



Stone Soup Gathering Envisions Partnership Opportunities for Marin City

Representatives

- **BAYWORK:** Laura Combs, Robert Scott, Sesa Pabalan
- **County of Marin:** D'Angelo Paillet
- **Marin City community leader:** Yvonne Harris
- **Ross Valley Sanitary District:** Steve Moore
- **Stone Soup Leadership Institute:** Marianne Larned, Felicia Kwarta, Nina Potsiadlo, Yuki Ueda
- **Tradeswomen:** Juanita Douglas, Eboni McKinley, Shemika Green
Graduates: Tatiana Williams, Kimberly, Tishara, Tiana, Teyonna Allen
- **The Rotary Club of Marin City:** Tami Bell

On June 25, community leaders from Marin City came together to envision how they might collaborate to increase workforce training and job opportunities for Marin City youth. Hosted by Juanita Douglas of Tradeswomen, Inc. and the Stone Soup Leadership Institute, the gathering included representatives from the County of Marin, the Rotary Club of Marin City, BAYWORK, Ross Valley Sanitary District, Tradeswomen, Inc., Our Sisters Keepers.

"I'm probably the oldest person in this room. I'll be 80 soon. The major problem in Marin City is that residents here really couldn't get into decent jobs. I and some others started a Rotary Club. There are challenges to create a community development membership organization to bring some positive economic change," said Tami Bell, the Rotary Club of Marin City

The Stone Soup Leadership Institute has worked with Rotary Clubs in other communities to develop customized workforce development initiatives with business, education and community leaders that empower young people to transform their lives, their communities and our world. Initiatives from Oakland to Boston, Cincinnati, to the islands of Terceira, Azores, Martha's Vineyard, Newport, Rhode Island, Hawaii, Vieques, Puerto Rico, British Virgin Islands, and. The Institute's foundational program Job Shadow Day was founded in the early 1990's in partnership with the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce to engage business leaders to mentor young people.

The Marin City gathering emerged from the Institute's Global Blue Job Shadow Day™ which featured guest speaker Stephanie Moulton-Peters of the Marin County Board of Supervisors. Laura Combs of BAYWORK and Steve Moore of Ross Valley Sanitary District highlighted for Blue Economy workforce development programs that lead to well-paying jobs so that Marin City residents can continue to live, work and serve their community.

By building accessible pathways into the Blue Economy, we are delivering economic opportunity, environmental stewardship, and equity all at once. I am proud to see Marin leading by example in creating a future that sustains both our waters and our workforce.

Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Southern Marin Scoop, February 2026 • [Learn more here](#)

“Stone Soup is about everyone sharing their gifts. Everyone pitches in. We’re in a time in our world and in our communities where we need to all pitch in,” said Marianne Larned, Founding Director of the Stone Soup Leadership Institute. “We need to look for opportunities where we can work together to support our young people.”

The Institute’s Education Coordinator, Yuki Ueda, introduced the Institute’s Blue Economy Career Pathways which was developed in partnership with the College of Marin. One promising opportunity emerged through research by Tiburon resident Alexandra Loucks, in the Institute’s Internship program at College of Marin who championed the Clean Water Management Pathway. Her research revealed that water and wastewater agencies in California face growing workforce shortages as experienced professionals are retiring, creating unprecedented opportunities for a new generation of skilled workers. Marin City resident Yvette Harris was inspired by Alex’s presentation – and thought that if Marin City residents could learn about these jobs and pursued careers that bridged critical needs in the water management industry, they could improve their lives and their community.

Water management has long been one of Marin City’s most pressing issues. For more than 70 years, this historically Black, low-income community has experienced chronic underinvestment in infrastructure, leaving neighborhoods vulnerable to severe flooding during winter storms. Building a resilient community means creating pathways for local residents to become the engineers, operators, and designers of these new systems. At the June 25th event, Steve Moore, Ross Valley Sanitary District “echoed this message: “There’s lots of opportunities working in water management – it’s a community service - protecting public health and protecting the environment,” he said. “The skills that people develop in clean water can be used in aquaculture for food management and other ocean management industries.”

Tradeswomen, Inc. has begun these kinds of opportunities for Marin City residents. Led by Juanita Douglas and her team, Tradeswomen recently trained 21 Marin City residents to gain hands-on construction experience through the revitalization of Marin City’s historic Golden Gate Village.

“When I found out that Golden Gate Village has 300 units that need to be remodeled, and the majority of the Black people in this community lived in Golden Gate Village – I tried to figure out how we could help this community with our training programs,” said Juanita Douglas, Tradeswomen, Inc. “We already renovated two full units – they are used right now as the MHA offices and construction offices. They’ve offered two more units for us to renovate if we get enough funding.”

Tradeswomen graduates developed practical skills in teamwork, safety, construction techniques, and problem-solving—skills that translate naturally into careers in water management and public infrastructure professions.

- “Electrical was really the toughest part of the class, but that is my future, going into electrical,” said Tisha.
- “I was good at painting, lighting and taping, so I helped paint the majority of all the walls,” said Tiana.
- “I enjoyed the entire class, but painting, really that’s what I want to do,” said Cherry
- “If you want to be somebody, and you want to go somewhere, you’ve got to wake up and pay attention,” said Eboni McKinley, a community member since 1978 and Tradeswoman board member.
- “It was a very fun class. I was part of the mother-daughter group. My daughter was a top math student, and she’s already out there working in a construction superintendent internship,” said Shemika, Project Manager, Tradeswomen, Inc. North Bay

The June 25th Marin City gathering demonstrated the power of the Stone Soup model by connecting community organizations, educators, government and local community to create new pathways toward economic opportunity and a more sustainable future for Marin City. Throughout the meeting, participants explored ways organizations could work together to strengthen these pathways. Ideas included connecting Tradeswomen graduates with internships and careers in water management, expanding mentorship opportunities through BAYWORK, equipping educators with tools that introduce students to careers in the growing blue economy and collaborating with the Marin City Rotary Club for the Global Blue Job Shadow Day TM in 2027.

Stone Soup Leadership Institute • www.stonesoupleadership.org
www.BlueEconomyGeneration.org/OurShowcase