

**2026 ART ON
MARKET STREET
POSTER SERIES**

2026 Art on Market Poster Series Public Art Project

The 2026 Art on Market Poster Series, titled *Now & Then: Living Memories*, will focus on previously unrecorded, newly unearthed & unconventional San Francisco histories. The name of the series is taken from a 2017 essay by writer, historian and activist Rebecca Solnit, in which she argues for “more history, not less”. Artists are encouraged to use primary sources, such as: libraries, archives, oral histories, historical societies & museums, public records, etc. to create a cohesive series uncovering overlooked histories and memorializing new histories. This project intersects with the continued work of SFAC’s Mellon-Grant funded Shaping Legacy program.



Come To My Garden, 2022



Photo by V. Hadad

AMIR KHADAR

The Great Migration

During the Great Migration, millions of Black Americans left their homes in the Jim Crow South in search of opportunity and safety. San Francisco's wartime economy drew many migrants between 1920 and 1945. This labor boom gave rise to many Black communities throughout the Bay Area.



Maritime Workers

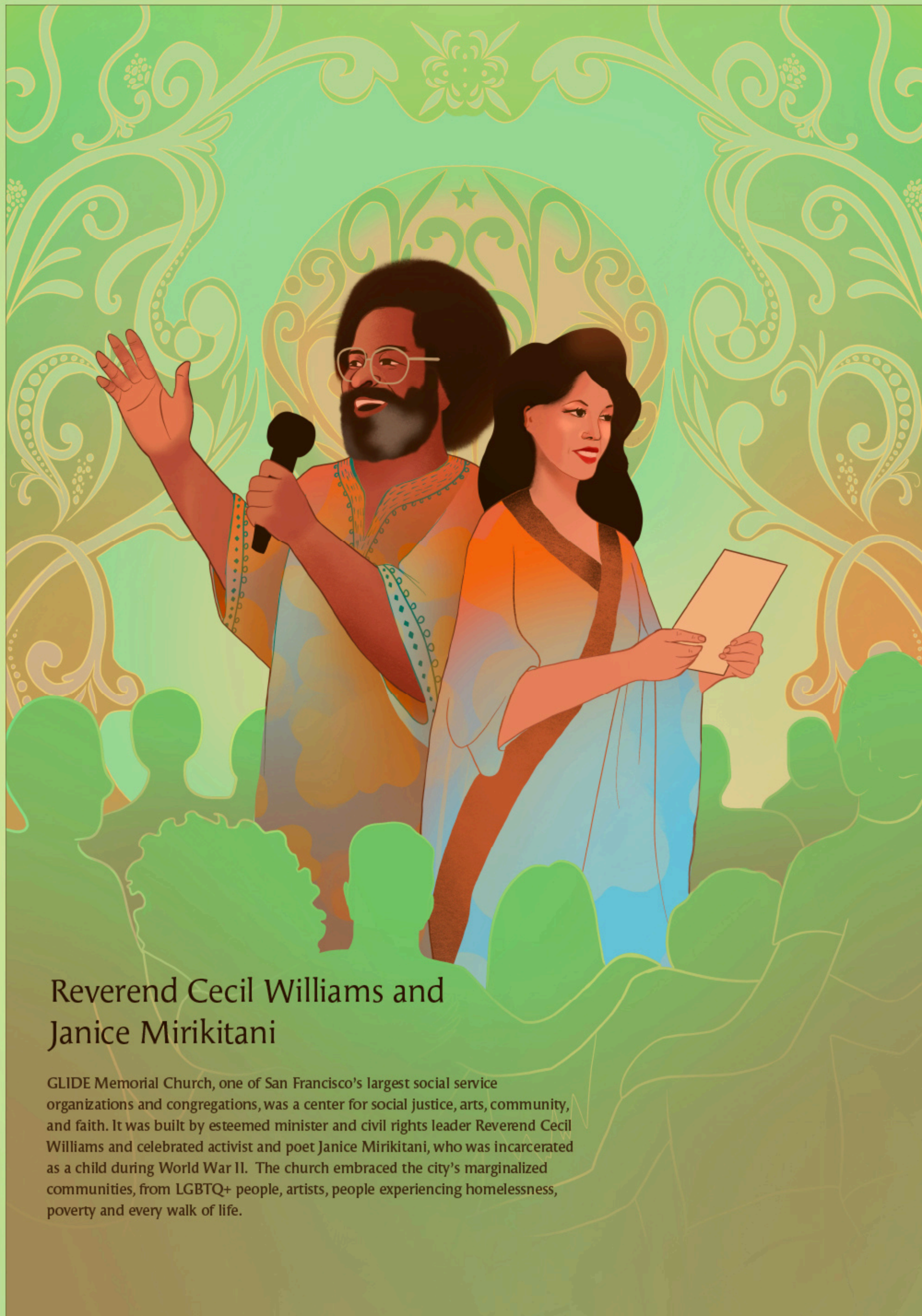
Black Americans moved to San Francisco in the tens of thousands during World War I and II, staffing the city's shipyards, ports and waterfronts. Despite discrimination, the new arrivals became welders, riggers, longshore workers and union leaders. Their labor developed the city's wartime economy and Black Middle Class.



Harlem Of the West

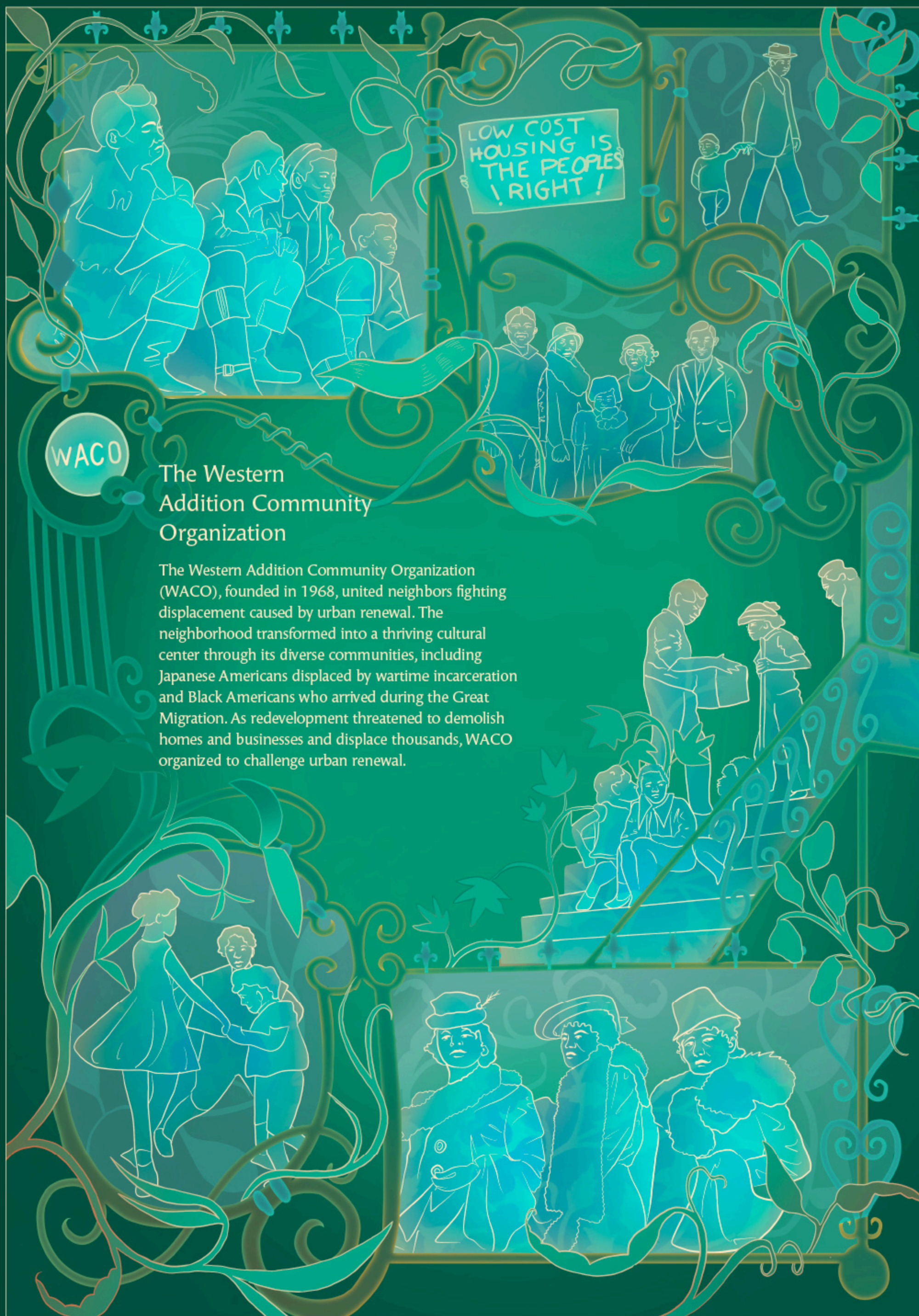
In the 1940s and 50s, the Fillmore emerged as a vibrant West Coast cultural hub, known as the “Harlem of the West”. Following the wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans and migration of Black Americans, the neighborhood became home to a thriving scene of businesses, churches, and dozens of jazz clubs. Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington, and John Coltrane were just a few of the iconic artists who traversed the Fillmore’s clubs, theatres, and cafes.





Reverend Cecil Williams and Janice Mirikitani

GLIDE Memorial Church, one of San Francisco's largest social service organizations and congregations, was a center for social justice, arts, community, and faith. It was built by esteemed minister and civil rights leader Reverend Cecil Williams and celebrated activist and poet Janice Mirikitani, who was incarcerated as a child during World War II. The church embraced the city's marginalized communities, from LGBTQ+ people, artists, people experiencing homelessness, poverty and every walk of life.



WACO

The Western Addition Community Organization

The Western Addition Community Organization (WACO), founded in 1968, united neighbors fighting displacement caused by urban renewal. The neighborhood transformed into a thriving cultural center through its diverse communities, including Japanese Americans displaced by wartime incarceration and Black Americans who arrived during the Great Migration. As redevelopment threatened to demolish homes and businesses and displace thousands, WACO organized to challenge urban renewal.

Mary Helen Rogers

A housing justice leader and activist, Mary Helen Rogers fought to protect the Fillmore from urban renewal redevelopments that displaced thousands of residents. She cofounded the Western Addition Community Organization (WACO) and organized her neighbors to demand a say in their community's future. Her work and its legacy have made housing justice a central struggle in San Francisco.



Project Schedule

- **Adrian Arias**
 - January – March 2026
- **Colin Choy Kimzey**
 - April – June 2026
- **Vida Kuang**
 - July – September 2026
- **Amir Khadar**
 - October – December 2026