

What is the purpose of the Community Working Group (CWG)?

The Community Working Group acts as a public body created by the Marin Housing Authority and charged with creating a collective and innovative vision for the future of Golden Gate Village and Marin City. That vision includes sustainable and improved affordable housing, services that support residents and families, and a vibrant business community.

While capital planning and making investments in infrastructure is vital a part of that process, good development practices demand coupling capital development with critical investments in people. To that end, the group explores ways of investing in the heart and strength on Golden Gate Village and Marin City, its residents.

Mission: Explore ideas and make recommendations via a vision document about how MHA can make critical investments in people through education, jobs and community development as well as what types of site designs align with resident needs and values.

The group consists of a cross section of Golden Gate Village and Marin City residents, business owners, service providers, and community leaders.

Why is the CWG needed?

The CWG builds on the work of the 2009 Advisory Group and addresses the need to design and execute an innovative and sustainable vision for Golden Gate Village and Marin City. That vision includes a plan for how it approaches creating opportunities that invest in and enhance the lives of residents by making sure they can access:

- Affordable housing
- Employment that sustains themselves and their families
- Education that leads to training, advanced education, or employment
- Services that meet their needs and support their growth and development

How were the members picked?

The MHA selected members using an objective criteria. Its desire to create a cross sector body similar to the 2009 Community Advisory Group meant identifying residents, resident organizations, business owners, county agencies, and community-based/service organizations serving Marin City.

The selection process included reviewing candidates' connection to Golden Gate Village and Marin City, their work in the community, their knowledge of critical socio-economic factors that drive community success (e.g. education, workforce, business), and their demonstrated commitment to ensuring that Marin City is a diverse and vibrant community.

What is their role?

The role of the CWG is to devise a vision for a revitalized, sustainable, and enhanced Golden Gate Village and Marin City. It does this in two-hour monthly meetings where it does the following work.

- Gather information about a variety development scenarios
- Learn more about the specific needs of Marin City and its residents
- Solicit input from subject matter experts
- Engage the community via outreach, holding public meetings and forums, and collaborating with other relevant groups and bodies.

What happens in meetings?

Meetings consist of presentations from subject area experts, interactive workshops, and panel discussions.

Meetings explore:

1. Critical subjects like education and workforce and how they impact revitalization in Golden Gate Village and Marin City
2. Design scenarios from around the country that incorporate affordable housing, meet a variety of critical resident needs, and present innovative ways of approaching community challenges.

All meeting are facilitated to achieve open, respectful discussions. Meetings include food, take place at an accessible location in the community, are open to the public, and last for no more than two hours.

Who are the facilitators and how were they selected?

RDJ Enterprises facilitates working group meetings. Selected through a competitive process that involved the submission of a proposal and a series of interviews, RDJ's team of dedicated professionals have spent a number of years working with housing authorities to facilitate community and resident engagement processes like this one.

What is the role of the facilitator?

The facilitator's role is to guide the process and ensure the working group possesses the knowledge it needs to envision what Golden Gate Village and Marin City grow into in the coming years while honoring its vibrant past.

They also make sure that residents are involved in the process and have a voice.

Has any decision been made about revitalization?

No decision about revitalization has been made. The Community Working Group informs how revitalization in Golden Gate Village and Marin City occur.

Is it true that I could lose my home/apartment?

No. The Community Working Group works to ensure that current residents are not displaced during the revitalization process. It explores how to do that based on models from other Housing Authorities around the country.

How can the public get involved?

Meetings of the Community Working Group are open to the public and noticed at the MHA website. The public can attend, listen to the proceedings, and make comment at designated and appropriate times. The public can also:

- *Attend the 1 to 2 public forums hosted by the Community Working Group for the purposes of gathering feedback and input from residents.*
- *Add their voice by completing surveys and hosting informational meetings where they and their neighbors can learn more about the process and give their input.*

What does Community Working Group success look like?

The MHA, Golden Gate Village Resident Council, and the Community Working Group are all working to make Golden Gate Village and Marin City a better place to live. Success includes the creation of a collective, innovative, and sustainable vision for the future of Golden Gate Village and Marin City.

This means devising a clear and well-defined vision that outlines the type of revitalization models MHA should pursue in conjunction with its county partners.

Success also includes the following elements:

- *Creation of open lines of communication between members and the community*
 - *Open sharing of ideas that inform how MHA moves forward with its vision for a revitalized Golden Gate Village and Marin City*
 - *Timely reporting to residents and stakeholder groups about its progress*
 - *Resident and stakeholder groups acknowledging and building on Marin City's rich history while looking forward.*

How and where do I get more info?

You can get more information about the Community Working Group on the MHA website where there is a portal with meeting announcements, agendas and meeting summaries. You can also email Lisa Gray at lgray@rdjent.biz