

BLACK ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS



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ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CELEBRATION

The Principles of Environmental Justice assert that all people have a right to satisfy their basic needs: a safe, healthy, and equitable environment. The "Four R's of Environmental Justice", a concept that has emerged through years of work by the Literacy for Environmental Justice (LEJ) staff who have provided place-based service learning opportunities in the Bayview Hunters Point community in San Francisco.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVOCATES:



REVERENCE

All life is sacred, and we are all interconnected. It is important to value the complexities of ecosystems and to nurture biodiversity.



RESPONSIBILITY

Governments (local, state, and federal) as well as corporations should be held accountable to serve their constituents in environmentally sustainable and socially just ways.



RECLAMATION

We, as people, should reclaim our communities and our land.



RECIPROCACY

All living things must nourish to be nourished.

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NORCAL MLK
The Northern California Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Foundation



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KNOW YOUR PAST TO UNDERSTAND YOUR FUTURE!

Northern California Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Foundation and the San Francisco Chapter of Links, Inc. celebrate Black History Month in partnership with the Aquarium of the Bay at PIER 39.

SANKOFA DAYS @ The BAY establishes our commitment to the principles at the core of this movement for environmental justice and sustainability and are embodied in the words of Dr. King, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

The Sankofa symbol, a bird with feet facing forward and head looking behind translates to "Know your past to understand your future." The protection and sustainability of our environment is critical; we can learn from past challenges to help forge a better and stronger environment for tomorrow.



WEST AFRICAN WISDOM: ADINKRA SYMBOLS & MEANINGS

Adinkra symbols are part of the Ashanti culture associated with Ghana, West Africa. King Kofi Adinkra was a famous Ashanti king. These symbols are everywhere in a village: on stools, pottery, painting, and especially on cloth. The symbols stand for proverbs that remind everyone of responsibility, harmony with nature, family values, and how to live a good life.



ASASE YE DURU

"The Earth has weight"

Symbol of providence and the divinity of Mother Earth. This symbol represents the importance of the Earth in sustaining life.



ASASE YE DURU

"Fern"

Symbol of endurance and resourcefulness. The fern is a hardy plant that can grow in difficult places. "An individual who wears this symbol suggests that he has endured many adversities and outlasted much difficulty."



BOA ME NA ME MMOA WO

"Help me and let me help you"

Symbol of cooperation and interdependence.



DENKYEM

"Crocodile"

Symbol of adaptability. The crocodile lives in the water, yet breathes the air, demonstrating an ability to adapt to circumstances.



FAWOHODIE

"Independence"

Symbol of independence, freedom, emancipation. "From the expression: Fawodhodie ene obre na enam. Literal translation: "Independence comes with its responsibilities."



SANKOFA

"Return and get it"

Symbol of importance of learning from the past.



WAWA ABA

"Seed of the wawa tree"

Symbol of hardiness, toughness and perseverance. The seed of the wawa tree is extremely hard. In Akan culture, it is a symbol of someone who is strong and tough. It inspires the individual to persevere through hardship.

COLORS OF THE KENTE IN THE WILDS OF CALIFORNIA

The design of kente cloth features many geometric patterns, and each pattern has a specific meaning, relating to the history or beliefs of the Ashanti people. Colors of kente cloth are present in the natural world in California.



- Black: Maturation, intensified spiritual energy.
- Blue: Peacefulness, harmony and love.
- Green: Vegetation, planting, harvesting, growth, spiritual renewal.
- Gold: Royalty, wealth, high status, glory, spiritual purity.
- Grey: Healing and cleansing rituals; associated with ash.
- Purple: The color of mother earth; associated with healing.

Monarch Butterfly on Butterfly Bush (Buddleia)



California Poppy



- Pink: The female essence of life; a mild, gentle aspect of red.
- Purple: Feminine aspects of life; usually worn by women.
- Red: Political and spiritual moods; bloodshed; sacrificial rites and death.
- White: Serenity, purity, joy; associated with the moon.
- Yellow: Purification, sanctification rites and festive occasions.
- Yellow-Green: Preciousness, royalty, wealth, fertility, beauty.