



INTERFAITH CENTER AT THE PRESIDIO – Incorporated in 1995

Vision: We welcome, serve, and celebrate
the diverse spiritual wisdom and faith traditions of the San Francisco/Bay Area.
And we are networked with interfaith groups locally and globally.

Mission: The Center's core activities include...

- Providing hospitality at the interfaith Main Post Chapel.
- Creating interfaith learning environments and resources, and
- Developing local and global relationships.

Financial Objective: The Center is seeking up to \$7.5 million in funding in addition to the \$3.5 million secured to date.

Use of Funds:

1. Restore and enhance the Main Post Chapel.
2. Develop the Center's new inexpensive broadcasting capabilities into an established interfaith media portal that helps teach the world about healthy interfaith dialogue.
3. Grow and strengthen the Center's administrative infrastructure to guarantee its institutional sustainability.

Executive Director Paul Chaffee - (415) 775-4635
email: paul@interfaith-presidio.org
www.interfaith-presidio.org
Post Office Box 29055
San Francisco, CA 94129

Responding to the possibility of a \$7.5 million investment

Summary

- The Interfaith Center at the Presidio was incorporated in 1995. In early 1996, the Center was given the care and custody of the Main Post Chapel which was built by the US Sixth Army as an interfaith sanctuary sixty years before the Presidio military base became a national park.
- The Center received permission to restore the Chapel from the Presidio Trust, completed a detailed feasibility report from a leading restoration architectural firm, has completed its Environmental Impact Report (by being a part of the Presidio's Main Post Development plans), and has raised half of the \$7 million the restoration will cost.
- The Center is developing ground-breaking webcasting capabilities that vastly extend its programmatic reach.

Our Vision

- To continue to provide hospitality, communication, and networking for faith groups from all traditions who visit and use what is now called the Main Post Interfaith Chapel.
- To use the Chapel and the internet to provide educational resources fostering a healthy, vital multi-religious culture.
- To become the world's premier interfaith media portal.
- To promote daily, enduring interfaith cooperation, to end religiously motivated violence, and to create cultures of peace, justice, and healing, in cooperation with a network of interfaith groups in more than 60 countries.

Our Mission and Core Activities

The Center's mission is to welcome, serve, and celebrate the world's diverse spiritual wisdom and faith traditions. The Center's core activities are...

- Providing hospitality at the Main Post Interfaith Chapel,
- Developing constructive local and global interfaith relationships, and
- Creating interfaith learning environments and resources.

Organization

The San Francisco Interfaith Council provided fiscal sponsorship prior to the Center's incorporation and remains one of 21 Bay Area interfaith groups that are Sponsoring Organizations (Sponsors). We work closely with the Presidio Trust, the Presidio of California National Park's governing body and the Center's landlord. The Trust has written grant applications on behalf of the restoration, improved the property, provided free broadband services, and lobbied officials on the Center's behalf.

Management

- Board of Directors – Elected annually by representatives of the Center’s Sponsors
- Fiscal Partner – Community Initiatives, San Francisco, a nonprofit created by the San Francisco Foundation to provide fiscal support to nonprofits for projects with budgets much larger than their own budgets; responsible for management and oversight of the campaign for and restoration of the Chapel
- Legal Counsel – Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, San Francisco
- Certified Public Accountant – Hawkes & Hume Accountancy Corporation, Walnut Creek
- Insurance Broker – Roger McLeroy, Church Mutual, Vacaville
- Restoration Architect – J. Gordon Turnbull, Principal, Page & Turnbull, San Francisco
- An Executive Director, a Financial Director, a Chapel Manager, a Campaign Director, hosts, and a volunteer staff attending to database, membership, website management, program, webcasting production, and fundraising

Corporate Formation

We incorporated in 1995 as a California 501c3 publicly supported non-profit. The Center was founded and is maintained by bootstrap volunteers, Chapel-use income, more than a million dollars in grants (including creation of the McDonald Windows, 26 new stained-glass windows for the restored Chapel, currently being circulated nationally by the Smithsonian Institution), and generous donors. Major funding – leading to the Chapel restoration, new income streams, and pioneering technological program capabilities – will strengthen the Center institutionally.

Future of ICP (based on where we’ve come from)

In recent years, hundreds of American councils of churches have become interfaith councils. Neighborhoods across the country are increasingly made up of multi-religious populations. To date, a center for digital resources and communication doesn’t exist for this large and growing demographic.

The Center is uniquely qualified to assume such a role, particularly now that it is able to webcast, record, and archive interfaith programming, at home in a destination site in San Francisco’s national park. In addition to its Bay Area activities, the Center is a Partner City of the *Parliament of the World’s Religions*; a founding Cooperation Circle of the *United Religions Initiative* (URI); and a member (with board representation) of the *North American Interfaith Network* (NAIN) for a dozen years. The Center organized and produced two of North America’s largest grassroots interfaith conferences in recent years, one for URI-North America, the other for NAIN.

Financial Forecast

- With \$3.5 million in funding, the restoration will be fully paid, architects will move directly from design documents to final drawings, and the project can move forward immediately.

- Additional funding to \$7.5 million will:
 - 1) Allow an entry-level pioneering broadcasting program to modestly upgrade its equipment and provide support services to maintain and develop internet activities, even during Chapel construction.
 - 2) Provide office and program space while the Chapel is under construction.
 - 3) Help initiate an endowment to secure the sustainability and health of the agency over the long term.

Use of Funds

- Restore and enhance the Main Post Chapel.
- Develop the Center's new inexpensive broadcasting capabilities into an established interfaith media portal that helps teach the world about healthy interfaith dialogue.
- Grow and strengthen the Center's administrative infrastructure to guarantee its institutional sustainability.

Optimistic, Pessimistic and Realistic Scenarios

- Optimistic – For 14 years the Interfaith Center has been slowly growing a new kind of organization, a coalition of interfaith organizations and leaders that has developed a national reputation for its activities and publications. There is no sign that the need for or the appreciation of the Center will do anything but grow in coming years, particularly with the completion of the Chapel's restoration and maturing of its educational capabilities through the internet. The Center's growth and development coincide with President Barack Obama's commitment to "Foster interfaith dialogue and collaboration with leaders and scholars around the world and at home." (White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives)
- Pessimistic – The Center is a small agency, has never had a project as large as the Chapel restoration, and is subject to the rules and vagaries that govern historic federal property.
- Realistic – The Presidio Trust is fully supportive of the Center and the Chapel restoration. Community Initiatives is providing the accountability asked for from large donors. And in tough economic times, half of a \$7 million project has already been raised or pledged.

Community Benefits from Full Funding

- A beautiful, historic, still vital interfaith Chapel will be used and appreciated as **a national treasure.**
- The Interfaith Center will be an active player in furthering an important U.S. national goal; **friendship and peaceful collaboration among the world's religions.**

