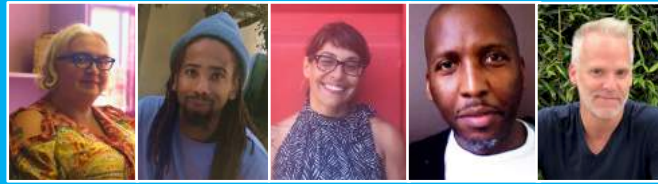


## OUR STAFF

Our team includes five dynamic peace activists, creatives, strategizers, and social innovation entrepreneurs.



- Sandhya Jha, Executive Director
- Clidell Jackson III, Facilities Manager
- Kristy Higaes, Operations Manager
- Marvin K. White, Artist-in-Residence
- Todd Atkins-Whitley, Peace & Partnerships Communicator

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

It is everywhere on the news: youth fleeing violence in their home countries, being caged in this country, and increasing numbers being deported back to that violence. The **Mustard Seed Immigration Law Project** provides “low bono” (low cost) legal support to toddlers and teens alike whose lives depend on being able to stay in the US. In the face of great odds, they are creating peace for children and youth who need to experience a moment of peace. And they can provide those services because of the building and the community that is the OPC.

For more about our partners, visit [oaklandpeacecenter.org/our-partners](http://oaklandpeacecenter.org/our-partners).

*The Oakland Peace Center is a community of artists, activists, cultural workers, educators and non-profits collaborating to bring about a city of hope, justice, nonviolence and compassion.*



CELEBRATING SEVEN YEARS OF

# CREATING

# Space

# FOR

# PEACE



## MISSION STATEMENT



The Oakland Peace Center provides needed space, hosts collaborative events and trainings, and creates a network of emotional and spiritual support for the 35+ organizations who partner in its work. These organizations

pursue access, opportunity, justice, and inner peace throughout the Bay Area each in their own way. They can turn to the Oakland Peace Center to fortify and amplify these efforts through solidarity and cross-pollination. The OPC inspires these organizations to participate in a vision larger than that of any individual or member organization.

## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Sandhya Jha, Executive Director, Karen Barrett, Peggy J. Bristol, Patricia Contreras Flores\*, Aimee Fields\*, Rev. Phil Lawson, E.J. Pavia, and Angela Urata

\* Not pictured



111 Fairmount Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94611

*“The OPC matters because Oakland is a vibrant hub for culture and creativity. The only way to protect its legacy is through the cultivation and implementation of peace in all of Oakland’s diverse communities.”*

Aimee Fields  
OPC board member  
and lifelong Oaklander

Peace begins with you.  
[www.oaklandpeacecenter.org](http://www.oaklandpeacecenter.org)

# From the Director



There's something about watching one of our longtime partners come alive as he listens to a new partner talk about her work...and we've been having more and more of those moments in the past few months, thanks to some pretty affordable tools: flip chart paper and markers.

We've had more regular partner gatherings this year thanks to an expanded staff, and that's allowed us to reconnect. Where I've seen the most magical sparks were when our Artist-in-Residence asked partners to draw an image that captured their work, and they started explaining what the symbols meant and how those symbols connected to each other.

Our partners work really hard. They help children deal with trauma instead of repeating cycles of abuse as adults. They make sure everyone in the neighborhood has food and clothes and knows they are valued and loved. They provide access to inner peace when the world around us provides no peace. They are changing laws that harm people and protecting people from existing laws that harm them. Like I said, they work hard.

So our partners don't get to play much. We've given them some space to play. And in the process, connections are happening, and opportunities to co-create. That's at the heart of our work: creating space for our partners to rejuvenate, co-create and begin to cast a collective vision for a peace-filled Bay Area.

We're working on the building. We're working on promoting our partners' programs. We're generating programs that feed the souls of a community under the attack of displacement.

But we're doing something no one else can do when we help the folks on the front lines get to breathe and connect and imagine something new.

We were founded in part to strengthen ties between peace-making organizations and the Bay Area will be a more equitable and peace-filled place because our partners start resourcing each other when they take time to play and co-create.

Peace,  
Sandhya

August 2017–July 2018 Fiscal Year

## By the Numbers



\*Staff salaries are distributed in the area where their work is spent.

\*\$20,000 was raised for staff salaries during the 2017-18 fiscal year

Programs & Arts  
**\$15,000**

Partnership Cultivation & Visioning  
**\$19,987**

Taxes & Healthcare  
**\$8,000**

Operations, Building Transition, & Infrastructure  
**\$26,500**

Communications  
**\$3,000**

Development  
**\$3,500**

**"What is the church going to do about this?"**



This was the question posed by a high school junior to church leadership after he and his peers returned to the Heart of the Rockies Christian Church in Ft. Collins, Colorado after spending a week as a part of an OPC Urban Peace Work Trip.

"Creative practice—and particularly, creative practices in public—comprise a shared resistance practice, a shared joy practice, a shared liberation practice and a shared restoration practice. Calling out to community and expecting them to participate in life-giving arts events flies squarely in the face of all that seeks to kill us."



**"Art work is peace work."**  
Marvin K. White  
OPC's Artist-in-Residence

**The youth learned skills but also learned how equity, access and dignity for all leads to peace in their own neighborhoods.**



This year, the OPC provided a "Peace is 'Glocal'" internship for students from OPC partner Emiliano Zapata Street Academy. Students also connected local efforts for justice with global struggles, and they got to become global citizens by traveling to Guatemala.



**"None of this would've been possible without the OPC. They gave us their full support and a beautiful space to work with."**

**Erika Stacey**, Executive Director of She Blossoms. In August, the organization collected over 5,000 feminine hygiene products for distribution to several homeless encampments, four schools where the majority of the girls were from low-income households, and the East Oakland Community Project.

## The Future

The Oakland Peace Center has been meeting with a third party and non-profit developer so that by 2019, we will have long-term lease of the building, can begin the rehab process, and can even explore low-income housing on the property: **peace begins when the hungry are fed and the homeless are housed!** This progress is largely possible because of the hard work of our operations manager and executive director and also because of the National Benevolent Association's ongoing investment in our work.

Bringing on a Peace and Partnership Communicator will allow us to intentionally foreground the work partners are doing, so that our neighbors can connect more deeply with the amazing opportunities right in their midst, in alignment with our mission to amplify our partners' work.

Thanks to generous donors and grants from The San Francisco Foundation and the Akonadi Foundation, the OPC was able to bring on an Artist-in-Residence, whose creative collaborations with partners is already helping them express their dreams and commitments in new ways that connect our community to their vision.

As an organization committed to intersectional justice, we are proud of the ongoing support of Horizon Foundation's Gay Chemists Fund.