

## How Green is your Collar?

In early 2008, San Francisco's Environment Department awarded Asian Neighborhood Design (AND) \$160,000 through its Environmental Justice program, which enabled AND to expand its award winning construction training program to include an environmental education component in the program's curriculum. AND's partner to fulfill the grant is the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. In addition to the green employment training,

AND will conduct community environmental responsibility

workshops for improving indoor air quality and promoting energy efficiency for low- income homes in the Southeast area of San Francisco.



Mayor Newsom poses with AND's Employment Training students at the groundbreaking of the EcoCenter at Heron's Head Park in the Bayview/Hunters Point neighborhood.

AND's Employment Training Center (ETC) began 30 years ago and provides comprehensive training in the construction field to low-income youth and young adults to help them attain necessary life and employment skills to achieve self-sufficiency. Majority of ETC's students are individuals facing multiple barriers to employment, such as: socio-economic status, educational inequities, limited English proficiency and math skills, single parenthood, and experience as former juvenile offenders.

Approximately 60 trainees acquire construction skills annually, but with San Francisco Environment's funding, we will be including an Environmental Education Component to reflect current community serving job market trends and San Francisco's growth in the green job sector. ETC's curriculum also includes remedial education and GED preparation. More importantly, the training provides lessons in history, mathematics, critical life skills, financial literacy, money management, and conflict resolution. We strive for our program to not only instill job skills, but to provide our trainees with hope and a chance for a positive future.

The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House (PHNH) is a multi-purpose, multi-generational community center who serves those in need from the "cradle to the grave," with an emphasis on youth and education. As program partner, PHNH will help strengthen ETC's outreach efforts in the Bayview Hunter's Point and Potrero Hill neighborhoods as well as identify other nonprofit community organizations and low-income homes in the Southeast neighborhoods as green construction projects for program trainees to complete at the end of their training.

“Good innovative projects typically involve a variety of individuals, agencies, and neighborhood collaboratives all working together. We couldn’t be happier to be partnered with Asian Neighborhood Design,” said Edward Hatter, Potrero Hill Neighborhood House’s Executive Director. “This program is a wonderful opportunity to focus on green workforce development in the Southeast sector of San Francisco through green collar jobs.”

Since 1978, AND’s employment training program has trained nearly 2,500 individuals in the carpentry and construction fields. We are proud of the fact that more than 80% of our participants who start our program graduate our intensive curriculum, and at least 80% of graduates find employment with the assistance of our case management and job placement work. The average wage of our graduates who enter the union is \$20.85/hour, which is more than two times California’s minimum wage of \$8.00.

“We are pleased to support AND’s green employment development and environmental community education workshop program,” explained Anne Eng, Environmental Justice Program Manager of the San Francisco Department of the Environment. “The grant is for a two-year period. We look forward to the community’s effort to reduce waste and improve environmental equity through the duration of the program and beyond.”

Other green projects that we are involved in are the revitalization of Alemany Farms, San Francisco’s only farm located at the foot of Bernal Heights; and assisting in the construction of the EcoCenter at Heron’s Head Park, the first 100% renewable energy, “off-grid” building in the City, developed by Literacy for Environmental Justice and designed by Toby Long Design. The project is in the Bayview/Hunters Point neighborhood and will be used for environmental education within the community.

For more information or inquiries about AND’s ETC program, please contact Steven Suzuki, Employment Training Program Manager and Principal Architect, at 415/575-0423, ext. 225 or [ssuzuki@andnet.org](mailto:ssuzuki@andnet.org), or visit [www.andnet.org](http://www.andnet.org). More information about the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House can be found at [www.nabe.potrerohillssf.com](http://www.nabe.potrerohillssf.com) or 415/826-8080. To learn more about San Francisco Department of the Environment’s services and programs, visit [www.sfenvironment.org](http://www.sfenvironment.org).