearly three decades in youth development, Dorsey-Smith has dedicated 17 years to DCYF, previously serving as Program Specialist, Senior Program Specialist, and Chief of Staff. She has played a vital role in securing funding for essential

services and strengthening partnerships with community organizations, schools, and government agencies. As Acting Director, she continues to advance programs that expand opportunities for young people across San Francisco.

Sherrice Dorsey-Smith



Michael Tubbs, Special Advisor to California Governor Gavin Newsom for Economic Mobility, is the founder of Mayors for a Guaranteed Income and End Poverty in California (EPIC). Elected Mayor of Stockton in 2016 at just 26, he was the city's first African-American Mayor and the youngest Mayor of any major U.S. city. As Mayor, Tubbs launched the Stockton Scholars program, securing over \$20 million for scholarships and mentorships, and piloted the nation's first mayor-led guaranteed income initiative.

During his tenure, Stockton was twice named an "All-America City," saw a 40% drop in homicides, and led California in reducing officer-involved shootings. Recognized as one of the most fiscally healthy cities in the U.S., Stockton's

Michael D. Tubbs

achievements were highlighted in the HBO documentary *Stockton on My Mind*. Tubbs has been honored with accolades including *Fortune's* Top 40 under 40, *Forbes' 30 under 30 All-Star*, and *The Nation's* "Most Valuable Mayor."

Tubbs' memoir, *The Deeper The Roots: A Memoir of Hope and Home*, published in 2021, details his journey from poverty to public service and his vision for empathetic leadership. A Harvard and MIT fellow, former Stockton councilmember, and educator, Tubbs is now running for California Lt. Governor in 2026, continuing his mission to uplift underserved communities.



**MAYORS FOR A
GUARANTEED
INCOME**



If we listen to struggling working- and middle-class communities we will know the story we need to tell, and the agenda we must fight for.

Michael Tubbs

FOUNDER OF MGI AND EPIC



At the age of 26, Michael D. Tubbs became the youngest Mayor of any major city in American history. As Mayor, Tubbs was lauded for his leadership and innovation. Under his stewardship, Stockton was named an "All-America City" in 2017 and 2018, saw a 40% drop in homicides in 2018 and 2019, led the state of California in the decline of officer involved shootings in 2019, was named the second most fiscally healthy city in California and one of the top most fiscally healthy cities in the nation, and was featured in an HBO documentary film, *Stockton on My Mind*.

To DONATE visit www.SWCCSF.ORG
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IT Bookman Community Center
446 Randolph St., SF CA 94132

(415) 586-8020
www.swccsf.org

Board of Directors, Staff & Clients

Extend our heartfelt congratulations on this recognition. We are truly blessed to be on the receiving end of the hard work, leadership and determination of Felisia Thibodeaux as she represents our agency, the Lakeview/OMI community, The City of San Francisco and the Older Adults and Adults living with Disabilities.

OUR MISSION

Southwest Community Corporation provides quality enriched, culturally appropriate programming and access to services based in Lakeview/Oceanview- Merced Heights-Ingleside communities in San Francisco. Our mission is to helping adults and adults living with disabilities to remain independent, stay in their community, create and maintain social networks and live a fulfilling life.

PROGRAMS

ACTIVITIES	NUTRITION	TECHNOLOGY	WELLNESS
Fitness/Line Dance Arts & Crafts Recreation/Games Book Clubs	Hot Meals (Lunch) Food Support (Brown Bags) Education	Lab Instruction 1 on 1 Device Management	Vaccinations/Testing Mini Health Screenings Vision/Hearing Screening Referrals

CURRENT NEEDS

We are currently recruiting members for our **Board of Directors**. Our plan is to diversify our board by seeking individuals who look and present the community we serve (*Black/AA, Asian, Latinx*). We need shakers and movers to help lead us into the next phase of deepening our services to the existent community, expanding to include intergenerational, cross culture and cross community programming and services to better serve San Francisco’s diverse population. Bring to Life a fundraising campaign to develop a new Multipurpose Center that host Older Adults, Adults with Disabilities and Youth under one roof. Our vision is the new location to incorporate a new technology center, medical clinic, and a state-of-the-art Commercial Kitchen with dining room (so we can continue to Feed the People).

FUNDERS

City and County of San Francisco
 Department of Adult Services (DAS)
 -Nutrition Program (Congregate Meals & Food Support)
 Community Services Program (Activities, Translation, Services)

Department of Public Health (DPH)
 -Hip Hop to Health Satellite Clinic

METTA FUND

SF Tech Council

COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

Lakeview/OMI Community Collaborative (L/OMI)
 INVEST BLACK SF
 SF Neighborhood Centers Together (SFNCT)
 YMCA of San Francisco (Bayview)
 Sunset Heights Association of Responsible People (SHARP)
 NAACP/Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
 Youth 1st Afterschool & Summer Program
 On Lok - Always Active
 Community Music Center (CMC)

COMMITTEES

University of California San Francisco (UCSF)



Felisia Thibodeaux, Executive Director of the Southwest Community Corporation/IT Bookman Community Center, has dedicated over 35 years to serving the public. Her expertise spans Low Income Housing Tax Credit, Property Management, and Housing Development. She honed her skills in the Toyota Production System (TPS) during her tenure at NUMMI, embracing principles like constant improvement, respect, and teamwork.

Thibodeaux has worked extensively with diverse populations, including individuals with disabilities, special needs, and those navigating mental health and substance dependency challenges. She is a social justice advocate who designs and facilitates workshops that empower residents to access affordable housing, prepare for relocation, and build resilient communities. Her passion for community preparedness is evident in her coordination of Resilient Bayview and her creation of programs like You Go Girl, a youth leadership initiative fostering potential and stewardship among inner-city girls.

Recently, Thibodeaux received several honors, including the KPIX Jefferson Award (2021), Mayor London Breed's Unsung Hero Award (2021), and the SF 49ers' Hometown Hero Award (2021). Her achievements underscore a lifelong commitment to uplifting marginalized communities and inspiring systemic change.

Felisia Thibodeaux

Joshlyn Norman is the President of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. – Omega Kappa Zeta Chapter in Stockton, CA. A dedicated leader, she has held key positions within the chapter, including Hospitality Chair, Membership Coordinator, and First Vice President, a role she served in for three years. Her leadership has helped expand the chapter, including welcoming five new members under her tenure.

Passionate about service, Joshlyn has championed the Chapter's signature initiatives, including Operation Rescue Christmas with Stockton Salvation Army, Salute to Survivors for domestic violence and breast cancer awareness, volunteer efforts at Tracy Interfaith, and the Holiday Blues program. Her commitment to these programs reflects her dedication to strengthening the community and upholding Zeta Phi Beta's mission.



Joshlyn Norman

Beyond her chapter presidency, Joshlyn serves as the Northern California Legacy Coordinator for Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and is a member of the Pacific Region's Safety Team. She also works as a Youth Advocate for foster care youth, dedicating her career to empowering young people. Above all, she is a devoted mother to her 9-year-old son, MALiQ, who inspires her every day.



IGNITE YOUR FUTURE WITH SFFYA

For over 15 years, the San Francisco Fire Youth Academy has been shaping the next generation of leaders. More than just an introduction to the fire service, our program challenges young minds to build confidence, resilience, and the skills to navigate any path in life.

TRAIN. LEAD. SUCCEED.

From hands-on emergency response training to personal development and mentorship, SFFYA offers an experience that goes beyond the ordinary—empowering students to rise to any challenge.

EXPANDING OUR IMPACT

We are dedicated to empowering the next generation- helping youth become more engaged, productive, and deeply connected to their communities. Through innovative training programs and expanded fire prevention efforts, we're not just shaping futures- we're creating lasting impact across San Francisco. Together, we're building a safer, stronger, and more inspired tomorrow!

Are you ready to take the first step toward a future of leadership and service?



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Monifa Willis, PMHNP is the newly appointed Chief of Staff with the San Francisco District Attorney's office. She previously served as Chief of Victim Service Division with the SFDA office. She concurrently serves as Assistant Clinical Faculty at University of California, San Francisco, School of Nursing.

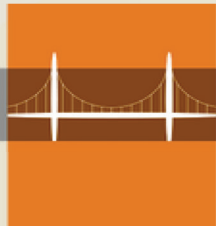
Chief Willis is a born and raised Bay Area native that obtained her first master's degree from Santa Clara University in Marriage & Family therapy and her second master's from UC San Francisco in Nursing. She brings over 20 years of service to some of the most vulnerable communities in the SF Bay Area. Her work had been in providing direct mental health services as a Psychiatric Mental health Nurse practitioner prior to working at the SFDA office. Monifa is certified in Quality Improvement processes and has had success in launching state recognized mental health programming and improving hospital systems to better service families in the Bay Area.

While at SFDA she has transformed policies and procedures with a trauma informed lens, re-vamped advocacy trainings and expanded community advocacy involvement to ensure communities have access to SFDA resources and criminal justice education. In her current role as Chief of Staff, she is leading criminal justice reform efforts, legislative and policy efforts. Which includes, non-prosecutorial program development and engaging in policy development that holds public safety and true criminal justice reform as the center to changing the criminal justice system.

Monifa approaches her work from an evidence-based, healing centered lens that appreciates the impact of biological, environmental, behavioral, and structural influences on our daily lives and communities.



Monifa Willis



SGR | CONSULTING

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE
INCREDIBLE BAY AREA LEADERS
RECEIVING THE TALENTED 25!**

**WE ARE ESPECIALLY PROUD OF MONIFA WILLIS
AND THE CRITICAL WORK SHE IS DOING FOR
THE SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S
OFFICE.**



ACTS CHERRY HILL APARTMENTS, OAKLAND

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Congratulates Gary Banks and the other
Talented 25 Honorees



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Gary W. Banks bridges business and community as CEO of FRH Consulting, working with his daughter, Danielle, to uplift neighborhoods. He transforms challenges into opportunities, creating lasting impact. His leadership drives projects that strengthen communities.

As COO of Royalty Professional Painting, he partners with CEO Royal Scott to bring integrity and innovation to every project. With 30 years in community development, he has built key partnerships with developers, labor unions, and advocates. His work unites diverse groups to drive meaningful change.

Gary supports over 1,000 affordable housing units in San Francisco, connecting residents to vital resources. He fosters stability, hope, and opportunity for families. His leadership proves collaboration

creates lasting impact.

Gary W. Banks

Phaedra Ellis-Lamkins is an American social justice advocate and businesswoman. Phaedra is the CEO and co-founder of Promise, a payment technology platform that simplifies government debt. Prior to Promise, Phaedra ran revenue and operations at Honor, a home care technology company. Before Honor, Phaedra worked with the musician Prince and led the effort to secure ownership of his masters. She is a labor and community organizer by trade who is committed to making measurable change.

Earlier in her career, Phaedra was the Executive Officer of the South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council, an organized labor federation representing more than 100 unions and more than 110,000 members in California. She was also Executive Director of Working Partnerships USA, a coalition of community groups, and labor and faith organizations working to address economic disparities in California’s Silicon Valley. She also served as the CEO of the anti-poverty organization Green For All.



Phaedra Ellis-Lamkins

Over the course of her career, Phaedra has been recognized for her leadership. She was honored by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader, Essence for their 25 Most Influential African Americans, Ebony for their Power 150, The Grio for their 100 History Makers in the Making, Black Enterprise for their 40 Next: Emerging Leaders for Our Future and San Jose Magazine named her one of the 100 most powerful people in Silicon Valley.



SHON BUFORD

Is Proud to Join Corporate
And Community Leaders
In Congratulating and Recognizing

THE 2024 TALENTED 25

For Their Outstanding Accomplishments
And Achievements



Dr. Christian H. Bijoux

Dr. Christian H. Bijoux is the Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, leading efforts to advance racial equity in the agency's workforce and programs. With over 20 years of experience in social policy, he has worked in legal, education, and public health sectors, including as Deputy Director of Equity and Racial Justice at Georgetown University.

As Founder of Bijoux Consulting Group, he has advised organizations on racial equity and systemic reform. He also led the Dually Involved Youth Initiative in Santa Clara County, improving outcomes for youth in the child welfare and juvenile legal systems.

Dr. Bijoux holds a Ph.D. in Social Policy from Brandeis University and multiple advanced degrees. A recognized leader in racial justice, he has received numerous honors, including Drexel University's '40 Under 40' Award.

HONORING
THE BAY AREA'S
TALENTED
25
**LEADERS &
ACHIEVERS**
IN OUR AFRICAN
AMERICAN COMMUNITY



Congratulations to all of the Talented 25 honorees and to our very own dr. chris bijoux.



dr. christian h. bijoux
Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer

You exemplify serving the public and investing in community. Thank you to the Talented 25 for making San Francisco a better place to live, work and grow.

Tamara Steele, Founder and CEO of EVOLVE, leads a global women's collaborative community dedicated to empowerment, unity, and transformation. Under her leadership, EVOLVE has supported countless women in reaching their full potential, fostering a strong network of encouragement and growth.

With a career spanning over 30 years, Tamara has excelled as a certified executive coach, lifestyle strategist, author, speaker, attorney, and former administrative law judge. Her work blends professional expertise with spiritual depth as a licensed minister and ordained pastor, integrating faith-based principles into actionable life strategies.

She is the founder of the Do You Retreat, a health and wellness program designed to help women lead purpose-driven lives. In January 2025, she will launch Tamara Steele Ministries with Women at the Well, an event promoting wellness for the mind, body, and spirit. Tamara holds a J.D. from UC San Francisco Law School and degrees in business and biblical studies. Learn more at tamarasteele.com.



Tamara Steele

Terry Wiley is the former San Francisco Inspector General, recently sworn in as an Alameda County Superior Court Judge.

He won a primary election in March for the Alameda County judgeship after running unopposed. Wiley served as an Alameda County Prosecutor and was appointed San Francisco's inaugural Inspector General to investigate misconduct at the Sheriff's Department. He is set to take on his role as a judge-elect in January 2025.

During a recent Sheriff's Department Oversight Board meeting, Wiley was asked about his future role, to which he affirmed his commitment to the City and County of San Francisco, stating he was working hard to establish the agency.



Judge Terry Wiley

Lytoria Ashley Little has dedicated over 40 years to serving her church community with unwavering commitment.

She began her journey as an Usher and has since taken on numerous leadership roles, including serving on the Board of Directors, the Finance Committee, and as the Church Publicist. Additionally, she has contributed as an Assistant Church Clerk and in various other capacities, always striving to uplift and support her congregation. Beyond her church involvement, Lytoria is an active member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., where she upholds the organization's values of service, scholarship, sisterhood, and finer womanhood.

She is also a proud member of Blacks in Government (BIG), advocating for the empowerment and advancement of African Americans in public service.



Lytoria Little

Above all, Lytoria finds joy in her family. She is a devoted mother and now a proud grandmother to Cailin Ashley, a blessing she cherishes deeply. Her life is guided by her favorite scripture, Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

Mistah FAB's 2005 album *Son of a Pimp* helped elevate the Bay Area's rap scene, and ten years later, *Son of a Pimp 2* marked his return with a 21-track album full of diverse features and styles. The album reflects his evolution as an artist and a person, drawing from years of personal and professional challenges, including the loss of his mother and ongoing struggles with his incarcerated brother.

Despite setbacks in his career, including label issues and personal hardships, FAB maintained his presence through mixtapes, features, and community work, even earning Oakland's "Mistah FAB Day." He remained dedicated to philanthropy, organizing Thanksgiving turkey giveaways, backpack drives, and other charitable efforts. His work also extended to mental health, as he launched a community resource group to reduce the stigma surrounding mental well-being, providing a safe space for those underserved and dealing with trauma. For FAB, *Son of a Pimp 2* is not just an album—it's a testament to his resilience and impact. Beyond his music, his humanitarian work and commitment to his community, including mental health advocacy, have made him a beloved figure in Oakland and beyond.



Mistah F.A.B.



Rodney Earl Jackson Jr.

Rodney Earl Jackson Jr. is the Artistic Director and Co-Founder of the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company (SFBATCO), now celebrating its 10th anniversary. A San Francisco native, he discovered his passion for the performing arts through public arts programs like SFartsEd, YPTMTC, and the Ruth Asawa SF School of the Arts, where he graduated from the theatre department. He went on to earn a BFA from Carnegie Mellon University's School of Drama.

Rodney made his Broadway debut in *The Book of Mormon* and has since performed on international stages, toured North America in *Motown: The Musical*, and participated in workshop processes for major productions, including *Toni Stone* and *Ain't Too Proud*. Through SFBATCO, he continues to elevate Bay Area stories, support local artists, and build dynamic artistic communities.

His additional theatre credits include *Ain't Too Proud* (Berkeley Rep), *Toni Stone* (ACT & Arena Stage), and *I, Too, Sing America* (SFBATCO). Rodney is driven by a deep belief in theatre's ability to amplify voices and bridge communities, using his platform to inspire meaningful change in his hometown and beyond.



Anthony "Sam" McNeal, a lifelong Oakland resident, is a dedicated father, mentor, and community leader. Raised in West Oakland by his mother, Black Panther activist Millie McNeal, he developed a passion for social justice and youth empowerment. At a young age, he became one of the nation's youngest campaign managers and later co-founded the Oakland Crack Task Force to combat the crack epidemic.

Sam has spent decades shaping Oakland's community, from mentoring youth at McClymonds High School to leading programs at the REACH Youth Center. He has worked in conflict resolution, community organizing, and education, leaving a lasting impact on countless lives.

Beyond activism, Sam is a renowned DJ with over 45 years of experience, earning the Vegas Best Independent DJ of the Year award in 2017. His dedication has been recognized

with numerous honors, including a Certificate of Meritorious Conduct for bravery during the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake and multiple community service awards.

Anthony "Sam" McNeal



Jamarío Jackson is a dynamic leader and advocate. He is the Government and Community Relations Manager for Recology in San Francisco. In this role, he manages community partnerships, charitable contributions, sponsorship agreements and is the liaison responsible for resolving service-related inquiries from customers and constituencies. Jamarío is instrumental in negotiating and implementing individual sponsorship agreements with two Bay Area professional sports teams of different leagues. He also coordinates Recology's District Weekend Cleanup Events, which is a program for San Francisco residents designed to collect and dispose of items too large to fit in receptacles on their property.

Before his role at Recology, Jamarío worked for California State Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla, AC Transit, United States Senator Dianne Feinstein, and TransForm. For over a decade,

Jamarío has continued to develop interdisciplinary knowledge that he uses across internal and external aspects of his job. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California, Merced, and a Master of Arts in Urban Affairs from the University of San Francisco.

Jamarío Jackson



Congratulations to the Talented 25 for their service and leadership throughout the Bay Area



**SHONDA SCOTT'S
12 NEW THINGS®**

**Congratulations 2024 Talented 25 Honorees
on this new thing**

Andre Adeyemi
Director of Appointments,
Office of SF Mayor

Gary Banks
Businessman and
Community Leader

Dr. Christian Bijoux
Executive Director, Racial Equity
Diversity and Inclusion SFPUC

Petra Brady
Director of Community
Engagement, Oakland
African American Chamber

Kiesha Browder
CEO, United Way Bay Area

**Stanley Cox
(Mistah FAB)**
Community Activist/Entertainer

Rev. Shunise Criswell
Minister

Sherrice Dorsey Smith
Director, San Francisco
Department of Children
Youth and Their Families

Phaedra Ellis-Lamkins
Owner/Operator, Promise and
Orange Theory

Elisha Greenwell
Black Joy Parade

Brandi Howard
CEO, East Bay Foundation

Rodney Jackson
Award Winning Entertainer

Derreck Johnson
Businessman and
Community Advocate

Lytoria Ashley Little
Veteran Bay Area Church Leader

Marshawn Lynch
NFL Great (Ret.) and
Philanthropist

Corey Monroe
Community Activist

Joshlyn Norman
Community Leader

Mel Seymour
Founder, Code Tenderloin

Tamara Steele, Esq.
Attorney

Felisia Thibodeaux
Executive Director, Southwest
Community Center

Hon. Michael Tubbs
Former Mayor of Stockton

Carol Tatum
Veteran Community Activist

Hon. Terry Wiley
Judge, Alameda Superior Court

Monifa Willis
Chief of Staff,
SF District Attorney

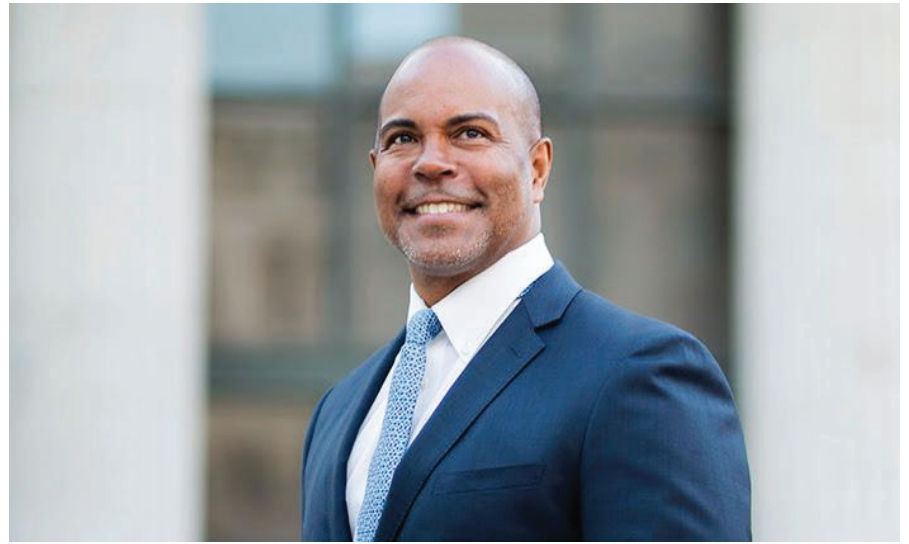
Hon. Caroline Wysinger
Mayor of El Cerrito

12newthings.com

Derreck, a third-generation Oaklander, was raised by a single mother in West Oakland's Acorn housing projects, one of the city's most underserved neighborhoods. With his mother working multiple jobs to provide a better life, Derreck learned the values of hard work, selflessness, and community pride. These lessons, along with the support of his extended family and community, helped him graduate high school and attend Fisk University.

After earning his degree, Derreck returned to Oakland with a mission to give back. In 2004, he opened Home of Chicken and Waffles in Jack London Square, creating a cornerstone for the local community. The restaurant not only provided delicious food but also created jobs and opportunities for Oakland residents, particularly those who had faced significant challenges.

Derreck is most proud of the fact that 70 percent of Home of Chicken and Waffles' employees have been formerly incarcerated individuals. His commitment to giving second chances has helped many people turn their lives around, with some of them achieving milestones like landing their first job, securing an apartment, or even earning a college degree.



Derreck Johnson



Shunise Criswell

Shunise Criswell was born on May 11, 1988, in San Francisco to Pastor Gerald Criswell and Sun-Reporter columnist Shunda Criswell. Baptized at six, she grew up deeply involved in church ministries, serving in the choir, usher board, children's ministry, and Bible study. Her leadership and faith led her to accept her calling to preach in 2012.

Now serving as Executive Pastor of New Life Fellowship Church, Shunise preaches regularly, mentors young ministers, and leads outreach programs. She travels throughout California and beyond, sharing God's Word and inspiring others through revivals, conferences, and community events.

Committed to her faith, she continues to grow in ministry and deepen her biblical knowledge. Inspired by 2 Timothy 4:6-8, she looks forward to the day she hears, "Well done, thy good and faithful servant."

Elisha Greenwell is a marketing leader and community advocate based in Oakland, CA. As the founder of the Black Joy Parade, she has built a powerful platform celebrating Black culture and resilience. With over 20 years of experience working with brands like Nike, Target, Starbucks, and more recently Abbott Labs, Elisha has earned national recognition, including the 2018 AdColor Change Agent Award.



Elisha Greenwell

She also serves as a Marketing Director for a healthcare company, focusing on campaigns that align with positive societal impact.

Balancing her career and motherhood, Elisha credits her success to a strong support system and prioritizing what truly matters. She was born and raised in Northern California, earned her B.A. from UC Santa Barbara and her M.F.A. from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.

Carolyn Wysinger is the Mayor Pro Tem of El Cerrito and a dedicated LGBTQ advocate, author, and educator. She has written for Autostraddle, Everyday Feminism, and Black Girl Dangerous, and her book Knockturnal Emissions is featured on LGBTQ reading lists at several universities. She has also led workshops at BUTCHVoices, Black Lesbians United, and Gender Spectrum.

She served three years as San Francisco Pride President and has held key roles in local and national Democratic organizations, including the California Democratic Party's Executive Board and the National Federation of Democratic Women's Legislative Committee. She also serves on the board of the Philonise and Keeta Floyd Institute for Social Change and is a regular LGBTQ contributor on Roland Martin Unfiltered.



Carolyn Wysinger

As an educator, Carolyn taught English, Leadership, and African-American Literature at Richmond High School while advising the Black Student Union and LGBTQ Student Club. She is currently in her second year on the El Cerrito City Council and first year as Mayor Pro Tem.



Petra Brady is a proven leader and natural liaison. She takes pride in bringing people together and providing information. As Director of Community Engagement & Membership for the Oakland African American Chamber, she helps entrepreneurs maintain successful businesses daily. Her work educates chamber members about funding, marketing, and using technology to improve their “bottom line.”

Throughout her career, she remains proficient in collaborating with community members and leaders to resolve problems negatively affecting business operations or connecting people with valuable resources. As part of the OAACC, she is also a business owner, providing services as a CA Notary Public, CA Life/Health Insurance Agent, Editor, Project Coordinator, Wedding Officiant, and more.

When Petra isn't busy with chamber activities, you will probably see her at a bay area community event. She has been a member

of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for over 17 years. She is also an active member of the League of Women Voters, in Oakland. Though a graduate of UC Berkeley, she is also a proud USC Mom. Her son graduates in June, with both his bachelors and master's degrees in finance.

Petra Brady

**OAACC is Proud to
Salute Our Director of Community Engagement &
Membership**



Petra Brady

**FOR BEING SELECTED AS ONE OF
THE SUN REPORTER'S TALENTED 25**



Keisha Browder

Keisha Browder is the new CEO of United Way Bay Area (UWBA), becoming the organization's first Black leader in its history. With over 25 years in philanthropy, youth empowerment, and racial justice, she previously served as CEO of United Way of Santa Cruz County. She will lead UWBA's efforts to combat poverty and expand equity across the region.

Browder has held key leadership roles at United Way and Girl Scouts Councils nationwide, specializing in fundraising, stakeholder engagement, and strategic planning. A Bay Area resident for over a decade, she serves on the Gilroy Housing Coalition and co-chairs the United Way Statewide Public

Policy Committee.

Guided by values of dignity, integrity, and compassion, Browder is committed to building a more inclusive and economically stable community for all.

CANDLESTICK

FivePoint celebrates the Sun-Reporter's Talented 25 honorees of 2024, whose visionary leadership strengthens our San Francisco community. As we reimagine Candlestick's next chapter, we're inspired by your dedication to making our city more vibrant and inclusive.





Marshawn Lynch, former NFL star, is dedicated to uplifting underprivileged youth in his hometown of Oakland. He co-founded the Fam 1st Family Foundation, which provides mentorship, education, and life skills training to help young people build brighter futures.

Beyond his foundation, Lynch gives back through free football camps, charity events, and community initiatives.

He organizes back-to-school programs, holiday giveaways, and local barbecues, ensuring direct support for those in need. His hands-on involvement reflects his deep commitment to making a lasting impact. Lynch also champions Black-owned businesses and cultural initiatives, partnering with the Seattle Seahawks to host Black History Month events.

Marshawn Lynch

Corey Monroe, a dedicated San Francisco activist, advocates for children, teens, and families. A graduate of J. Eugene McAteer High School, he studied Sociology at Morris Brown College in Atlanta. He now works at the Dr. Davis Senior Center SEOP, providing case management and re-entry housing support for formerly incarcerated individuals.

He leads “Harambeeb,” a men’s group at the YMCA focused on emotional well-being and mental health. As a longtime member of Omega Boys Club/Alive & Free, he collaborates with mentors like Dr. Marshall and Jack Jacqua to combat violence locally and globally. He also mentors incarcerated teens in the San Francisco Juvenile Justice system, guiding them away from violence and substance abuse.

Committed to community outreach, Corey supports homeless families in Bayview Hunters Point, providing food, clothing, and blankets. He helps them find stable housing or relocate to designated lots with city-provided facilities. He has honed his leadership skills through Leadership San Francisco and the Sheriff’s Department’s Restorative Justice Training. In his free time, he values every moment of his weekends.



Corey Monroe

Congratulations

to our YCD team member Corey Monroe for being recognized as part of the Talented 25!

Your dedication and impact inspire us all—thank you for everything you do!

- your friends at
Young Community Developers



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congratulates our esteemed board member, Carol Tatum, for being recognized as a Legacy Honoree.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and impactful contributions to our mission. We are proud to celebrate you!



415-822-3491

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Carol Tatum, a retiree with over 50 years in health and human services, has dedicated her life to advocating for underserved communities. Witnessing military tanks in Bayview-Hunters Point during the 1960s shaped her activism, leading her to fight against the displacement of Black residents during San Francisco's redevelopment.

She co-founded the Bayview-Hunters Point Foundation's Alcoholism Prevention Program, led efforts against liquor store saturation, and organized the first "Women and AIDS" conference. Her advocacy helped pass San Francisco's 1995 public smoking ban, and she played a key role in workforce development and community health initiatives.

Since retiring in 2001, Carol remains active on advisory boards, mentoring young leaders and advocating for social justice. A graduate of Antioch University West, she enjoys family, cooking, travel, and music, staying guided by her faith: "Time Reveals What Destiny Holds Secret."

Carol Tatum



Del Seymour

Del Seymour, known as "The Mayor of the Tenderloin," has spent over 17 years advocating for economic parity and historic preservation in San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood. He founded Tenderloin Walking Tours in 2008, educating thousands of visitors about the area's history and challenges. Del also founded Code Tenderloin, a workforce development organization that helps marginalized individuals gain tech jobs and secure stable housing.

Del holds leadership roles with organizations like Swords to Plowshares and works to ensure inclusive hiring practices across the city. His hands-on approach to helping the unhoused, formerly incarcerated, and others in need has made him a trusted figure in the community.

Featured in national media and honored with awards such as the San Francisco Community Leadership Award, Del's life and work were chronicled in the 2024 biography *Mayor of the Tenderloin*. His efforts continue to transform lives and bridge the gap between the Tenderloin and the broader Bay Area community.

CONGRATULATIONS! SUN REPORTER TALENTED 25



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