

## A Message From Our CEO



Last October, I witnessed a powerful scene at The Women's Building. It was a clear reflection of the alignment between MEDA's team and the residents of the Mission District. One hundred and fifty people were present at the bilingual Community Forum organized by our Policy team, featuring all six candidates for the San Francisco District 9 Supervisor seat. The room held an active community, genuinely interested in the future of the neighborhood. That night, we gathered together to elevate community voices and affirmed a simple truth: unity is strength.

This image of empowerment is the result of decades of working alongside community members in different areas of community development. These are relationships built with care, boldness, and many hours of hard work. We are honored by the lasting trust we have earned; it is the foundation for our work and impact.

In 2024, we reached two significant milestones. Our team provided direct services to over **18,000** families—a new record—and impacted nearly **56,000** total community members. We marked the 10th anniversary of our Community

Real Estate program, which has produced over 1,300 affordable housing units since 2014 and has 1,200 more in the pipeline. These figures reflect far more than statistics; they demonstrate the tangible impact of MEDA's mission and the ongoing confidence our community places in us.

MEDA, our partners, and our supporters continue working together so that residents in the Mission District can reach the goals they have set for themselves and their families. This is a shared, place-based effort that now serves as a roadmap for other organizations around the country looking to invest in their communities with collective prosperity in mind.

Each year brings new challenges and new opportunities. We embrace them with responsibility, always keeping the community at the center as we realize a Mission District that continues to grow and lead.

In solidarity,

Luis Granados

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## **Mission**

Rooted in San Francisco's Mission District, MEDA is advancing a national movement by building prosperity, community ownership and civic power.

## **Vision**

We envision generations of families choosing where to call home, thriving economically, succeeding in learning opportunities, and leading policy and social change.

# **Asset Building Programs**

MEDA provides asset building programs that address both short-term needs and long-term goals, always paired with action planning and clear next steps. Our work spans financial capability, free tax preparation, support with affordable housing applications, first-time homeownership, and workforce training. We are committed to helping Mission District individuals and families build lasting pathways to generational wealth.



In 2024, MEDA launched a new Youth Workforce Program at John O'Connell High School, providing juniors and seniors with career development and financial capability classes. In its first year, 130 students participated in our classes and 40 students embarked on internships spanning their interests in law, architecture, education, food services, and nonprofit sectors. For many of these students, it was their first time experiencing a professional work environment



**Elmo** grew up in the Mission and returned several years ago with an aim to pursue a career in the IT sector. "I worked in customer service for a long time and have always been passionate about technology," he explains. He sought coursework to help with this shift and was pleased to learn about MEDA's Mission Techies program, which distinguishes itself by focusing on IT support rather than coding.

Elmo completed the three-month IT certificate program in 2024. He also utilized the program's emphasis on job placement assistance, which helped him secure multiple contracts. "Mission Techies IT was everything I hoped for," Elmo says.

#### 2024 BY THE NUMBERS

8,760

clients served by asset building programs

1,665

clients served by ongoing coaching

**270** 

individuals placed into quality jobs

5,000

tax returns filed, with \$7,073,084 paid to government funds and returning \$8,871,628 to the low-income community

190

clients supported with eviction defense services to successfully stay in their homes

8,950

affordable housing applications submitted, placing 90 families in affordable housing and providing 2,080 unique clients with the tools and knowledge to navigate San Francisco's complex housing lottery system

## Community Real Estate

In 2014, MEDA began its community real estate work with a commitment to cultural placekeeping and the goal of countering the alarming displacement of the Mission District's long-time residents and businesses. Ten years later, we continue to secure and develop permanent, affordable spaces for families and entrepreneurs to thrive, with our projects leading the field of affordable housing and community development.

In 2024, MEDA purchased two properties via San Francisco's Small Sites Program:
2059-2061 Mission Street and 2901-2929 16th Street. Together, these buildings encompass
98 low-income residential units and currently provide space for 12 commercial tenants. By securing these properties, we are ensuring continuity for residents and business owners—some for decades—who otherwise would be at risk of displacement.

MEDA also secured blended private and public funding to undertake construction for Casa Adelante–1515 South Van Ness. With Chinatown Community Development Center as our partner, this previously vacant site will become 100% affordable housing with 168 residential units. Its 9,000 commercial square feet will welcome nonprofits that provide childcare and wraparound services.

2024 BY THE NUMBERS

3,245

renters resided in MEDA housing

40

commercial tenants
operated in MEDA
properties with businesses
that employed 120
additional individuals

12

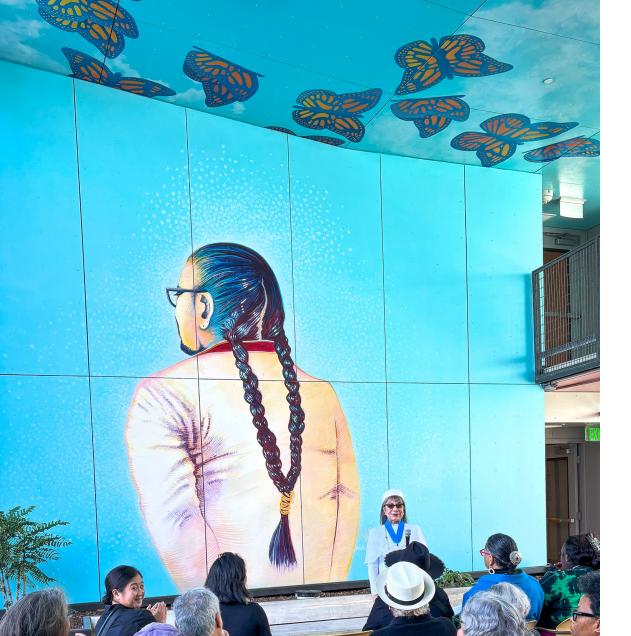
nonprofits operated in **14** commercial spaces

1,358

housing units produced and preserved since 2014, with 1,152 additional units in the pipeline, totaling 2,510 units 35,590

square feet of affordable ground-floor commercial space created and **50,000** square feet preserved since 2014 1,280

individuals attended community meetings and events, building tours, and panel discussions



#### **COMMUNITY STORY**

October 23, 2024 marked the unveiling of *Make Things New*, created by award-winning artist **Lorraine García-Nakata**. This series of eight 20-foot-high murals spans 4,000 square feet and frames the entrance of **Casa Adelante – 2828 16th Street**, MEDA's affordable housing development.

Commissioned by MEDA,
Tenderloin Neighborhood
Development Corporation, San
Francisco Arts Commission, and
Galería de la Raza, the installation
honors cultural and neighborhood
legacies. The acclaimed artist
shares: "My intention was to
create an overall place of rest,
dignity, and 'medicine'."

García-Nakata engaged with tenants as her vision for the piece developed. At the unveiling, she remarked: "These paintings that you see here are not just paintings.... They also hold the energy of conversations and interactions with those who live and work here."

## **Fondo Adelante**

Fondo Adelante is MEDA's Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), supporting Bay Area small business owners with financial products and business development assistance.

In 2024, MEDA emphasized one-on-one engagement with our business neighbors in the Mission Corridor. Our team hosted networking and learning sessions, provided technical assistance to support business growth, and guided Mission entrepreneurs through grant applications. Fondo Adelante also offers its own loan products, tailored for small business owners who are often left out of the mainstream banking system. Since June 2020, the revenues of all businesses that have funded loans with MEDA is nearly \$130 million. Our clients consistently achieve a repayment rate of 98% and their businesses continue to thrive.

In 2024, MEDA offered a

#### **Business Plan Development**

Program for local business
entrepreneurs that included an
eight-week workshop series and
one-on-one coaching sessions.
The program resulted in 340
business plans created for new
and emerging businesses in the
neighborhood, including
restaurants/food service,
childcare, beauty salons, retail
shops, and more.

2024 BY THE NUMBERS

1,545

jobs supported in the community through loans and services

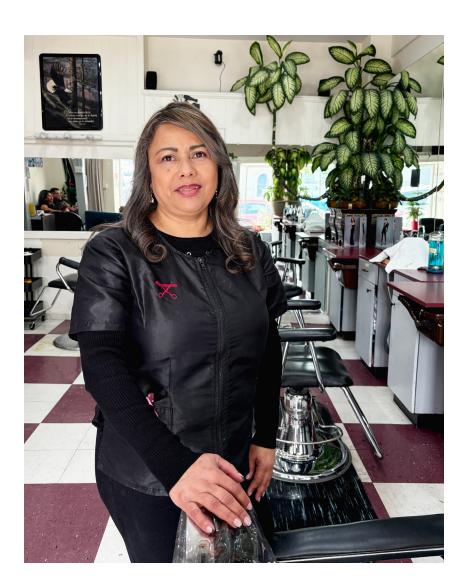
345

new clients provided with business development coaching and technical assistance 40

new loans in 2024 with \$1,140,000 in total disbursement for an average loan of \$27,780

150

webinars and workshop sessions with 1,480 attendees (340 unique individuals)



#### **CLIENT STORY**

**Lilliam**, owner of **Kiara's Beauty Salon**, is a commercial tenant at a MEDA small sites property.

She began there as an apprentice in 2004, purchased it in 2011, and in 2024 realized her vision of business expansion to offer a wider array of services.

She fulfilled her vision by securing a Fondo Adelante loan and receiving one-on-one business coaching. "MEDA has been a great partner," Lilliam says. "They've always been there for me and never said no."

In 2024, Lilliam was awarded a mini-grant through the San Francisco Women's Entrepreneurship Fund, a collaboration of MEDA and the city's Office of Economic and Workforce Development.

"I'm grateful and proud of what I've accomplished, thanks to everyone who has supported me along the way," Lilliam says. "We'll keep moving forward together."



Mission Promise Neighborhood (MPN) is MEDA's collaboration with the City of San Francisco, the San Francisco Unified School District, and 15 community partners. Together we are breaking cycles of poverty through improved academic achievement and family economic success to create a prosperous future for the whole Mission community.

In 2024, MPN created and convened four action teams to identify and address community challenges, centered on Early Learning, K-12 Education, Post-Secondary Education, and Family Support. Together, these action teams are making measurable progress in addressing needs in the Mission District, part of MPN's focus on ensuring that every child and family has the resources and support they need to thrive.

MEDA continues its work driving the **Promise City initiative.** In July 2024, our MPN team convened a retreat where citywide partners co-created a vision for strengthening the academic and economic future of San Francisco's children and families. The initiative seeks to scale the Promise Neighborhood model to Chinatown, District 11, and the HOPE SF communities of Bayview, Hunters Point, Sunnydale, and Potrero Hill.



On their children's first day at Sanchez Elementary School in 2022, José and Dexi were introduced to MPN through a Family Success Coach based at the school. "I hadn't found the guidance I needed until I connected with the Mission Promise team," José recalls.

With ongoing support from MPN, in 2024, the family was able to move out of a hotel room and into an affordable housing apartment. José also began one-on-one financial coaching with his Family Success Coach to keep improving his credit, budgeting for new ongoing apartment costs, and establishing and contributing to a college savings program. "I want to see my kids grow, become good people, good professionals," he explains.

"I have clarity for my plans," José says. "We feel stable and more prepared for the future."

	2024 BY THE NUMBERS		
MPN'S FAMILY SUCCESS COACHES	820	unique clients served	
	2,500	one-on-one sessions conducted, totaling 1,500 hours	
	700	referrals made for families, to connect them to services for improved economic stability and academic support	
	\$830	average debt reduction achieved by MPN families through financial capability coaching	
MPN PARTNERS	19,500	children and their family members served by MPN partners and over <b>106,000</b> individuals since MPN's establishment	
	9	percentage point increase in Kinder Readiness in MPN schools from the 2022-2023 school year (41%) to the 2023-2024 school year (50%)	
	11	percentage point decrease in Chronic Absenteeism in MPN schools from the 2021-2022 school year (52%) to the 2023-2024 school year (41%)	

#### **2024** BY THE NUMBERS

Our work was showcased at

30

conferences nationwide, reaching a cumulative audience of **2,300** leaders, practitioners, and advocates

60

cross-sector institutions joined MEDA for an immersive Mission District Impact Tour

Provided

70

sessions of technical assistance, building the capacity of **65** partner organizations to better serve their communities

# **National Partnerships**

MEDA is committed to sharing our approaches, best practices, and lessons learned to support organizations nationwide in creating solutions for the communities they serve.

Organizations leverage MEDA's technical assistance to identify holistic, place-based development strategies that align cross-sector collaborations and invest in internal capacity building to yield quicker and community-driven transformative results for their clients.



#### **PARTNER HIGHLIGHT**

In December 2024, MEDA hosted Self Enhancement, Inc., the lead agency of the Albina Rockwood Promise Neighborhood (Portland, OR) for a two-day Impact Visit focused on affordable housing and cultural placekeeping. The visit included presentations by and meetings with six MEDA departments, as well as a neighborhood tour.

#### "Our time at MEDA was truly inspiring and deeply impactful," says

Trent Aldridge, CEO of Self Enhancement, Inc. "The insights we gained have motivated us to implement meaningful programmatic and systemic changes within our organization. The expertise shared—from Finance to Data—resonated strongly with our team, and the knowledge we brought back is already shaping the way we deliver our programs and services," he adds. "It was a valuable experience spent with thoughtful, dedicated individuals, and we're grateful for the opportunity to connect."



# California Promise Neighborhood Network

MEDA is the coordinator of the California Promise Neighborhood Network (CPNN), a group of six Promise Neighborhoods addressing critical issues impacting students and families throughout the state. In 2024, CPNN established three Communities of Practice that bring together diverse stakeholders to share knowledge, develop strategies, and refine approaches that directly improve student success and family well-being across California.

### **College Retention**

To improve retention rates by supporting students to enroll, attend, and graduate from college.

### **Chronic Absenteeism**

To reduce absenteeism through close collaboration with educators and school sites.

## Family Resources & System Alignment

To enhance coordination of services that support families, including CalFresh, housing, and healthcare.

#### CALIFORNIA PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK MEMBERS:

Chula Vista/San Diego Promise Neighborhood led by SBCS

#### **Corning Promise Neighborhood**

led by the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indian Tribe

#### **Hayward Promise Neighborhood**

led by Cal State University East Bay

#### Klamath Promise Neighborhood

led by the Yurok Tribe Education Department

#### **Mission Promise Neighborhood**

led by Mission Economic Development Agency,

CPNN also worked with Urban Institute, Amanecer Consulting Group, RTI International, and Everyday Impact Consulting to build a statewide infrastructure for California's \$13.5M investment in CPNN.





#### 2024 BY THE NUMBERS

40

organizational partners were activated to take 80 actions on legislation by attending board meetings, writing letters, and calling lawmakers.

**270** 

community members were activated, empowered, and developed leadership skills through 1,000+ actions, including rallies, forums, and leadership cohorts.

MEDA seeks to create positive change at the local, state, and national levels by mobilizing community members to become civically active and to develop their leadership skills. In 2024, our work emphasized **13 policy provisions** that collectively safeguard access to affordable housing, prioritize cultural placekeeping, and protect street vendors and commercial tenants.

#### IN 2024, MEDA ORGANIZED FOUR PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON COMMUNITY-DRIVEN SYSTEMS CHANGE:

#### **Mission Youth in Action:**

A weekly program for participants ages 15-20 activates youth to name and address the systemic problems impacting them.

#### **Civics for All:**

A three-week program for adults fosters a culture of civic responsibility and democratic participation.

#### Mi Historia:

A 12-week workshop empowers individuals to share personal stories through the lens of identifying a systemic problem that has impacted their lives.

#### Negocios Unidos por el Cambio:

A series of networking events encourages stronger relationships for local business leaders through training sessions and dialogue.



For **Leonardo**, his connection with MEDA began in 2010 with free tax preparation services, which introduced him to a range of additional programs. Over the following years, Leonardo and his family faced significant housing challenges and persistently worked to find a stable home. In 2021, they secured a home at MEDA's Casa Adelante – 2060 Folsom, an 100% affordable housing development.

This experience inspired Leonardo to advocate for tenants' rights and affordable housing. He has shared his experiences as a member of the **Extremely Low Income (ELI) Coalition**, and in 2024 campaigned for **Prop G**, an initiative to create a **Housing Opportunity Fund**. The measure passed; starting in 2026, it will provide rental subsidies to support ELI community members.

"The approval of Prop G brought me joy because it opens the door for more families," Leonardo says. "But there's still so much work to do, and it's vital that families know what's available to them."

Community Forum for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors District **9 election.** Voters in the

## **Supporters**

# MEDA deeply appreciates the continual support of our mission.

#### \$50,000+

All in for Kids

Anonymous

BM0

Bay Area Community Resources

Blue Meridian Partners

**Bothin Foundation** 

California Accountable Communities for Health Initiative

California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation

California Department of Social Services

California Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications

California Office of the Small Business Advocate

California Pollution Control Financing Authority

California Public Utilities Commission

Capital One

Citi

City and County of San Francisco Department of Children, Youth & Their Families

City and County of San Francisco Human Services Agency

City and County of San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development

City and County of San Francisco Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs

City and County of San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Crankstart

First 5 San Francisco

First Citizens Bank

JPMorgan Chase & Co

Menorah Park Community Impact Fund

NeighborWorks America

Opportunity Finance Network

PNC Financial Services Group

**Tipping Point Community** 

UnidosUS

United Way of the Bay Area

U.S. Bank

U.S. Department of Education

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Wells Fargo Bank

Younger Family Fund

#### \$25,000 - \$49,999

Ameriprise Financial
Bank of America

Brightline Defense Project

Hispanic Federation
Self Help for the Elderly

Small Business Anti-Displacement Network

#### \$10,000 - \$24,999

Ally Bank

Amalgamated Bank
Bank of San Francisco
Cahill Contractors

CAMEO

Cathay Bank CIBC Bank

East West Bank

PolicyLink

#### \$500 - \$9,999

Allstate Foundation

Anonymous

Antonio Herrera

Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

**BPM LLP** 

Dr. Carina Marquez

Carpenters Local Union 22

Casey Family Programs

Chime

Chinese for Affirmative Action
Christa Brown & Marco Chavarín

CTBC Bank

Delta Dental Community Care Foundation

Edi Berton & Jeff Lester Elizabeth Figueredo

Garima Jajoo

Goldfarb & Lipman LLP

Guzman Construction Group

Herman Coliver Locus Architecture

Jill Roberts
Joyce Slen
Joyce Trautman
Longview Foundation

Low Income Investment Fund

Lucy Arellano

Manuel Santamaria

Marcial Chao

Michael Spiegelman

Mission Housing Development Corporation

Mithūn

Nicholas Atchinson

Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Phil and Julie Zigoris Rafael Yaquián

**Rich Gross** 

Risa Teitelbaum & Leonard A. Fisher San Francisco Department of Elections

Tanya Borja

Teddy Vasquez Gray King

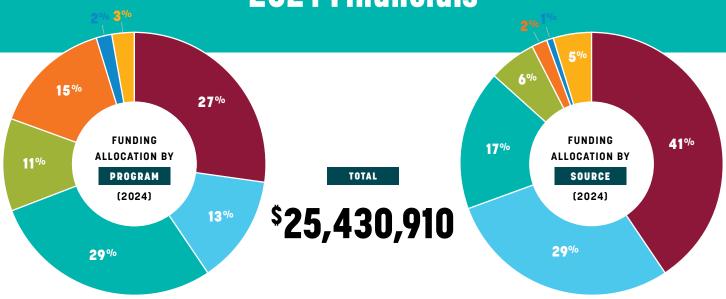
Tenderloin Neighborhood Development

Corporation

University of California San Francisco PEDAL

Victor Vazquez
Whitney Jones
Ysabel Duron

## **2024 Financials**



\$6,974,704	Small Sites Program
\$3,352,881	Asset Building Programs
\$7,305,890	Community Real Estate
\$2,899,219	Fondo Adelante
\$3,697,905	Mission Promise Neighborhood
\$ <b>549,363</b>	Mission Resource Center (Plaza Adelante)
\$650,948	

*	
<sup>\$</sup> 10,324,824	Grants and Donations
\$ <b>7,356,591</b>	Rent
\$4,379,586	City
\$1,513,515	Federal
\$459,981	Developer Fees
\$229,041	Interest
\$1,167,041	All Other (including unrestricted)

# Board of Directors

RAFAEL YAQUIÁN Chairperson

M TERESA GARCÍA Vice Chairperson

MARCO CHAVARÍN Secretary

TEDDY VASQUEZ GRAY KING Treasurer

**EDUARDO CABRERA** 

**YSABEL DURON** 

**RICH GROSS** 

ANTONIO ISAIS

**WHITNEY JONES** 

**BIANCA SOFIA LOPEZ** 

DR. CARINA MARQUEZ

**CAROLINA MARTINEZ** 

MANUEL SANTAMARIA

**JOYCE SLEN** 

**KEVIN STEIN** 

# Leadership and Management Teams

LUIS GRANADOS Chief Executive Officer

BERLINA CEGUERRA Chief Operating Officer

CARLOS RAMIREZ Chief Financial Officer

JILLIAN SPINDLE Chief Strategy and Advancement Officer

JOSÉ GARCIA Chief Community Real Estate Officer

MALEA CHÁVEZ Chief Programs Officer

RAJNI BANTHIA Vice-President of Data, Analysis, and Planning

SANDRA COLLINS Vice-President of Development and Communications

**LIZ CORTEZ** Vice-President of Collective Impact

JAQUELINE MARCELOS Vice-President of MPN Family Support & School Based Services

**ERNESTO MARTINEZ** Vice-President of Asset Building Programs

**REBECA PATIÑO** Vice-President of Fondo Adelante

**DOLORES TERRAZAS** Vice-President of Risk Management and Compliance

**ELAINE YEE** Vice-President of Community Real Estate





#### MISSION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Plaza Adelante: 2301 Mission Street, Suite 301, San Francisco, CA 94110 | (415) 282-3334 medasf.org | missionpromise.org | social: @medasf (Facebook/X/LinkedIn); @medainsf (Instagram)