

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CELEBRATE COMMUNITY BOARDS' HISTORIC 50TH ANNIVERSARY AT GALA & 2026 SF PEACEMAKER AWARDS

WHEN: Friday, June 12, 2026, 6:30–9:30 p.m.

WHERE: Verdi Club, located at 2424 Mariposa St., San Francisco

TICKETS: \$85–\$100

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — June 1, 2026 — Community Boards, the nation's first and longest-running community-conflict resolution center, is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a special gala and the 16th Annual San Francisco Peacemaker Awards.

The celebration will feature appearances by prominent community leaders, including **State Senator Scott Wiener** and representatives from the offices of **San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie**, **San Francisco Board of Supervisors**, and **U.S. Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi**. Former SF Pride Parade Grand Marshal **Alex U. Inn** will emcee the event, with live music by **Side Note**.

Community Boards pioneered the community mediation model which is replicated in over 500 centers throughout the United States and internationally and provides the public with empowering, effective, and accessible mediation and conflict resolution services for resolving a wide range of personal, residential, neighborhood, consumer, and public disputes. Its **Neighborhood Mediation Program** remains a national and international model for civic participation.

Community Boards has long collaborated with the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) and United Educators of San Francisco (UESF) that now embeds mediation directly in schools and workplaces. To date, Community Boards has:

- Helped more than **58,000** San Franciscans resolve disputes peacefully
- Trained over **20,000** individuals in conflict resolution skills
- Built a volunteer network of more than **430** trained mediators

About the San Francisco Peacemaker Awards: Each year, Community Boards issues awards to an adult, a youth, and an organization, all of whom have made a significant contribution toward conflict resolution. Each award acknowledges, honors, and celebrates the change-makers, community-builders, anti-violence advocates, and on-the-ground peacemakers who are making San Francisco a city of healthier, safer neighborhoods and communities.

(cont.)

“It takes a village of peacemakers and anti-violence activists to build a San Francisco that values dialogue and resolution over conflict, division, and disputes,” says Executive Director Darlene Weide. “Today, we must celebrate those in our community who are directly improving our community’s well-being and creating better neighborhoods, schools, and ecosystems.”

THE 2026 PEACEMAKER AWARD RECIPIENTS ([Read their bios](#))

2026 Gail Sadalla Rising Peacemaker Award

- **Max Trujillo** — Recognized for co-founding San Francisco’s first District 9 Youth Council, advocating for youth issues including homelessness, climate change, public safety, and immigrant support. He also served on the San Francisco Youth Commission and will attend University of California, Berkeley this fall.
- **Gloria Cuevas Torres** — Honored for her work as a peer mediator at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Academic Middle School in San Francisco, helping students resolve conflicts through listening and restorative practices.

2026 Raymond Shonholtz Visionary Peacemaker Award

- **Sharon Rose** — Recognized for more than 30 years of leadership in restorative justice and alternatives to incarceration, including work with Neighborhood Courts and the San Francisco Pretrial Diversion Project.

2026 Community Boards Leadership Award

- **CLECHA** — A nonprofit supporting Latino entrepreneurs through financial education, business development, reentry programming, and youth entrepreneurship initiatives focused on economic empowerment and stability.

COMMUNITY BOARDS FAQ

- Founded in 1976 with the mission to provide the general public with an empowering, effective, and accessible methodology for resolving a wide range of personal, residential, neighborhood, consumer, and public disputes
- Developed a unique panel mediation model of three mediators working collaboratively to create a safe and confidential conflict resolution process for all San Franciscans. (This is a worldwide replicated model.)
- Created a rewarding—personally and professionally—avenue for concerned citizens to volunteer their time, energy, and skills in helping others

SAN FRANCISCO PEACEMAKER AWARDS FAQ

- Launched in 2011, the awards acknowledge and honor the significant contributions of others who make it a city of healthier, more just neighborhoods and communities.
- The awards salute and celebrate change-makers, community-builders, anti-violence advocates, and on-the-ground peacemakers. The three awards recognize individuals and organizations with proven track records, and the next generation of “rising” peacemakers.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

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INFO & TICKETS: \$85–\$100 (See [details](#), including sponsorship opportunities and event schedule.)

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