ALCHEMIST

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

2017 ANNUAL REPORT
Dear Friends,

2017 was a year of transformation and growth for Alchemist Community Development Corporation (CDC). Our organization experienced changes in leadership, expansion of program services, and opportunities to increase our mission impact through thoughtful collaborations. As we continue to change and grow, our staff and volunteers’ dedication and commitment to provide Sacramento Area residents access to fresh, healthy food and vibrant, equitable, and diverse neighborhood spaces remains constant. This is an exciting time to be part of Alchemist CDC!

As we look towards the future and goals of 2018, I want to personally extend my heartfelt thanks to all you for supporting the work we do to ignite sustainable change. With your continued support, we will be able to reach more families, create more economic opportunities, and serve more neighborhoods using healthy, fresh food as a community connector and economic driver.

This report is our way of expressing gratitude to you for your generosity and an opportunity for you to learn more about how your support positively impacted our community. Please enjoy reading how you have helped us be the catalyst for change!

With gratitude,

Tiffany Rosso, Executive Director
2017 highlights

We processed 14,700 CalFresh transactions, a 19% increase from 2016.

We distributed nearly $100,000 Market Match funds to help low-income families buy more fresh fruit and vegetables.

Volunteers contributed over 1,300 service hours to help carry out our programs.

We provided Healthy Shopping on a Budget store tours to over 100 participants.

August 2017 saw $28,825 CalFresh scrip turned in by vendors—our largest month ever!

1.75% of all SNAP funding spent at farmers' markets nationwide!

This enabled $232,000 CalFresh dollars to be spent at local farmers markets, supporting families, local farmers, and the economy.

We received 238 contributions from individual donors.

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Calfresh at Farmers Markets

Alchemist staff and volunteers staffed 450 market days in 2017, facilitating the issuing of over $250,000 of SNAP benefits to low-income shoppers at farmers’ markets. This included 1,600 new customers spending their benefits at the market for the first time!

Our markets contributed 1.75% of the $14.59 million of SNAP funds spent at markets in 2017 nationwide. This is especially remarkable considering we only make up 0.37% of the markets. According to federal government estimates, every dollar of CalFresh money spent in our region generates $1.79 spent in the community. This means Alchemist’s 2017 facilitation of CalFresh funding generated over $443,000 in community spending!

We also facilitated the Market Match program at 20 farmers’ markets and farm stands in Sacramento and Yolo counties, with $97,153 distributed. Altogether, our work at farmers markets made an incredible impact on the community—increasing access to healthy produce for low-income families, increasing revenue for small to midsize regional farmers, and bolstering the local economy.

Pansy Ave Lot

Progress is being made on the Pansy Community Garden Park. We met with residents several times this year to hear their wishes for the space and together create the plans for the Garden Park. In September, we were awarded $10,000 from Bank of America to help bring the project to reality.

We expect to sign the land transfer documents and start the first phase of build out by the new year.
Alchemy Kitchen

Alchemy is thrilled to be developing an incubator kitchen for the community. Our aim is that it will provide resources for low-income individuals to develop their own food businesses as a pathway to economic security. In 2017 Alchemist staff toured two food business incubators to learn from models in other cities. Our partners at UC Davis completed a feasibility study for the project, which wrapped up in December. We also worked with Capsity, Inc., to develop a business plan and conduct some visioning for the project.

Store Tours & Cooking Demos

We provided "Healthy Shopping on a Budget" store tours for over 100 participants, partnering with 7 local small grocery stores and ethnic markets to highlight the healthy options at these stores and provide tips for reading nutrition labels, and simple healthy meal preparation. We’ve expanded our program into developing an adult food literacy program, combining both store tours, with comprehensive healthy cooking classes. This primarily focuses on (1) seasonal and local food purchasing, (2) gaining a familiarity with new ingredients, and (3) promoting healthy products being sold in their neighborhoods by our store partners.
Together with partners and volunteers, Alchemist CDC works to transform neglected areas into vibrant community spaces, through community clean-ups, weeding, mulching, adding greenery, and engaging with residents. In May 2017 we hosted an alley way cleanup in the Oak Park neighborhood that included new planters.

**2017 finances**

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**Expense:** $257,563

- Programs: 72%
- Administration: 20%
- Fundraising: 8%

**Revenue:** $248,337

- Government: 55%
- Foundations: 15%
- Individuals: 14%
- Businesses: 7%
- Fees-for-service: 7%
- Community Groups: 3%

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**BUILDING BLOCKS**
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L. M. Del Castillo
Winifred Detwiler
Deborah Dillon
Louise Dillon
Sarah Dillon
Dimare, Brown, Hicks & Kessler
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