



MOVE



THE

VALLEY



Towards a Brighter Future For All



Gurinder Sangha, Dean of Educational Services & Pathway Effectiveness at Fresno City College, at the Town Hall.  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF MOVE THE VALLEY



# MOVE The Valley

MOVE the Valley (Mobilize, Organize, Vote, Empower) is a non-partisan, multi-lingual, multi-ethnic, and inter-generational coalition of grassroots organizations dedicated to advancing civic participation in California's Central Valley. MOVE's member organizations work together to expand access to

democracy, strengthen community leadership and amplify the electoral voices of historically marginalized communities through coordinated outreach, education, and get-out-the-vote campaigns in nine counties in the San Joaquin Valley and Sacramento Areas.



MOVE The Valley holds a public Town Hall meeting on August 24.  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF MOVE THE VALLEY

# Driven by Data

## Going straight to the source to identify the concerns of Central Valley residents

BY KEN SMITH

Socio-political issues like those that concern MOVE The Valley tend to be evocative—they can incite great passion in the people they affect and are easily illustrated through anecdotal and qualitative evidence. But to properly carry out its vision and mission and best represent the people it aims to serve, the organization's efforts are also driven by data.

From 2020 to 2022, MOVE partnered with the UC Merced Community and Labor Center to conduct annual "Fresno Speaks" surveys in order to gauge the greatest concerns among that city's residents. Concerns over the COVID pandemic dominated those surveys for the first two years, but the top five issues in 2022 were: housing (20.5%); homelessness (18.4%); crime and gun violence (16.9%); infrastructure, sidewalks, street lights (12.5%); and air quality/environment (10%).

In 2023, MOVE upped its information-gathering efforts by partnering with Data for Social Good (DSG) to conduct a survey across the San Joaquin Valley. From November 9 to December 3, 2023, 2,616 respondents from Fresno, Merced, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Madera, Kings, Kern, and Tulare counties completed the survey by email or phone, making it the largest and most exhaustive Central Valley study conducted in two decades.

When asked to choose which issues have most negatively impacted their household from a field of choices, respondents top three picks were:

**42.5%** Affordable housing

**20.2%** Local infrastructure

**13.5%** A lack of opportunities for youth and young adults

Following is more information gleaned from respondents who chose those categories as their greatest concerns.

More results from the most recent Fresno Speaks survey can be found at [www.movethevalley.org/sjvspeaks](http://www.movethevalley.org/sjvspeaks). More results from the larger 2023 survey can be found at MOVE's website and at [dataforsocialgood.org/research-san-joaquin-valley/](http://dataforsocialgood.org/research-san-joaquin-valley/).

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

- ▶ 80% said rent and home prices are too high in their community.
- ▶ Homeowners accounted for 55.4% of respondents, in line with the California state average of homeowners (55.6%).
- ▶ White, male, and Republican respondents were statistically more likely to own a home
- ▶ Homeowners claim the greatest benefit to owning a home is financial stability and the ability to accumulate wealth.
- ▶ Non-homeowners cite home affordability and current income as barriers to homeownership
- ▶ Respondents 18-35 were statistically more likely to rent or live with their family.

### LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE:

**65.8%** are concerned with the amount of potholes in their community.

**15.6%** believe that the sidewalks in their neighborhood are inadequate.

**12.6%** find the lack of functioning streetlights concerning.

### LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS:

**37.8%** believe that their education system fails to prepare students to transition into the workforce.

**28.3%** do not think there are enough entry-level jobs to support the youth within their community.

## LÚCETE LATINA VIDEO SERIES



The Lúnete Latina video program highlights stories of California and Central Valley women who are leading the way to uplift their neighborhoods.

Scan the QR Code above to watch the 15-video Digital Lúnete Latina Video Series.



**Lúnete Latina (English)**

CNC Education Fund •



**Lúnete Latina (Spanish)**

CNC Education Fund •



**Lúnete Latina: Samantha Valadez, Affordable Housing**

CNC Education Fund •



**Lúnete Latina: Mayte Ruiz Garcia, Seguridad Económica**

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**Lúnete Latina: Cassandra Gutierrez, Civic Engagement**

CNC Education Fund •



**Lúnete Latina: Rosa Inguanzo, Justicia Ambiental**

CNC Education Fund •



# “Our Voice, Our Choice, Our California”

**Communities for a New California aims to change the face of political representation in the Central Valley**

**BY KEN SMITH**

Of the 45 sitting supervisors on nine county boards spanning the San Joaquin Valley—from Sacramento to Kern—only 10 (22 %) are people of color, and four (9%) are women. By shocking contrast, 35 (77 percent) are white males. This is despite the fact that non-white people account for roughly 65 percent of the total population of these counties, based on 2020 U.S. Census numbers.

In short, to say political representation in the Central Valley does not fairly reflect its populace is an understatement. One of the main objectives of Communities for a New California (CNC) is spurring valley voters to change this disparity.

At the county level it's a battle against systemic barriers, according to CNC Executive Director Pablo Rodríguez. Elected positions like county supervisors, district attorney, and county sheriff are often

To counter this, Rodríguez offers a Spanish phrase that's something of a mantra for him—“Si no dices lo que piensas, ¿pa' qué piensas?” (“If you don't say what you think, why think?”). He explains that one of CNC's main objectives is to “politicize social networks”—to get people talking about what is important to them with their family and friends, which in turn can move them to take action.

“If we're talking, we're fighting, and if we're fighting, we're winning,” he says.

One of CNC's initiatives is the *Lúnete Latina* campaign, which spotlights inspirational Latinas advocating for critical issues—those who are “shining brightly.” The goal is to amplify underrepresented voices by showing the power of Latinas and women of color to affect positive change in their families, neighborhoods, and California as a whole. One of every six registered voters in California is a Latina woman.

“Those 3.2 million women hold the power to decide who represents us in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.,” says Rodríguez. “The candidates who authentically engage Latina voters and demonstrate a plan to address the issues negatively impacting the families and loved ones of Latina women will not only earn the votes of Latina women. But, also earn the votes of Latino voters as a whole.”

Rodríguez was a founding member of the Fresno County Civic Engagement Table, which grew into the MOVE The Valley coalition. Of the coalition, he says there is power in the unity between its member groups and the voters they represent.

“We share a common future. It's about our voice, our choice, our California.”

## “Si no dices lo que piensas, ¿pa' qué piensas?”

Pablo Rodríguez  
Founding Executive Director, Communities for a New California

decided during low-turnout primary elections. If a candidate receives a majority plus one of votes in the primary, there is no mandatory November general election to decide the winner.

In addition there are political forces which seek to silence people of the global majority—people of color—says Rodríguez.

“As a result of bad experiences there are many people of color who become reluctant to voice their opinions publicly. People often feel safer that way, so we are clandestine at work—we don't draw attention to ourselves, we don't lose our jobs. So we remain clandestine in our neighborhoods and communities as a whole.”

For more information about Communities for a New California, go to [www.cncedfund.org](http://www.cncedfund.org).

# No Place Like Home

Faith in the Valley works to educate communities on their housing rights and to advance systems change

BY ANNE STOKES

As a community organizer with Faith in the Valley, Blanca Ojeda had garnered some experience with immigration rights before she became involved with another of the organization's objectives—housing advocacy and tenants' rights. Her introduction to that arena was a trial by fire, and started when she responded to a call for help from five residents of a single building who were being evicted.

"When I went to that apartment complex, I learned it was actually more than half (of the residents)—like 25-plus folks—that were actually facing eviction. This was around Christmas-time, 2020, and so most places were already closed down (for the holidays)," she remembers. "It was really hard to even try to get legal aid. Offices were closed. And so I ended up learning that's a part of a strategy, too, for people not to get support during that time and be put out."

Ojeda's housing community organizing work with Faith in the Valley involves working with people to educate them on their rights as tenants, teaching them how to advocate for themselves, and fostering relationships through community meetings, workshops and leadership development programs. Ojeda is based in Merced and Faith in the Valley is headquartered in Stockton, but the organization works throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

"It's really giving an opportunity for them to do it themselves. It's not just providing a training where all of the information is already laid out, but it's also providing a training on how we go about finding that information that we need," she says. "We're going to look for this information together and figure it out together."

Faith in the Valley works toward systemic changes and develops strategies to push

for legislative reforms. They've had success advocating for:

- ▶ **Eviction Protection Programs in Fresno and Bakersfield**, which protect tenants from unlawful evictions and provide city-appointed legal representation in eviction court proceedings.
- ▶ **SB 4**, as part of the Home is Sacred campaign, which allows affordable housing to be built on land owned by faith-based organizations.
- ▶ **SB 567**, which closed loopholes around tenant protections and helps keep families in their homes.

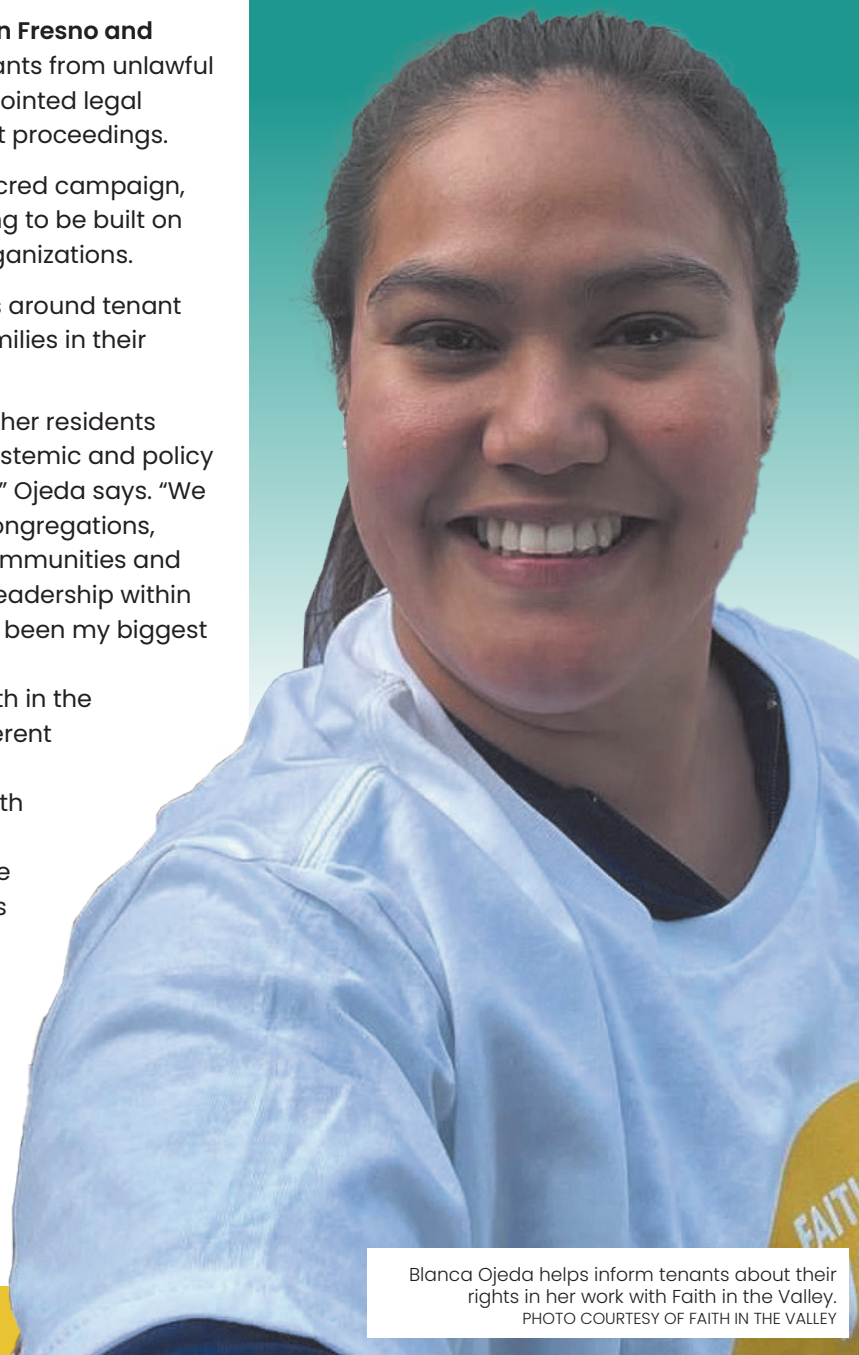
"We reach out and bring together residents across the region to make that systemic and policy change to advance racial justice," Ojeda says. "We work with different faith-based congregations, but we also work with different communities and populations. We're also building leadership within apartment complexes, and that's been my biggest focus."

Faith in the Valley finds strength in the collaborative efforts of many different communities of faith.

"What brings us together in faith communities is the dignity and respect for others, the fact that we all believe that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect and deserves to be seen as fully human," she says. "If we don't work together, we won't be as strong in creating the change that we really need to see."

"If we don't work together,  
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we really need to see."

Blanca Ojeda  
Community organizer, Faith in the Valley



Blanca Ojeda helps inform tenants about their rights in her work with Faith in the Valley.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF FAITH IN THE VALLEY

For more information on Faith in the Valley and how you can get involved, visit [faithinthevalley.org](http://faithinthevalley.org).

# The High Cost of Housing



**“We just wanted to make sure our community knows that they do have a voice and power, and that they can make a difference.”**

Vang Her  
Team Leader, Hmong Innovating Politics

## Hmong Innovating Politics is spreading the word on Prop. 5 and housing policy to Fresno voters

BY JACOB PETERSON

Like many Californians across the state, residents of Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley are being hit hard by the cost of housing. It's a complaint often heard by members of Hmong Innovating Politics (HIP) while discussing issues with others in their community.

“Pretty much across the board you can see that community members are struggling, especially with rent,” Vang Her, a team leader with HIP, notes. “The rent has increased so much within the past year so it really has been a struggle, and community members do voice that out to us.”

Founded in 2012, HIP is a grassroots organization dedicated to politically empowering Hmong and underserved communities. As a founding member of MOVE the Valley, HIP expanded to Fresno in 2018 to mobilize two of California's largest Hmong American communities. Her says the organization recently completed a civic engagement program to find out what their community's biggest needs were, and housing and rent costs were among the most commonly expressed concerns.

As part of addressing the issue of housing policy, Her says HIP has focused its recent efforts to inform voters about California Proposition 5 for the November 5th election. The proposition, if passed, would lower the voting threshold to make it easier to obtain funding for a variety of public infrastructure projects, including affordable housing construction.

“We do the circuit on what our community needs, and their needs are affordable housing,” Her says. “So we are working on Prop. 5 so we can do something about it.”

Having worked with HIP since 2018, Her says one of the obstacles when trying to engage

with the public is an increased sense of apathy regarding the voting process, something he says became more noticeable after the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether it was about housing policy or other topics, Her was seeing more people unsure about the importance of their votes.

“I was just speaking to a Hmong voter who asked me, ‘Are you sure voting will make a difference?’” Her remembers. “Individuals are just very discouraged.”

While this sentiment has become more noticeable to Her, he also notes that he and other canvassers for HIP have had some success in reassuring and empowering people that their vote does matter.

“It's a direct action you can do to do something about it,” Her says. “We just wanted to make sure our community knows that they do have a voice and power, and that they can make a difference locally.”

Changing people's attitudes is far from easy, but it's something Her believes HIP is making headway towards. He is also confident in the organization's ability to provide information, listen to voters' concerns and dreams, and get people interested in Prop. 5 and housing policy in general.

“I think we have been pretty successful, I feel like people do know who we are and they trust us,” Her says. “I feel like, in terms of outreach, people will know what we stand for.”

*For more information about Hmong Innovating Politics and how to get involved visit [hipcalifornia.com/](https://hipcalifornia.com/).*

Vang Her has been involved with Hmong Innovating Politics since 2018.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HMONG INNOVATING POLITICS

# Service Through Empowerment

Jakara Movement seeks to better community by engaging youth and bolstering educational support

BY KEN SMITH



Jakara Movement runs numerous youth programs, including several dedicated to helping students succeed.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF JAKARA MOVEMENT

Central to the Sikh religion and way of life is the concept of *seva*—selfless service performed for the greater good of mankind, with no expectation of reward or personal gain. It's a sacred tradition taught and practiced from childhood, and can be carried out in a myriad of ways—from cleaning the local gurdwara to feeding the unhoused to philanthropic giving.

"Seva is central to all of our programming," says Jaskeet Kaur, Fresno County community organizer for the Jakara Movement, a grassroots community-building organization dedicated to empowering, educating, and organizing working-class Punjabi Sikhs and other marginalized communities. Much of Jakara's work involves youth engagement, and Kaur—who oversees roughly a dozen chapters of the student enrichment-focused Sikh Honors & Service Society—says much of the work is different manifestations of *seva*.

"Each club allows students to complete and learn about service within their own communities and redefine what *seva* may look like," says Kaur.

Kaur says the concept likewise applies to Jakara's activism and community engagement: "When you're going door to door in your neighborhood to make neighbors aware of what's happening locally, or inviting them to events like our monthly farmers' market or providing resources for your community ... that is *seva*."

Speaking from experience, Kaur says that the Jakara Movement plays an important role in the lives of many first-generation Punjabi immigrants like herself—in the Central Valley and statewide—beginning from a young age. She started going to day camps hosted by the organization when she was 7 years old. She got more involved as

**"In many families, many new immigrants are more aware of what's going on in Punjab than what's happening in their own neighborhoods. That's a bridge that we're trying to cross. It's really important to me that we're engaging youth because we know they will take those conversations home."**

Jaskeet Kaur  
Fresno County Community Organizer, Jakara Movement

a student at Fresno State, where she became a leader in Jakara's Sikh Collegiate Federation, and joined the staff after graduating in 2020.

While in college, Kaur held an internship at Fresno City Hall ("Also thanks to Jakara," she says), which gave her insight that fueled her passion for community engagement and facilitating change: "It opened my eyes to just how few Punjabis there were, not just like at an elected level, but even behind the scenes at the administrative level."

Kaur says that Jakara Movement's youth engagement is not just important for young people, but for the larger Punjabi community. Not only does it give young people, and especially students, support they might not find elsewhere, but she explains that young people play an important role in Punjabi families.

"In many families, many new immigrants are more aware of what's going on in Punjab than what's happening in their own neighborhoods. That's a bridge that we're trying to cross. It's really important to me that we're engaging youth because we know they will take those conversations home."

For more information about Jakara Movement, go to [www.jakara.org](http://www.jakara.org).

# Reforming Justice

**Faith in the Valley works to eliminate unnecessary police involvement and save teens from life-ruining sentences**

**BY BRETT CALLWOOD**

Mass incarceration, police violence and related policing issues most greatly impact impoverished communities and people of color. Faith in the Valley (FIV), a faith-based grassroots community organization based in Stockton, is doing its part to combat these problems in the Central Valley. The organization's efforts start at the beginning—affecting how authorities are alerted to crises in the community—and carry on into courtrooms.

"We are working to empower excluded communities and those that others have given up on or who never had a chance in the first place," says Pastor Curtis Smith, FIV's executive director.

"We are looking at how individuals and communities can solve problems for themselves and how we can create systems and structures to hold and heal people through community-generated efforts and alternatives to incarceration," he continues. "The current carceral system is designed to rob people of their agency and humanity. Through people power and faith-based organizing, we seek to confront and bring solutions to these systemic problems."



To those ends, FIV has a transformative justice team of organizers dedicated to investing in leadership formation among system-impacted youth and adults and to transform public safety. "The team's focus is on decarceration, alternatives to policing, community reinvestment, and violence reduction," Smith says. "Through their efforts, both past and present, change is happening in the valley."

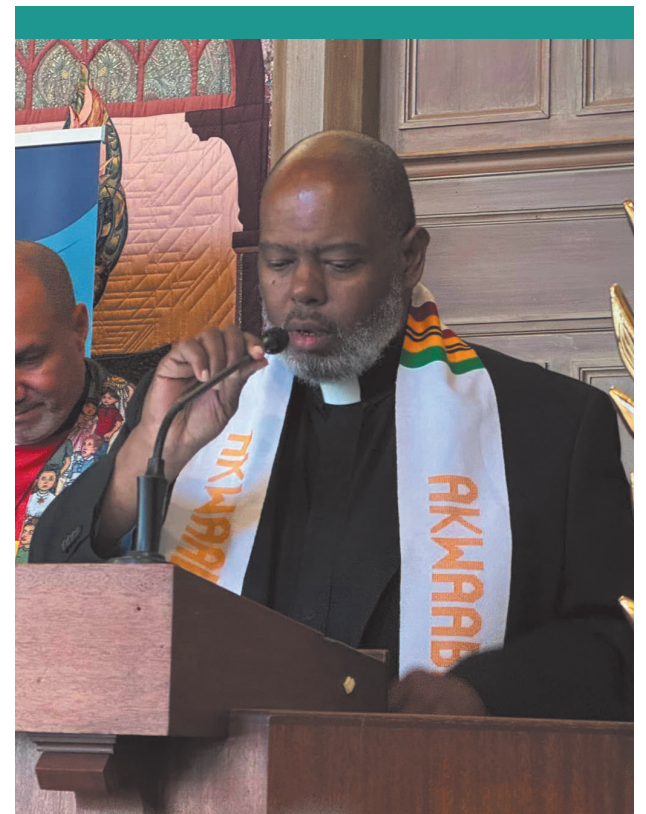
Among FIV's justice efforts is the C.A.L.L. Stockton initiative, launched in 2020 and aimed to establish a new emergency response system that doesn't rely on police response to crises that other personnel may be better suited to address. This effort led to the formation of Stockton's Mobile Community Response Team (MCRT), a team of outreach specialists, licensed clinical social workers and medical assistants who respond to appropriate emergencies. Smith says this program has deescalated countless conflicts and helped thousands of residents facing mental health crises and other challenges to access needed support.

Other FIV efforts include working directly within the justice system, stopping juvenile transfers to adult court and empowering families to advocate for alternative approaches to punishment via "participatory defense." This involves providing humanizing testimony and information about the teen's life and circumstances to the court and collaborating with juvenile defense attorneys.

"So far, we've prevented more than 270 years of incarceration among youth in Fresno and provided training to expand the approach to San Joaquin County," Smith says.

Smith brings over two decades of faith and community-based organizing and systems change experience to his leadership at FIV. He was introduced to organizing and activism as a youth pastor in Sacramento.

Pastor Curtis Smith has been an activist and organizer in the faith community for more than 20 years.  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAITH IN THE VALLEY



**"We are looking at how individuals and communities can solve problems for themselves and how we can create systems and structures to hold and heal people through community-generated efforts and alternatives to incarceration."**

Pastor Curtis Smith  
Executive Director, Faith in the Valley

"I saw the tremendous impact it had when youth from historically excluded communities were introduced to power," he said. "Since then I returned home to the Central Valley, and have dedicated my career to building power and giving voice to young people, their families and overlooked, low-income communities vulnerable to crime and mass incarceration, homelessness and poverty."

For more information on Faith in the Valley, go to [faithinthevalley.org](https://faithinthevalley.org).

# Energizing the Workforce

## The Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce helps bring green jobs to the Central Valley

BY ANNE STOKES

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics has good news for those looking to land a green job: The field is growing! In the Central Valley, the Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce (FMBCC) works to create career and entrepreneurial opportunities—green and otherwise—for the communities they serve.

“I think it’s important because it’s our future in Fresno,” says Brittany Carpenter, FMBCC Biz-Werx mobility outreach coordinator. “It’s important that businesses learn what they need to do to get ahead of [the trend] before they get left behind, because it’s ever-changing. It’s also very important that Black and African Americans get a chance as well as we tend to get left behind when there’s a lot of technological advances happening.”

The FMBCC works to empower, engage and educate their community, help businesses thrive and connect people with jobs and careers. The chamber offers several programs that support the local workforce and businesses:

- ▶ **The Bonding, Technical Assistance, Contracting [BTAC]** program helps individuals looking to earn their contractor’s license with classes and administrative support. The program also helps existing contracting businesses improve their business model and better understand diversity, procurement and networking.
- ▶ **The Biz-Werx car share** program, EV-Werx, features a fleet of 25 electric vehicles (EV) that chamber members can use, reducing the

number of cars on the road and the resulting carbon and greenhouse gas emissions.

- ▶ **The Biz-Werx EVSE Accelerator, EVSE Tech Training**, supports individuals looking to become certified.
- ▶ **FMBCC** became a certified green business through the **California Green Business Network**, pledging our commitment to sustainability practices. As a green business, we also help other companies become green-certified.
- ▶ **FMBCC** collaborated with the **City of Fresno** and **Tree Fresno** to join their mission to transform the city with trees and greenways into a more beautiful valley. This program also focused on helping young adults learn about green jobs in the conservation field.

In addition to helping create green industry jobs in the Central Valley, the FMBCC works to promote local businesses and bolster their local economy. And through its partnership with MOVE the Valley, the chamber is able to reach further and improve the lives of people throughout the Central Valley.

“When you help bring up those businesses, you bring up the entire community that surrounds them,” she says. “[MOVE the Valley] helps us with a lot of advocacy work for our members here at the chamber, but also they get to help us spread a lot of the amazing work that we get to do and expand our reach to help more individuals that are looking for our services.”



The Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce has a fleet of 25 electric vehicles available for members to use and runs a program to train electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) technicians for certification. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FRESNO METRO BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



**“It’s important that businesses learn what they need to do to kind of get ahead of [green technology] before they get left behind, because it’s ever changing.”**

Brittany Carpenter  
Biz-Werx Mobility Outreach Coordinator, Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce

For more information on the Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce programs, visit [fmbcc.com](http://fmbcc.com) or call 559-441-7929.

# Grassroots Greening

## Jakara Movement's environmental efforts are focused on a cleaner, safer community

BY ANDY FURILLO

In West Fresno, the environmental movement begins in the neighborhood.

It's an area where shade, food, and safe places to walk top the environmental agenda. While the existential threats of climate change, dirty air and bad water require global, national and statewide responses, the Jakara Movement has focused its environmental work on Fresno's historically neglected backstreets west of Highway 99—with a couple of major successes.

Jakara has convinced the city to expand parkland in West Fresno and to fix up the parks that already existed, including the installation of a walking path in Jaswant Singh Khalsa Neighborhood Park. In addition, Jakara has established a monthly farmer's market in the park.

"We all know that the air quality in the valley is horrible, but that is going to be a big lift for all," said Mandip Kaur, the health program manager for Jakara Movement who grew up in West Fresno. "For the everyday person, it is simpler: Can we get a sidewalk so we can walk to the park, to the grocery store, to walk our children to school safely? In the parks, can we get better shading without plastic seats? Those are small fixes that can lead to larger ones."

The Jakara Movement was created to improve the quality of life for working-class Punjabi Sikh immigrants. But in West Fresno, everybody has benefited from the group's fight to improve the parks and bring in healthy food.

"When I think of environmentalism, it's not just about green space or clean air," Kaur said. "It's also being able to see the community that you live in. Our community is so diverse—Punjabis, other immigrants, Spanish-speakers, African Americans, Middle Easterners. It leads to a greater sense of safety when you see the community you are in,



Jakara Movement's environmental action is largely centered around Jaswant Singh Khalsa Neighborhood Park in Fresno, where the organization founded a monthly farmers market. PHOTO COURTESY OF JAKARA MOVEMENT

**"When I think of environmentalism, it's not just about green space or clean air. It's also being able to see the community that you live in."**

Mandip Kaur  
Health Program Manager, Jakara Movement

the clean spaces like a park. Kids become more compassionate when they play together in a park."

Kaur sees nutrition as a major social determinant of environmental health. Toward that end, the Jakara Movement last year received an outreach grant from Kaiser Permanente to give the neighborhood healthier eating options. The result was Jakara's founding of a monthly farmers market at JSK Park.

"We only have three grocery stores on the west side, and people have only a limited access to fresh, healthy food," Kaur said. "That's where the farmer's market concept started. We wanted it to be walkable, with local vendors, and we've found two farmers who bring in fruits and seasonal vegetables."

Kaur sees the environmental movement growing greener in West Fresno, in JSK Park, where elderly couples walk on a safe and shaded path and where they and their neighbors can buy clean and healthy food once a month from farmers who grow it just blocks away. They are small steps, the park and the farmers market, but crucial and necessary in a life-or-death journey toward a safer, cooler planet.

For more information about Jakara Movement, go to [www.jakara.org](http://www.jakara.org).

# A Leg Up, Not a Hand Out

## Reparations can give Black communities the opportunity to thrive

BY ANNE STOKES

For generations, Black and African Americans have faced discrimination and an uphill battle for basic civil liberties. This systemic inequality has resulted in families and communities with less wealth, less educational opportunities, over representation in the criminal justice system and shorter life expectancy.

While the concept of reparations has been around since the end of the Civil War, efforts to realize reparations were more recently revived with the formation of California's Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans in 2020. It is the first state to make such moves.

"We want to acknowledge the harm that anti-Black policies designed to target Black Californians and that has prevented them from bettering themselves," says Monita Porter, deputy director of the Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce. "Reparations could really serve as a stimulus to Black communities, it could promote and incentivise innovation and creativity ... it's something that will help folks not just continue to survive."

### WHAT ARE REPARATIONS?

While cash payments are the most well-known, there are many elements to reparations, mainly pertaining to justice, voting, education, health, business and housing, and can include:

- ▶ Education investments
- ▶ Inclusion in school curriculum
- ▶ Identification and elimination of racial bias in standardized tests, assessments and professional career examinations
- ▶ Affordable and accessible health care
- ▶ Affordable housing and the elimination of anti-Black housing policies akin to redlining
- ▶ Law enforcement accountability
- ▶ Acknowledgments and apologies

"Reparations can exist as housing vouchers, it can exist as paying for education, reparations can exist as mental health assistance, it can come in

so many different forms," Porter says. "A lot of what reparations are is taking account of the trauma that has happened and how generationally it has led to the outcome of the Black community."

### MISCONCEPTIONS

In the Central Valley, reparations support is evenly split. Opponents decry it as unnecessary despite the fact that the effects of slavery still affect Americans.

"Even though slavery was abolished, there are still lingering negative effects that are embedded in multiple ways, whether we talk about legally, politically, economically, educationally, culturally, environmentally, the remnants of it still exist in policy, and there's racist ideology that is embedded institutionally," Porter says. "You know, we see it every day. The first step to fighting for racial equality is just that acknowledgment."

As to matters of funding, proposed sources include recreational marijuana tax revenues, a private "superfund" from wealthy donors, or payments diverted from the state budget in installments.

### HOW REPARATIONS CAN HELP COMMUNITIES AS A WHOLE

Ultimately, by providing Black Americans and families with more avenues to success, entire communities benefit, not just those receiving reparation payments.

"Reparations can lead to the development of new businesses, products, technologies and services that will benefit us all, not just those beneficiaries of those businesses, but the wider community," Porter says. "It happened, let's acknowledge it, and let's move on. ... And that acknowledgment is reparations."

For more information on the Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce programs, visit [fmbcc.com](http://fmbcc.com) or call 559-441-7929.

"Reparations could really serve as a stimulus to Black communities, it could promote and incentivise innovation and creativity ... it's something that will help folks not just continue to survive."

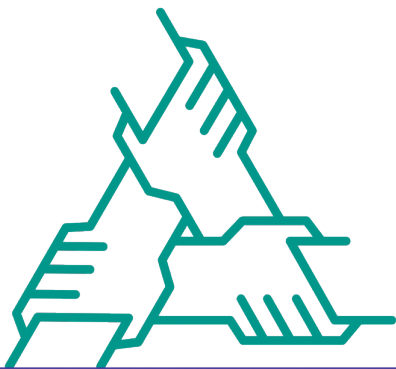
Monita Porter

Deputy Director, Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONITA PORTER

MOBILIZE, ORGANIZE, VOTE,  
EMPOWER: MOVE THE VALLEY



MOVE THE VALLEY



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOVE THE VALLEY

**Democracy thrives when voters come to the polls armed with information they need to make their communities better.**

MOVE the Valley is a coalition of civic-minded organizations with the same goals: Educate the people and amplify the electoral voices in the Central Valley, especially those voices in historically marginalized and excluded communities. MOVE the Valley is made up of these organizations.



#### FRESNO METRO BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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#### COMMUNITIES FOR A NEW CALIFORNIA (CNC) EDUCATION FUND

www.cncedfund.org  
**Sacramento:** 517 7th St.  
**Fresno:** 814 N Van Ness Ave.  
**Merced:** 928 W 18th St.  
**Indio:** 83135 Requa Ave. Suite 3  
209-354-4389



#### FAITH IN THE VALLEY

faithinthevalley.org  
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**Fresno:** 1955 Broadway St  
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## For more information:

Visit **www.movethevalley.org** to see what you can do to help spread voter awareness throughout the Central Valley.