

# richmond today

richmond refinery newsletter spring 2020

## encouraging future entrepreneurs



By Lily Rahnema

Chevron has been part of the Richmond community for nearly 120 years. Over that time, we've strived to build lasting partnerships to invest in economic and social development.

We are pleased to share our 2019 Social Investment Report, which highlights our work with local organizations that, like us, are committed to making Richmond and West Contra Costa County a better place to live, work and play.

I'm particularly proud of our work around STEM and entrepreneurship, at all levels of education, from early elementary to adult. Our support ranges from introducing kids to cutting-edge technology through Fab Lab Richmond, to supporting Pogo Park's social enterprise model and the newly opened CoBiz Richmond, a business incubator that is bringing Silicon Valley's innovative spirit to Richmond.

These programs are designed to encourage curiosity and creativity – valuable skills that are needed for success in the future economy. We hope they will inspire future Richmond entrepreneurs and problem solvers.

Lily Rahnema is the Community Engagement Manager for the Richmond Refinery

## estímulo para futuros emprendedores

Por Lily Rahnema

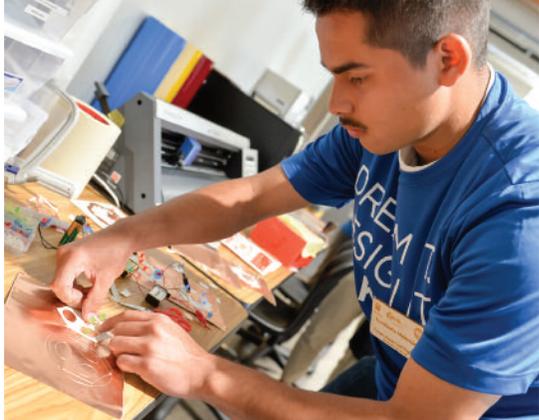
Chevron ha sido parte de la comunidad de Richmond durante casi 120 años. Durante ese período, hemos luchado por establecer asociaciones duraderas para invertir en el desarrollo económico y social.

Nos da mucho gusto presentar el Informe de Inversión Social 2019, el cual destaca nuestro trabajo con organizaciones locales que, al igual que nosotros, están comprometidas en hacer que Richmond y el Condado de West Contra Costa sea un mejor lugar para vivir, trabajar y divertirse.

Me siento especialmente orgullosa de trabajar con STEM y los programas emprendedores, en todos los niveles de educación, desde la escuela primaria hasta adultos. Nuestro apoyo va desde introducir a los niños a la tecnología de vanguardia a través del laboratorio Fab Lab Richmond, hasta apoyar el modelo de iniciativa social de Pogo Park y el novísimo CoBiz Richmond, una incubadora comercial que trae el espíritu innovador de Silicon Valley a Richmond.

Estos programas están diseñados para estimular la curiosidad y creatividad, las cuales son habilidades valiosas que son necesarias para el éxito de la economía futura. Esperamos inspirar a los futuros emprendedores y solucionadores de problemas de Richmond.

Lily Rahnema es la gerente de compromiso con la comunidad de Chevron en Richmond



# 2019 community giving report

Chevron is committed to investing in Richmond and West Contra Costa County by giving time and resources to support organizations that make our community a better place to live and work. We partner with results-oriented organizations that help improve education, drive economic development, train workers and create opportunities for youth.



**economic  
development**



**education**



**youth & public  
safety**



**civic & community**



**\$2,105,307**  
total giving  
in 2019

**\$3,039,761**  
additional  
funding

Includes Richmond Promise,  
Environmental and Community  
Investment Agreement Grants  
and eEquip Richmond funding  
released in 2019.

## helping change lives

GRIP is an organization that is focused on helping eradicate homelessness in Richmond. They provide meals, supportive housing and job training for some of the most vulnerable people in the community. I serve on the Board of Directors and volunteer to cook and serve dinners. It's deeply meaningful to directly serve our community. I love the passion that Kathleen Sullivan, executive director, and the Board has for GRIP's mission. We truly believe that it's possible to reach out to every homeless person in Richmond and help them get back on their feet. GRIP brings its mission to life with its actions and results. My parents taught me that giving your time in service to others is something we can all do and that's how I try to live my life. GRIP is always looking for people to give time and money in any amount, so please consider doing what you can to help. To learn more about GRIP, visit [www.gripcares.org](http://www.gripcares.org) or call 510-233-2141.

—Naomi Woodard, Maintenance and Reliability manager for Chevron in Richmond



## inspiring the next generation

I am delighted to volunteer with other Chevron female leaders in our “Women in Progress” initiative. We aim to develop bonds with and mentor Bay Area girls. Here in Richmond, I have attended events with Girls Inc. of West Contra County students to participate in fun and educational activities such as holiday gift sorting and science experiments. We hope these events inspire girls to see that women can be leaders in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and the range of opportunities that can be opened through education. Personally, getting to know the girls and developing relationships with them is also a learning opportunity for me. Their energy is infectious, I get so much out of the experiences. It's often hard to determine a career path at a young age. We hope these early-life interactions with female leaders has the potential to help them think broadly, challenge any unconscious bias about female professionals, and inspire these girls to set high goals for their future careers.

—Corry Kennedy, Human Resources manager for Chevron in Richmond



## supporting hands-on learning

Chevron supports the American Chemical Society's Project SEED program, which provides opportunities for high school students to spend a summer conducting hands-on research in academic, government and industry research laboratories. Over three decades, the Chevron Richmond Technology Center (RTC) has hosted dozens of Richmond students who spend nine weeks working with research chemists on real-world experiments and projects. We try to recruit local students who might not otherwise have access to mentors and opportunities in the sciences. The students we get are very smart and eager to learn and perform great work. They also get paid during their Project SEED internship. We are delighted to have a former Project SEED student who came back to work in our labs after graduating from college. Many students might have the talent for this type of work and exposure to it in high school can help them see it as a potential career path.

—Ken Nelson, Research Technician for Chevron in Richmond and Site Coordinator for Project SEED



## organizations supported in 2019

American Chemical Society  
Bay Area Rescue Mission  
Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo  
Bread Project  
Charles Reid Foundation  
Community Energy Services Cooperation  
Community Housing Development Corp. of North Richmond  
Community Violence Solutions  
Contra Costa College Foundation  
Contra Costa Economic Partnership  
Contra Costa Family Justice Alliance  
Contra Costa Office of Education  
Coronado Neighborhood Council  
Council Of Industries West Contra Costa  
CSU East Bay  
East Bay Economic Alliance Foundation  
East Bay Leadership Council  
Easter Hill United Methodist Church  
Exploratorium Teacher Institute  
Familias Unidas Youth Program  
Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano  
Girls Inc. of West Contra Costa County  
Greater Richmond Interfaith Program  
Groundwork Richmond  
Healing Circles of Hope  
Industrial Association of Contra Costa County  
John Muir Land Trust  
Junior Achievement of The Bay Area  
Kiwanis Public Safety Dinner  
Latina Center  
Laurel Park Blue Festival  
Let's Grow Richmond  
Multicultural Institute  
North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church  
North Richmond Music Festival  
Nurturing Independence Through Artistic Development  
Oakland Symphony - 4th of July Celebration  
One Accord Voting Project  
Prescott-Joseph Center  
Pullman Neighborhood Council  
Regional Parks Foundation  
Richmond Community Foundation  
Richmond Fire and Police Holiday Program  
Richmond Juneteenth Parade and Festival  
Richmond North East Neighborhood Association  
Richmond Main Street Initiative  
Richmond Museum Association  
Richmond Police Activities League  
Richmond Police Officers Association  
RichmondWORKS (City of Richmond)  
Rock The Casa  
Rosie the Riveter Trust  
Rotary Club of Richmond  
Rubicon Programs  
Santa Fe Breakfast Scholarships: Black Employee Network  
Scholarships: Somos  
Social Progress 4th of July Parade and Festival  
STAND! For Families Free of Violence  
Stride Center  
Teach for America  
The Wright Institute  
Trick or Treat on 23rd Street - Richmond Friends of Recreation  
West Contra Costa Business Development Center  
West Contra Costa Public Education Fund  
West Contra Costa Salesian Boys & Girls Club  
West Contra Costa Unified School District  
YES Nature to Neighborhoods  
YMCA West Contra Costa  
YouthWORKS (City of Richmond)

## in the news

# MC Hammer helps unveil CoBiz Richmond

From the Richmond Standard

**MC Hammer, who transformed himself from a multimillion record-selling artist into a well-respected technology investor and entrepreneur recently visited Richmond, but not to tout his successes in Silicon Valley. Rather, he came to help plug West Contra Costa County entrepreneurs into the Bay Area's booming digital economy.**



**MC Hammer delivered the keynote speech for the grand opening celebration for CoBiz, a new state-of-the-art co-working space and business incubator, located adjacent to the Richmond BART Station.**

**The modern, 9,000-square-foot space, seen by civic leaders as transformative for Richmond's downtown, equips local entrepreneurs and small businesses with state-of-the-art technologies and resources in the middle of the city's central transit hub.**

**CoBiz provides small businesses, innovators, nonprofits and freelance creatives with cutting-edge technologies, collaborative spaces, a sound-proofed creative space for podcasting and vlogging, spaces for Ted Talk-type seminars, hacking events, a communal kitchen, and even a few relaxation spaces.**

**More than space, there'll be ample resources. CoBiz's partners include the Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center, the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, and the Richmond Main Street Initiative. All of the organizations will have an onsite presence offering tools and connections to entrepreneurs and businesses.**

**CoBiz is a project of the Chevron Richmond Refinery's eEquip Richmond initiative, a multi-year \$10 million investment that funds programs to fundamentally improve communities by encouraging small business development, workforce development, and pathways to sustainable, living wages and careers in growth industries.**

**"We hope our funding will not only facilitate CoBiz's operations, but also support the innovators, entrepreneurs and nonprofits who use the space," said Linsi Crain, manager government and public affairs at Chevron Richmond.**

**CoBiz CEO Wesley Alexander said the incubator's aim will be to uplift all community members bitten by the entrepreneurial bug.**

**"We are going to celebrate diversity, we're going to welcome it authentically," Alexander said. "If you're a person with purpose, regardless of your socio-economic background, if you come to CoBiz, we'll customize something and make it work. Great things come from where you'll least expect."**

**Learn more about CoBiz by visiting [www.cobizrichmond.com](http://www.cobizrichmond.com) or calling 510-309-7107.**

# Q & A

## a conversation with

### Carlos Fonseca, Instrument Technician

#### Q **What's your job at Chevron?**

I am an Instrument Technician. We are part of the Maintenance and Reliability group at the refinery. My team maintains the operating equipment throughout the plant. Instrumental Technicians like me are part of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union (IBEW).

#### Q **Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in Richmond. My family has been here a long time. My great-grandmother and great-grandfather lived on Pennsylvania Avenue. My great-grandfather worked at the Chevron Chemical Plant on Hensley Street. My family grew up in San Pablo and I graduated from Richmond High School.

#### Q **How did you get interested in working with electronics?**

Richmond High has great "Academy" programs for students who are interested in learning special skills. I have always been a mechanical person. I enjoy working with electronics and fixing things. So I joined the robotics team, which is a program that Chevron supports.

#### Q **Has that experience been helpful to you at the Refinery?**

Hands down, yes. At the refinery, I work with power tools I learned how to use at Richmond High. On the robotics team we had specific jobs, just like we have at the refinery. Both revolve around electronics and making sure everything works right. We also had a strong focus on safety which is something that I apply at the refinery.

#### Q **What did you do after high school?**

I studied Culinary Arts at Contra Costa College, which is another program that Chevron supports. I worked in the food industry for about eight years. But I was barely making enough money to pay for the tolls on the way to my job in Marin. And I did not find the work very fulfilling. I was looking for something to change my life and found the Regional Occupational Program (ROP).

#### Q **How was ROP helpful in preparing you for life at Chevron?**

The ROP instructors always told us, "This is really an 18-week job interview." That is correct. What you learn at ROP is really a preview of what you learn as a trainee. ROP helps you apply what you learn at the refinery. I highly recommend that anyone who is interested in working at the refinery take ROP. It's a great opportunity to get your foot in the door. And the best part is it's totally free.

#### Q **What did you do after ROP?**

I worked as a contractor working on a project at the refinery because I wanted to see if this is something that I would like. The first day at the plant, I felt at home. So I told myself that I was going to keep applying, and applying until I got hired as a full-time Chevron employee. I was a contractor for six months.

#### Q **What would you want people to know about Chevron?**

This is my community too. I have family here. I still live in the area. And I feel a sense of responsibility to make sure that everything is running reliably at the refinery. And working in maintenance gives me the opportunity to do that. Safety is not just something we say, it's something that we practice every day.



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### for more information

Email [richmondrefineryinfo@chevron.com](mailto:richmondrefineryinfo@chevron.com)  
or call 510-242-2000. For noise and odor  
complaints, please contact 510-242-2127.

### para más información

Email a [richmondrefineryinfo@chevron.com](mailto:richmondrefineryinfo@chevron.com)  
o llamando al número 510-242-2000. Para  
quejas relacionadas con ruidos y olores, por  
favor llame al número 510-242-2127.

## community corner

### helping in times of need

During this time of uncertainty, we recognize the community needs support now more than ever. Together with our community partners, Chevron has implemented a series of social investment and support initiatives to help communities and nonprofits address the COVID-19 public health crisis. This includes funding for food banks to feed the hungry, remote learning grants to help teachers engage students studying at home, and donations of surgical masks to help Bay Area medical responders who are treating our loved ones. We are supporting the Fab Lab's effort to 3D print face shields for healthcare providers and donating gas cards to frontline workers as they help keep our communities safe. We also continue to produce the transportation fuels needed to keep the economy

moving. Whether it's working remotely or the inability to physically be out and about connecting with others, we hope that you are coping in positive ways with the challenges that we are all facing. Please know that you are not alone and remember that staying connected is an important part of maintaining resilience through this period of uncertainty.



### ayuda en tiempos de necesidad

Durante este tiempo de incertidumbre, reconocemos que la comunidad necesita apoyo más que nunca. Junto con nuestros socios de la comunidad, Chevron ha implementado una serie de iniciativas de inversión y apoyo social para ayudar a las comunidades y organizaciones no lucrativas a abordar la crisis de salud pública del COVID-19. Esto implica incluir fondos para bancos de comida para alimentar a los hambrientos, subsidios de aprendizaje remoto para ayudar a los maestros a motivar a sus alumnos a estudiar en casa, y donativos de cubrebocas quirúrgicos para ayudar al personal médico del Área de la Bahía que brindan tratamiento a nuestros seres queridos. Apoyamos el esfuerzo de Fab Lab para imprimir caretas tridimensionales para los proveedores de atención médica y donamos tarjetas de gasolina a los trabajadores de primera línea mientras mantienen seguras a nuestras comunidades. También seguimos produciendo los combustibles de transporte necesarios para mantener a la economía en movimiento. Ya sea que esté trabajando remotamente o que no pueda salir y conectarse con los demás, esperamos que esté lidiando de manera positiva con los desafíos con los que todos nos enfrentamos. Sepa que no está solo y recuerde que mantenerse conectado es una parte importante de mantener la resiliencia durante este período de incertidumbre.