

# Reimagining San Francisco: 2023 in Review

2023 was an eventful year for the alliance and many of our member organizations. We are so grateful for our partners collaboration over the last year as we built RSF and brought it out into the world. We're looking forward to continuing our collective work in 2024, but first let's take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate some of the accomplishments of the group over the past year.



## MEETINGS

The full alliance came together at the California Academy of Sciences for in-person working meetings in February and May. As a group, we developed a vision statement, values, desired outcomes, initial project ideas, and a short-term governance structure. We also formed committees to take on some focused work after those meetings. Thank you to all who have served on the Planning/Steering, Hiring, and/or Communications Committees in 2023!

In November, we were excited to see 35 RSF members attend the Nature Filled Schoolyards listening meeting led by Cadi Poile, Executive Director of Facilities at San Francisco Unified School District and RSF Steering Committee member. We had an engaging conversation about the ways our alliance can support bringing nature to schoolyards across San Francisco. This is the very first RSF project the group has kicked off, and we are looking forward to continued collaboration on project plans. Stay tuned for details on working groups and next steps to keep the momentum of this project going.



**Feb 2023 Full Group Meeting**

# PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ALLIANCE



On September 7th, California Biodiversity Day, we publicly announced the RSF alliance with a press conference on the Academy's Living Roof. The event brought together RSF member organizations, local government officials, and members of the media to celebrate the alliance and member organizations' collective action to improve the ecological health of San Francisco and equitably distribute the benefits of local nature to all. Thank you to Dr. Rebecca Johnson of the Academy who welcomed us and emceed the event.



During the launch, we heard remarks by the Academy's Dr. Scott Sampson, followed by RSF members Dr. Hollis Pierce-Jenkins of Literacy for Environmental Justice and Tyrone Jue from the SF Environment Department, and District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman.

Remarks were followed by planting of California natives on the Academy's Living Roof. The event was a great success and was featured in many local press outlets. Read the coverage on the [Newsroom page](#) of the website. Thanks to all of you who were able to join and celebrate together. Our collective joy and excitement was palpable.

## WEBSITE LAUNCH

In August our website went live! Since then, we have had 22,000 visitors to the site, and hundreds of people have signed up to receive updates about our alliance happenings. We are looking forward to adding more details about RSF projects and events in 2024.

[CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE](#)



## WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

In 2023, RSF gained 20 new member organizations! Since the public launch in September, we have welcomed the organizations below.

You can find all 38 member organizations listed on our website.







## MANNY'S IN THE MISSION

On November 8th, four RSF members took the stage at [Manny's](#). Dr. Jamie Chan from Gardens of Golden Gate Park, Dr. Rebecca Johnson of the Academy, Tyrone Jue of the San Francisco Environment Department, and Dr. Hollis Pierce-Jenkins of Literacy for Environmental Justice engaged an audience of 50 community members in meaningful conversation about the needs of San Francisco residents and how RSF can support a more nature-filled city. We look forward to participating in more community conversations in 2024 as we continue to build out this alliance.



## THANK YOU

Thank you so much to our partners who contributed to this alliance over the past year. None of this would have been possible without all of their meaningful contributions. We look forward to continuing our collaborative work towards a San Francisco where people and nature thrive together.

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

### Steering Committee

- Maria Durana – SF Children & Nature
- Rebecca Johnson – California Academy of Sciences
- Peter Brastow – SF Environment Department
- Brian Stokle – SF Recreation and Parks
- Jamie Chan – Gardens of Golden Gate Park
- Lewis Stringer – Presidio Trust
- Michael Boland – Presidio Trust
- Ildiko Polony – Sutro Stewards
- Shawn Lani – Exploratorium
- Candace Low – SFSU
- Helen Doyle – Nature in the City
- Cadi Poile – SFUSD
- Dawn Kamalanathan – SFUSD
- Sydney Davenport – California Academy of Sciences

### Hiring Committee

- Hollis Pierce-Jenkins – Literacy for Environmental Justice
- Jennifer Ly – SF Public Utilities Commission
- Brian Wiedenmeier – Friends of the Urban Forest
- Emma Greenbaum – Exploratorium
- Alison Young – California Academy of Sciences

### Communications Committee

- Candace Low – SFSU
- Rickie Cleere – SF Public Utilities Commission
- Emma Greenbaum – Exploratorium
- Samuel Cuthell – Golden Gate Biosphere Network
- Helen Doyle – Nature in the City
- Lewis Stringer – Presidio Trust