

**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

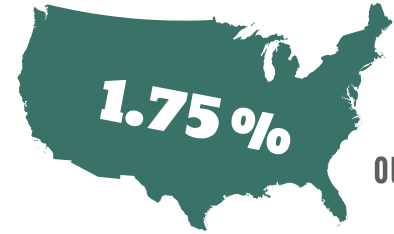
**14,700**

CalFresh transactions,  
a 19% increase from 2016.



Volunteers contributed  
over **1,300**

service hours to help  
carry out our programs



our partner  
markets  
accounted for 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 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!



We distributed nearly

**\$100,000**

Market Match funds to  
help low-income families buy  
more fresh fruit and vegetables



We received  
**238 contributions**  
from individual donors





## 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.

# project updates



## ALCHEMY KITCHEN

Alchemist 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.





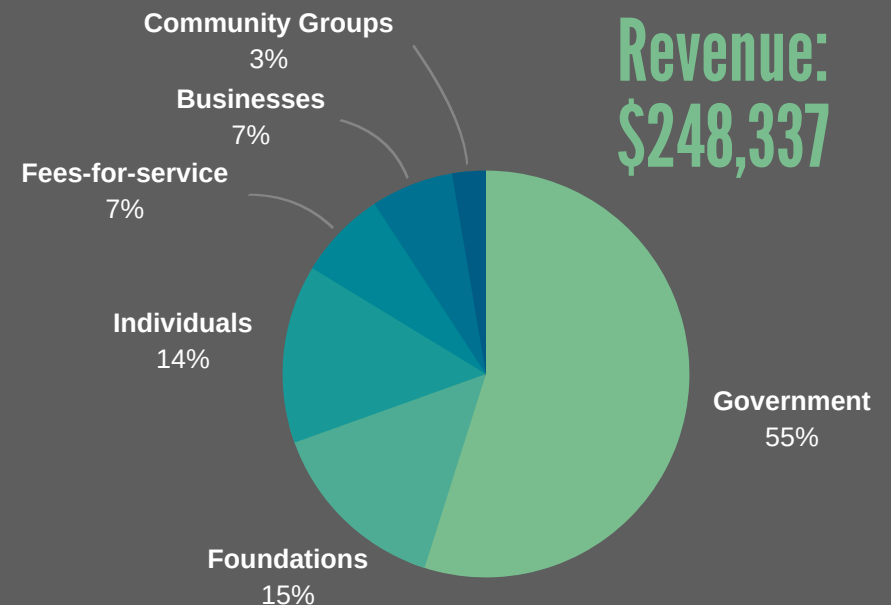
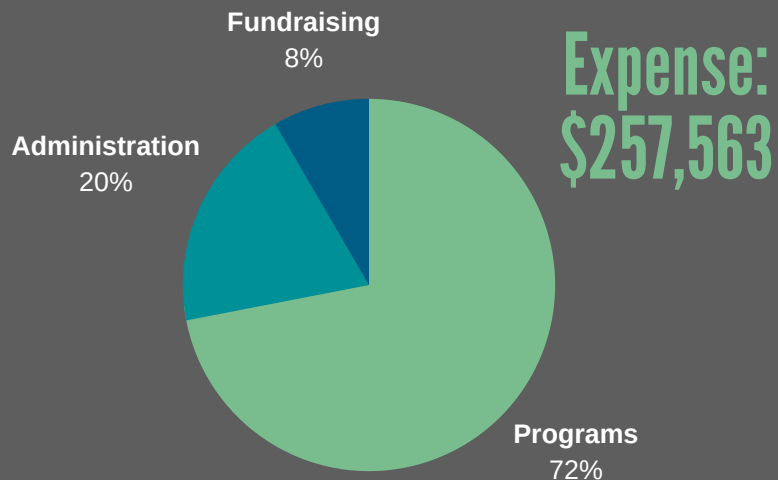
# project updates



## BUILDING BLOCKS

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



# donors

## Anonymous Donors

Karen Alfsen  
Sergio Alfsen  
Amazon Smile  
Anonymous of BofA  
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Bill Wong  
Molly Wright  
Lisa Wrightsman  
Mariko Yoshihara  
Kristen Youn





# in-kind donors

Brian Fischer

California Federation of Certified Farmers' Markets

Craft Brewery Association

Crossfit Analog

Davida Douglas

Heather Scott

Jamie Cutlip

Jamila Khan

Kristin Kiesel

Lisa Salaices

Mai Linh Tompkins

Mulvaney's B&L

Old Soul Coffee

Preservation & Co

Sacramento River Cats

Sacramento Republic FC

Tamara Srzentic

The Capital Athletic Club

The Good Stuff

Two Rivers Cider Company

Wise Villa Winery

Whole Foods Market







[www.alchemistcdc.org](http://www.alchemistcdc.org)

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