

# Hello Alameda!

We are writing to let you know a bit about Alameda Maker Farm! Our members include:

**Alameda families** who bring their children to interact with the animals. Studies show that children who interact with livestock receive emotional benefit and do not develop asthma, allergic sensitization, or other diseases.

**Jay Shafer**, author of *The Small House Book*, and friends who built a prototype tiny house here that is fireproof, does not rot and is extremely inexpensive to build. Jay and company built the prototype as a do-it-yourself inspirational guide for the 9000+ victims of the Sonoma County wildfires whose structures burned in the wildfires last year.

**Karen Cusolito** who is the founder of American Steel Studios, a multiple acres of art studios with hundreds of tenants in Oakland. American Steel Studios used to be the hub of the Bay Area Arts and Microenterprise scene. When her landlord sold to a developer, she brought her tools Alameda Maker Farm.

**Wolfgang Brinck**, author of *Aleutian Kayak*, who is developing a lightweight camper using traditional methods he learned from the Inuit.

**Renee McLaughlin** who expects 50,000 people to attend her festival "Tinyfest California" at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds in June.

**Peripatetic Players** which is a theater troupe with a mobile stage. They often perform in local parks: <https://peripateticplayers.org/>

We are very proud of the services and experiences we provide and the talent we've managed to attract here. Yes, we are a storage yard. We are working hard to also be much more than that: a maker-farm, an eco-makerspace. We would like to replicate these goals at Alameda Point and other locations, providing space for Alamedians to build and store innovative and projects that enrich the community. We look forward to resolving this notice and moving forward to build more of these maker farms on Alameda.

The beauty of sustainability focused projects is how they can be largely self-sufficient at producing their own infrastructure. We took a random chain link gravel lot with a flooding problem and created an asset to the community. We look forward to doing more of this at Alameda Point and other locations.

Thanks so much for advising and helping us! Feel free to visit our website [upland.farm](http://upland.farm) for more information!

Sincerely,

The Maker Farmers including Tim Anderson, 510-473-6353

Submitted by Tim Anderson  
Border Oral Communicator's  
at the 2/6/18 meeting





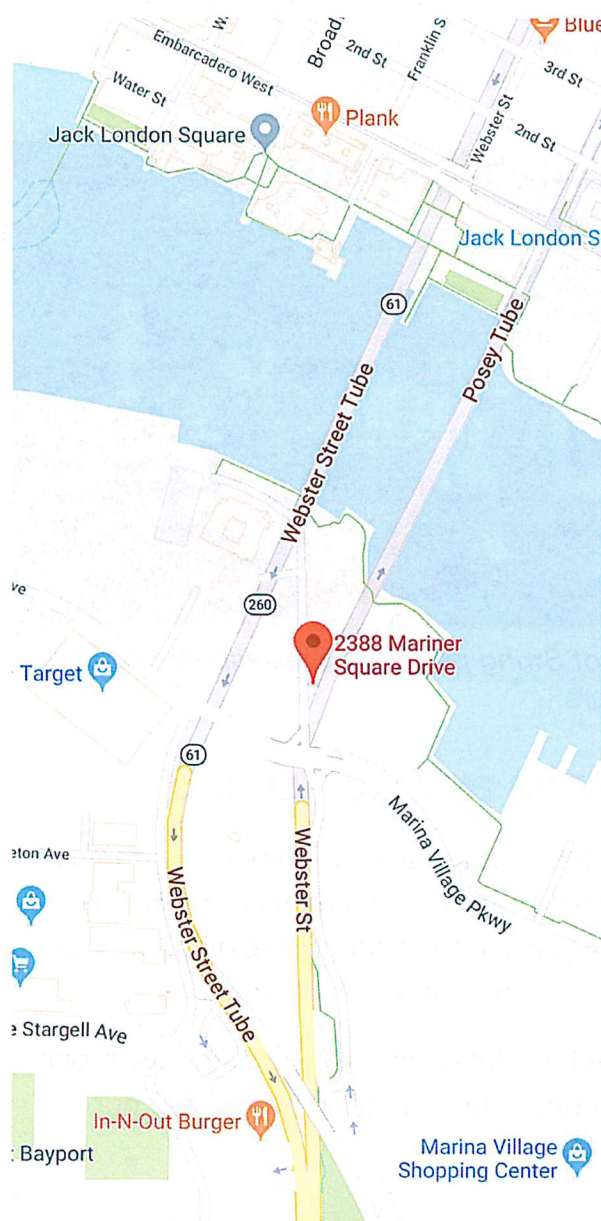
## Chickens

We have chickens! They comb the yard for food, feast on grain, and live symbiotically with our other animals. If you're lucky, you'll catch a chicken hitching a ride while grooming Betty Davis, our gregarious matriarch sheep.



## Come visit us!

We're right in Alameda, contributing to the small town feel of our wonderful city.



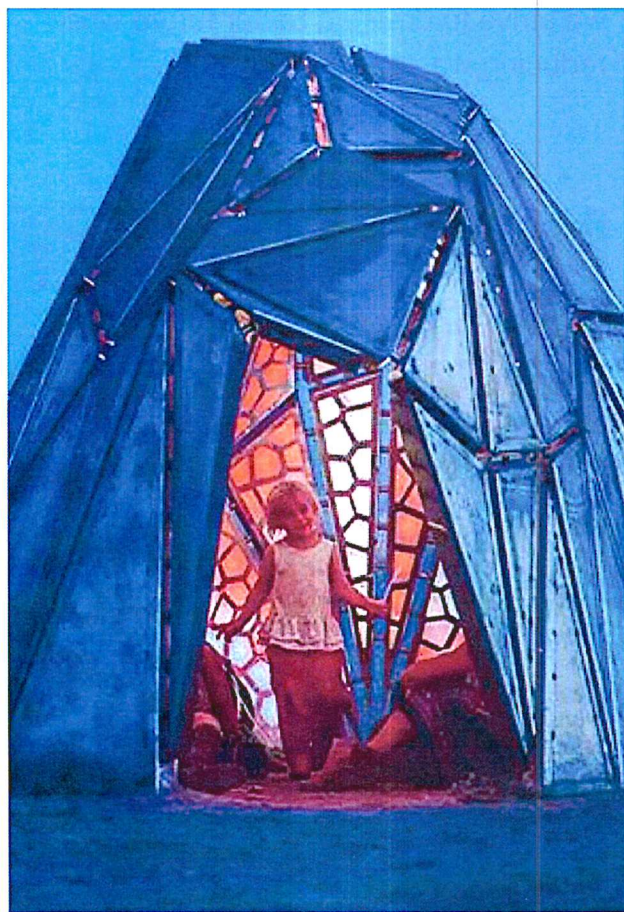
# Alameda Maker Farm

Alameda Maker Farm is Alameda's eco-maker space and farm located in the Mariner Square area of the city. We have animals, artists, makers, and plants galore in a symbiotic environment where we strive to create a better future while reducing waste.





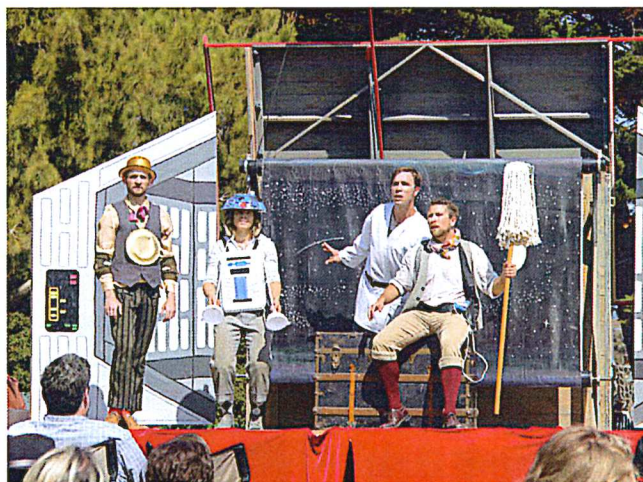
**We're an eco-maker space. We have artists in residence, who create artworks seen in galleries, at local events, and across the nation. With access to a large library of tools and equipment, our skilled tinkerers craft their visions with ease.**



*'Enunciation' by Taylor Dean Harrison, an artist in residence.*

### Ducks

The ducks are mostly Muscovy with a few other breeds mixed in. They play in our various water features and, like our chickens, live peacefully with our other animals. If it's the right time of year, you'll see ducklings trailing their mom around the yard learning the ins and outs of duck life.



*Idiot String performs Shakespeare or Space Wars.*

### Events and workshops

We host events and workshops on topics like Polynesian wood carving, calm and humane sheep shearing, welding, plasma cutting, and theater performances.

Catch updates and announcements in our corkboard located at the gate near our space.

### Rabbits

Perhaps our cutest residents, the rabbits nibble away and love taking naps stretched out in warm laps or sunny spots.



### Learning with animals

We care for a wide selection of wonderful animals. Each day we make our rounds with each species' favorite foods and scratches. We teach adults and kids alike how to treat our furry friends with respect and skill. Some of our animals come from less-than-ideal situations. In our space, they can heal amongst friends and live large in the beautiful Alameda climate.



# Group has long advocated affordable housing

By Mark Greenside

At a recent City Council meeting, Councilwoman Ashcraft faux-complimented the Alameda Citizens Taskforce (ACT) for finally supporting more affordable housing, as if she were the true champion of such and that ACT was a recent newcomer to this position.

To inform Ms. Ashcraft and to clarify the public record, ACT wants to be clear about the actions we have taken to support more affordable housing in Alameda. Over the past four years, we have met with Mayor Trish Spencer, Councilman and former Vice Mayor Frank Matarrese, Councilman Jim Oddie, leaders of Renewed Hope, leaders of the Alameda Renters Coalition (ARC) and leaders of Alamedans For Fair Rent Control (AFFRC) and urged them all to do the following:

- Increase the current minimum requirement of 15 percent affordable housing in new developments to 25 to 30 percent, es-

pecially since a complicated density bonus formula imposed by the state reduces the so-called 15 percent minimum to an actual measly 12.5 percent. ACT wants more affordable housing built and built faster. If the city and developers can build 25 percent affordable housing at Alameda Point (thanks to the fine work of Renewed Hope), then they can — and should — do it elsewhere on the Island.

- Conduct an affordable housing Nexus study that would allow our city to charge the developers an impact fee for every market-priced unit they build. Other cities do this and collect \$20,000 to \$30,000 per market-priced unit. It works like this: Each market-priced unit built reduces the capacity for and possibility of building an affordable unit, thereby having a negative impact on the city's future possibility of meeting its affordable housing goals. Currently, there are more than 2,000 new market-priced units in the city pipeline. Between 2015 and 2023, Alameda has or

**ACT wants more affordable housing built and built faster. If the city and developers can build 25 percent affordable housing at Alameda Point ... then they can — and should — do it elsewhere on the Island.**

will approve building more than 4,000 new market-rate units. If Alameda had been collecting a \$20,000 impact fee from the start, the city would have raised \$80 million.

- Use the collected impact fees to build, restore and/or buy more affordable housing and to help tenants pay their increasingly unaffordable rents;

- Revise the current rules and regulations to ease the building and use of secondary units as rental units so more affordable units could be made available faster.

Also:

- ACT worked for rent stabilization and supported the creation of the Rent Stabilization and Limitations on Evictions Or-

dinance, and subsequently, when renters sought "just-cause" legal protection from unfair evictions and mom-and-pop landlords worried about paying large relocation fees, ACT tried to broker a compromise: Mom-and-pop landlords would agree to just-cause language after a tenant had lived in their unit for one year and there were no serious/substantial problems; renters would agree to reduce the amount of the relocation fees. The effort failed, as neither side was interested, but we tried.

- ACT also met with the City Council and Tim Lewis Inc., the developer of Encinal Terminal and Del Monte, to urge the city and developer to build fewer million-dollar units and more smaller, cheaper, more affordable,

market-rate work-force and senior units. Note: When ACT requested more housing for seniors at Alameda Landing Waterfront, Ashcraft said it wasn't needed because the council had just passed an Accessory Dwelling Units ordinance for backyard units.

ACT is and always has been a progressive organization that fights for open government and the rights of Alameda's citizens. If you'd like to know more about us, contact us at [alamedacitizenstf@gmail.com](mailto:alamedacitizenstf@gmail.com). We especially invite Councilwoman Ashcraft to do so.

*Submitted by the ACT Steering Committee: Gretchen Lipow, President; Janet Gibson, Vice-President; Kathleen Schumacher, Secretary; Patsy Baer, Paul Foreman and Mark Greenside, members. Mark Greenside is a retired professor of history and political science at Merritt College, an Alameda resident and a Steering Committee member of the Alameda Citizens Taskforce.*

*Submitted by Gretchen Lipow  
Under Oral Communications  
at the 2/6/18 meeting*



# Home Away from Home: Little Palestine by the Bay



Joe Eadeh

Scan codes  
to hear  
their stories



Lubna Morrar

Bay Area documentary  
photographer Najib Joe Hakim's  
multimedia project combines  
26 recorded oral histories  
(in English) with black and white  
portraits from the San Francisco  
Bay Area Palestinian community.

**Opening Reception**  
**1:30–4pm Feb. 11, 2018**  
**Alameda Free Library**  
**1550 Oak St., Alameda**

The exhibit runs through March 11. Cosponsored by Friends of Wadi Foquin and the Arab Cultural and Community Center, SF. <https://www.facebook.com/HomeFalastin/>

The Alameda Free Library does not advocate or endorse the viewpoints of the meetings or meeting room users.

Submitted by Paula Rainey  
Under Oral Communications  
at the 2/11/18 meeting