



LEVERAGING PHILANTHROPY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS

Rhea Suh, President & CEO

WHAT WAS

Dr. Leonard & Mrs. Beryl Buck

The Buck Trust



1975

Upon Mrs. Buck’s death, she bequeathed her estate to the San Francisco Foundation (SFF), asking that it be directed towards caring for the poor and needy of Marin County. The 69,156 shares of Belridge Oil Company she owned were worth approximately \$7 million.

1979

Belridge sold to Shell in 1979; the shares were then valued at \$253 million.

1984

SFF asks the Superior Court overseeing the probate of Mrs. Buck’s final will to alter a key provision —namely that all grants made from the Buck Trust be distributed solely within Marin County.

SFF asserted in its filing that because of the increased value of the Buck Trust and the relative affluence of Marin County compared to surrounding counties, it would be “impracticable, inexpedient and inefficient” to continue to honor that geographic restriction.

1986

The Court accepts the resignation by SFF of its role as Distribution Trustee and designates the newly-formed Marin Community Foundation as the Successor Distribution Trustee.

Marin Community Foundation



1987

MCF opens its doors; the Buck Trust market valuation is approximately \$450 million.

Wells Fargo is appointed as Investment Trustee, providing MCF with an annual distribution.

Three major projects are established in accordance with the will: Buck Institute for Research on Aging, Buck Institute for Education and Alcohol Justice.

1988 - 2024

Through the Buck Trust, MCF provides support to hundreds of nonprofits, schools and religious institutions in Marin, funding education, housing, workforce development, the environment, the arts, health, legal, safety net services and more.

Total support in the County: over \$1 billion.

MCF expands its donor base to more than 560 individuals & families, who support issues locally, nationally and globally.

2025

The Buck Trust market valuation is \$1.1 billion.

Family & Community funds market valuation: \$2.4 billion.

Key Numbers as of April 2025

Total assets under managements	\$3.5 billion
Average number of grants made annually	5,400+
Average value of grants made annually	~\$200 million
Ranking among 900 U.S. community foundations	6th
Total cumulative grants	\$2.98 billion

WHAT IS

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Four Priority Communities



The Canal is known as the immigrant gateway in Marin, serving as a first stop for a diverse Latino population.

Approximately 80% of the residents are from Mexico, Guatemala, Salvador and a mix of other Central American countries.

While it is tight knit and rich in culture and entrepreneurialism, it's also the most segregated neighborhood in the Bay Area, overcrowded, low income and can be unsafe.

Its main issues are housing, poverty, health, education, and flooding.



Marin City is 1.2 miles across and can be walked in 15 minutes. 3,400 residents live there.

Known as an African American enclave, it is actually home to one of the most racially-diverse communities in Marin: 41% White; 24% African American; 24% Asian and 12% two or more races.

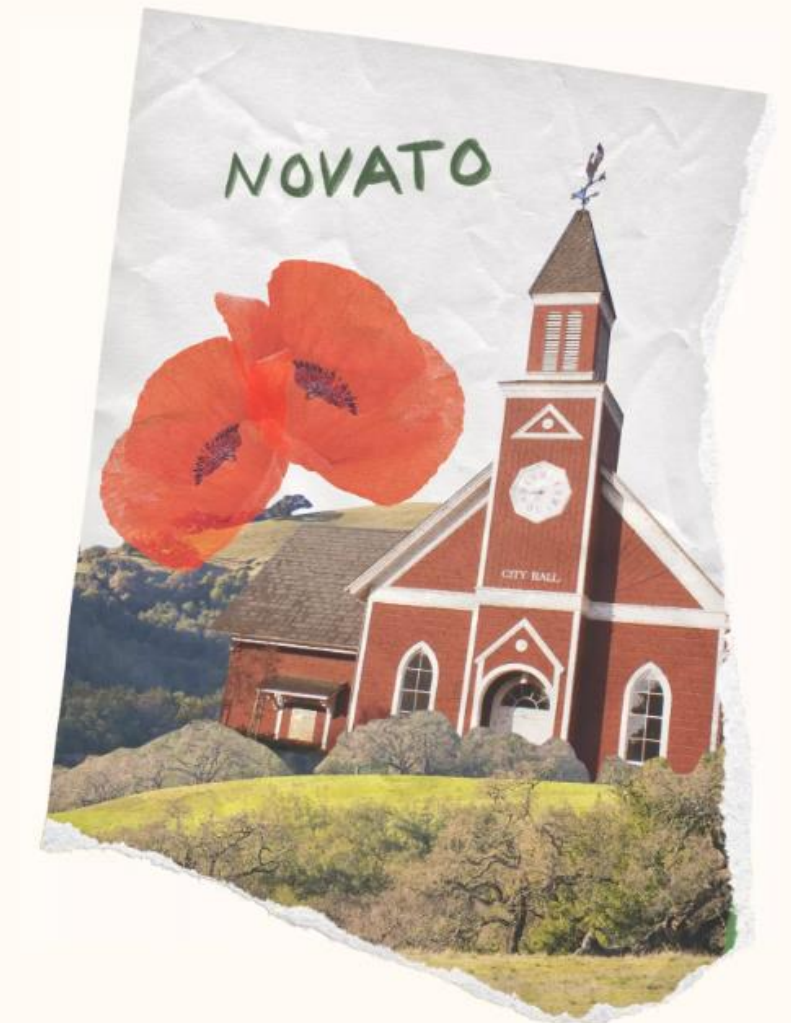
14% of residents live in poverty, and the community grapples with racial & economic disparity, gentrification, health issues and climate-driven flooding



West Marin comprises 2/3 of the landmass of the County. In among the large swaths of parks, agriculture and open space, there are two stories: one is of wealthy folks, second homes, cheese and oysters. The other is of the folks working the land and living in substandard conditions, hidden from view.

Close to 30% of Latino residents who comprise the majority of service workers live below the poverty line, as do many isolated older adults.

Lack of housing is by far the most pressing issue.



Novato is the second-largest region of Marin and expected to see the most population growth over the next few decades.

The Latino community, currently representing 22% of the population, will account for the greatest proportion of that growth, and within that, represent the greatest proportion of youth in the county.

Along with San Rafael, Novato accounts for the highest homeless population, yet housing projects face financial and community challenges.

Three Strategic Initiatives



Homelessness & Affordable Housing

1,100 of our neighbors are currently without a home. Nearly half of our county's households spend more than 30% of their income on housing. 62% of Marin county workers live outside the county and commute to work.

Marin's high cost of housing harms a wide range of people, and we simply cannot be a vibrant and diverse community unless housing costs decline, and more housing is built.

Building Resilient Communities

Due to its diverse landscape and coastal location, Marin is highly vulnerable to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change. In the past several years, record breaking weather, wildfire, rising seas, rain and flooding, and power cuts have become the norm rather than the exception.

While projected impacts of climate change and weather events in Marin County and beyond are stark, we hope to support efforts that contribute to building resilient infrastructures - from flood protection projects, wildfire mitigation, wetland restoration, and fire-resistant landscaping.



Community Power

This is a three-year, \$30 million program to explore a new model for how MCF can support nonprofits. Through multi-year, general operating grants, our goal is to reduce administrative burden, increase flexibility, build and sustain the health and vitality of organizations, recognize innovative ones, and ultimately empower leading organizations throughout Marin County to flourish and focus on the critical work at hand



WHAT CAN BE



Mobilizing the power of community and the resources of philanthropy to advance equity for people, places, and the planet.

Power of community

?

Resources of philanthropy

?

JOIN US

A thick, light green brushstroke underline that starts under the 'J' of 'JOIN' and extends past the 'S' of 'US'. It has a rough, hand-painted texture with some variations in opacity and color, ranging from a pale mint to a slightly darker sage green.

**THANK
YOU**