

What an incredible evening!

Despite a brisk June night that called for sweaters and light jackets, the warmth inside Children's Fairyland was unmistakable as more than 250 business leaders, community advocates, elected officials, and Oakland Metropolitan Chamber members came together to celebrate the people and organizations shaping Oakland's future.

**OAKLAND**  
**FIRST**

Centered around this year's theme, Oakland First, the evening served as a powerful reminder that Oakland's greatest strength has always been its people, those who continue to lead with resilience, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to community.

We were especially honored to welcome Mayor Barbara Lee, who shared inspiring remarks about Oakland's future and presented each of our award recipients with official City of Oakland proclamations recognizing their extraordinary contributions to our city.

This year's Annual Meeting recognized three outstanding organizations whose work exemplifies the spirit of Oakland:

### **Community Catalyst Award**

[East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation \(EBALDC\)](#)

Recognizing extraordinary leadership and dedication to strengthening Oakland's communities.

### **Heart of Oakland Award**

[Town Love Box](#)

Honoring the businesses and individuals who embody Oakland's resilience, compassion, and community spirit.

### **Oakland on the Map Award**

[McGuire and Hester](#)

Celebrating champions who continue to elevate Oakland's reputation both locally and beyond while commemorating an incredible 100 years in business.

The evening also showcased the incredible talent of Oakland's culinary community. Guests enjoyed an unforgettable tasting experience featuring some of the city's most celebrated restaurants, including:

- [Flour + Water Pizza Shop](#) serving Bay Area-inspired pizzas crafted with slow-fermented dough and locally sourced ingredients.
- [Payakk](#), where Chef Tobb Pinpech brings contemporary Thai cuisine to life with bold flavors and modern interpretations of beloved traditions.

- [Black Forest Kitchen](#), introducing guests to authentic Berlin-style döner kebab with a Bay Area twist.
- [alaMar](#) Dominican Kitchen, led by Top Chef alum Chef Nelson German, featuring vibrant Dominican flavors inspired by family recipes and New York street food culture.
- [Limewood](#), showcasing award-winning California-inspired cuisine from Chef Joseph Paire.

Returning favorites also delighted attendees, including dim sum from [Town Fare by Chef Michele McQueen](#), craft beverages from [Drake's Dealership](#), sweet treats from [Donut Petit](#), an inspiring performance by the [Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir](#), and moving poetry readings from OUSD students representing [Chapter 510](#).

The Annual Meeting was more than a celebration; it was a reminder of what is possible when Oakland comes together. As we reflect on another successful year and look toward the future, we remain committed to supporting the businesses, organizations, and leaders who continue to invest in our city.

Thank you to everyone who attended, our generous sponsors, dedicated volunteers, award recipients, and community partners who helped make this year's Annual Meeting such a memorable evening.

Here's to continuing to put Oakland First; today, tomorrow, and for years to come.







Thank you to our sponsors!



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