



# Recommendations to Strengthen Collaboration between the Board of Directors and Community Advisory Council

April 8, 2026

## Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee

**William Goodwin**  
Community Advisory Council Co-Chair

**Latasha Washington**  
Community Advisory Council Co-Chair

**Arsenio Mataka**  
Deputy Executive Officer, Equity and Community Programs



# Recommended Action

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Discuss the Community Advisory Council's (CAC) recommendations to strengthen communication and collaboration between the Board of Directors and the Council and consider forwarding them to the Board of Directors for the Board's consideration and potential direction to staff.

# Purpose of Increasing Board and CAC Communication & Collaboration

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- Create opportunities for relationship building
- Increase regular communication and information sharing
- Collaborate on policy and program decision-making related to environmental justice

# Recap from the Board of Directors Retreat

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- Recommendations were discussed at the January 28, 2026, Board of Directors Special / Retreat Meeting
- Summary of the discussion on the seven recommendations:
  - Most recommendations were well received
  - Two Board members voiced concerns with the first recommendation:
    - Council member liaisons participate in Board and/or Standing Committee meetings as a non-voting guest in the discussions

# Recap from the Board of Directors Retreat (cont.)

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- Discussion included suggestion to:
  - Add community members to the Board composition
  - Have a seat for a Community Advisory Council member on the Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee
  - Add a Report of the Community Advisory Council as a standing agenda item to Board and/or Committee agendas

# CAC Recommendations to the Board

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The CAC adopted the following recommendations on November 20, 2025, to increase communication and collaboration between the Council and the Board:

1. Council member liaisons participate in Board and/or Standing Committee meetings as a non-voting guest in the discussions
2. Board member liaisons participate in CAC meetings as a non-voting guest in the discussions
3. Annual joint retreats are held between the Council and Board
4. Opportunities are provided for Council members to present informational items at Board and Standing Committee meetings

# CAC Recommendations to the Board (cont.)

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5. Informal meetings occur every 6 months between Council Co-Chairs, Board Leadership, and Air District staff leadership
6. New Council members have a meet and greet with the Board member(s) representing their geographical area
7. Board members go on a toxic tour of the jurisdiction they represent along with Council members from that area, whenever possible

# Air District Response



# CAC Recommendations to the Board

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The CAC adopted the following recommendations on November 20, 2025, to increase communication and collaboration between the Council and the Board:

1. Council member liaisons participate in Board and/or Standing Committee meetings as a non-voting guest in the discussions
  - *This is a Board prerogative. No legal barriers have been identified to date. Broader implementation would require clear roles, participation protocols, and expectations. As an alternative, the Board could consider having CAC members participate in discussions for specific relevant topics, an approach that has been successfully piloted at recent Board meetings*

# CAC Recommendations to the Board (cont.)

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2. Board member liaisons participate in CAC meetings as a non-voting guest in the discussions
  - *Air District staff support increased Board participation in CAC meetings. Designating a single Board member liaison would help ensure continuity, but allowing for rotation recognizes the time commitment of attending six meetings per year*
3. Annual joint retreats are held between the Council and Board
  - *Air District staff recommend incorporating a standing CAC engagement item into the annual Board of Directors retreat. Alternatively, holding joint retreats every two years may be more feasible given resource considerations*

# CAC Recommendations to the Board (cont.)

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4. Opportunities are provided for Council members to present informational items at Board and Standing Committee meetings
  - *Opportunities for CAC members to present already exist and should continue under the protocols outlined in the CAC Charter*
5. Informal meetings occur every 6 months between Council Co-Chairs, Board Leadership, and Air District staff leadership
  - *Air District staff support holding check-in meetings every six months between CAC Co-Chairs, Board leadership, and Air District staff leadership; this is a manageable effort with meaningful benefit*

# CAC Recommendations to the Board (cont.)

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6. New Council members have a meet and greet with the Board member(s) representing their geographical area
  - *Air District staff does not recommend formalizing this as a policy; instead, staff can provide contact information and allow direct coordination*
7. Board members go on a toxic tour of the jurisdiction they represent along with Council members from that area, whenever possible
  - *Air District staff supports participation in environmental justice tours led by environmental justice organizations, consistent with best practice and ensures tours are community-led; there may be practical constraints in areas that lack environmental justice organizational capacity or identified community issues, opportunities for tours may be limited and could require additional staff resources and coordination*

# Recommended Action

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Discuss the Community Advisory Council's recommendations to strengthen communication and collaboration between the Board of Directors and the Council and consider forwarding them to the Board of Directors for the Board's consideration and potential direction to staff.

# Questions & Discussion

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**For more information:**

[communityadvisorycouncil@baaqmd.gov](mailto:communityadvisorycouncil@baaqmd.gov)



# Marie Harrison Environmental Justice Scholarship Program Update

Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee

April 8, 2026

**Arieann Harrison, Executive Director**  
**Marie Harrison Community Foundation**

**Daniel S. Madrigal, Senior Staff Specialist**  
**Environmental Justice Division**



# Marie Harrison Community Foundation

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Logo from the Marie Harrison Community Foundation website: [www.canwelve.org](http://www.canwelve.org)

# Marie Harrison

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MARIE HARRISON, MOTHER OF THE MOVEMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.

Images from the Marie Harrison Community Foundation website: [canwelive.org](http://canwelive.org)

# Scholarship Goals

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- Honor the life of Marie Harrison, an environmental justice leader and supporter of impacted youth, who worked to bring environmental, health and social justice to the Bayview Hunters Point
- Support college students who demonstrate a passion for improving environmental health and air quality in the overburdened frontline communities of the Bay Area
- Support Air District's values of excellence, leadership, collaboration, and equity

# Scholarship Criteria

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- Demonstrate acceptance to a post-secondary school academic institution, college or university
- Demonstrate need for financial assistance to attend post-secondary school
- Attended high school within the Bay Area of Northern California
- Resided in a neighborhood impacted by environmental pollution
- Applicants interested in social justice, environmental science, environmental justice, law, policy and urban planning are preferred

# Review of 2025 Scholarships

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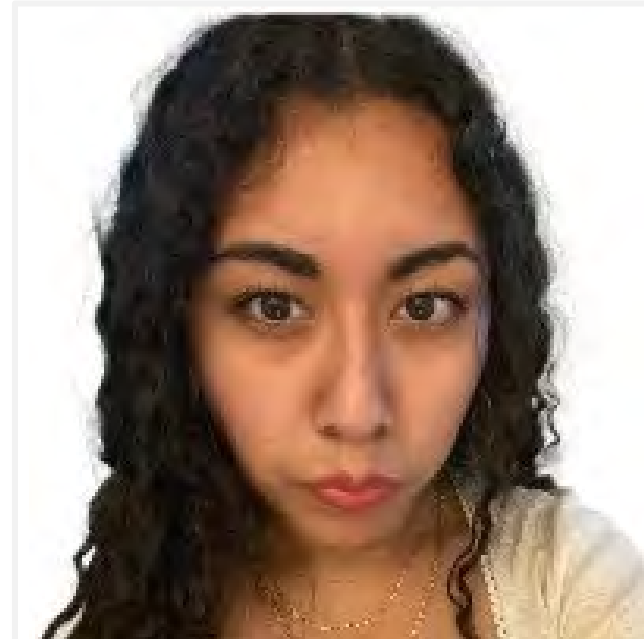
- \$84,000 provided by the Air District for 2025
- 27 applications received
- Awarded twelve scholarships of \$5,000 for a total of \$60,000
- Worked with awardees to support educational goals

# 2025 Scholarship Winners

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Anthony Montano



Andrea Martinez-Alvarez



Brianna Mendoza



Dari Khaidapova

# 2025 Scholarship Winners (cont.)

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Jamia Garcia



Isabella Rocha



JayDyn Carter



Joel Carrillo

# 2025 Scholarship Winners (cont.)

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Selina Xue



Sarai Garcia-Dennard



Xion Abiodun



Yolanda Harris

# Marie Harrison EJ Scholarship Year 4

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- Air District Support for Year 4- \$87,300 (Approved for Fiscal Year 2027)
- Scholarship application is open until May 29, 2026
- Next steps:
  - Outreach across the Bay Area to notify eligible students at schools, after school programs, youth leadership programs, Assembly Bill 617 communities, and to James Cary Smith Grantees
  - Review applications, select awardees, and distribute funds
  - Mentor and support scholarship recipients
  - Distribute twelve scholarships of \$5,000 for a total of \$60,000

# Questions & Discussion

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## **For more information:**

Marie Harrison Environmental Justice Scholarship Application link:  
[bit.ly/MHEJ2026](https://bit.ly/MHEJ2026)

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