



## THE DIVERSITY NETWORK PROJECT BUILDING ON THE *COMMON GROUND* REPORT

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The Diversity Network Project (DNP) was formed in 1998 to support urban environmental, environmental justice and community development organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area pursuing collaborative strategies.

DNP's founders—the San Francisco Foundation, the Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation—recognize that viable, highly functioning coalitions, networks and collaborations comprising ethnically and culturally diverse constituencies are at the heart of the work needed to create a sustainable and healthy San Francisco Bay Area.

In 1999, with generous input from key Bay Area community leaders, the DNP published the attached report, *Common Ground: Building Collaborations for Sustainable Communities in the San Francisco Bay Area*. The report highlighted many of the challenges facing these collaborations and presented a compilation of "best practices." Based on these findings, as well as recommendations from Bay Area community leaders, DNP developed a program to actively support effective multi-constituency coalitions in the Bay Area. The program includes:

- ▶ A **grants program** providing quick turn-around funding with limited application and reporting requirements. DNP provides funding for existing Bay Area multi-constituency coalitions as well as emerging strategic conversations and opportunities for new coalitions.
- ▶ Convening of **forums** for key grantmakers, project grantees and practitioners for the purpose of group training, peer learning, networking, and in-depth examination of emerging issues. DNP designs the convenings to address needs identified in consultation with the grantees.
- ▶ A **structure and resources** for other grantmakers interested in supporting collaboratives.
- ▶ **Field and program evaluation**, with findings made available to the broader community.

In its first year, the Diversity Network Project will have provided approximately \$320,000 in grants, conducted two community convenings, developed technical assistance services and initiated an evaluation program. Exloco, a progressive non-profit, provides program development and program and grants management for DNP in close partnership with the Environmental Health and Justice Initiative of the San Francisco Foundation. For more information, go to [www.exloco.org](http://www.exloco.org).