



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Richmond's Pogo Park Awarded Prestigious 2017 Community Leadership Award from The San Francisco Foundation.**

**Richmond, CA, October 23, 2017**— In a highly competitive process with over 300 applicants, The San Francisco Foundation selected Pogo Park as 1 of 4 winners for its prestigious Community Leadership Award.

The Foundation chose Pogo Park for the organization's pioneering work to empower community residents to create vibrant parks and playgrounds for children and families living in Richmond's tough Iron Triangle neighborhood.

The Foundation's annual Community Leadership Award recognizes two Bay Area individuals and two non-profit organizations who have demonstrated excellence in leadership through "deep local understanding and outstanding initiative." This year's winners also include Dr. Ayodele Nzinga, Tamisha Torres-Walker, and the non-profit Bayview Hunters Point Center for Arts and Technology.

"We are pleased that Pogo Park is being awarded the impact award during this year's Community Leadership Awards. Pogo Park's work to advance greater racial and economic equity in neighborhoods like the Iron Triangle of Richmond is an inspiration to us all. By directly hiring local residents to design and build their own community spaces, Pogo Park is creating jobs and self-sufficiency for residents while also building beautiful safe spaces for thousands of Iron Triangle children and their families to enjoy. Congratulations Pogo Park, and thank you!"

*- Francesca Vietor, Senior Director, Expanding Access to Opportunity, The San Francisco Foundation*

In winning this award, Pogo Park joins the ranks of previous Community Leadership Award winners such as individuals Van Jones, Alice Waters, Ruth Asawa, Michael Franti, politician Ron Dellums, Mimi Sebert, Carlos Santana, and Richmond's own Jordan Simmons and Gonzalo Rucobo. Other Bay Area non-profit organizations who won the CLA include Mission Asset Fund, Bridge Housing, Bread & Roses, and The Insight Prison Project.

"We are thrilled to receive this award," says Pogo Park's Executive Director Toody Maher. "It shines the light on our work for how to deeply engage and empower community residents in the transformation of their own public spaces."

To find out more about Pogo Park visit [www.pogopark.org](http://www.pogopark.org), or call 310-922-3080 to reserve a slot on an upcoming tour of all of Pogo Park's projects and sites in Richmond scheduled for November 3rd between 10:30am and 1:30pm.

Founded in 2007, Pogo Park is an entrepreneurial, community-based, 501(c)3 nonprofit in Richmond, California that creates vibrant green parks in Richmond's Iron Triangle neighborhood for children to play, grow, and thrive. Ten years ago, Pogo Park reclaimed Elm Playlot, a broken, neglected, and little-used city park in the heart of the Iron Triangle – and transformed it into a safe, beautiful oasis for thousands of local children and their families.

The San Francisco Foundation (TSFF) leverages resources, expertise, and relationships to expand opportunity and achieve equity in the Bay Area. For 66 years, thanks to the generosity and vision of our donor partners, TSFF has grown its endowment and assets to \$1.3 billion and grants \$86 million each year. TSFF serves the San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, and San Mateo Counties. Together, we can harness the power of community to expand opportunity.

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