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FRESNO
DRIVE

Creating Our Economy for Everyone

Stories & News

September 2026

Fresno DRIVE amplifies upward economic and social mobility

Hello Friends,

In the September Fresno DRIVE Newsletter, we share findings from the **first-ever comprehensive Southeast Asian Business Study** and its impact on upward economic mobility for Fresno County's Southeast Asian business and farming communities. We also explore how **community-driven infrastructure projects spark transformative change**. Then, hear from Weaver Awards community advisors **Harman Singh and Deiglis Delgado-Wells about how weaving is an integral part of daily life**. Finally, learn how you can connect with your community this fall by attending an **upcoming local event**!

FresnoStories: California’s first-ever Southeast Asian Business Study launched to further upward economic mobility for local business owners

Pictured (left to right) at the SCALE Fresno Summit: Dr. Tara Lynn Gray, Principal Investigator of the Southeast Asian Business Study; SeeYeng Her, VP of Lending at Access Plus Capital; Anusone Keochai, Co-owner of Nah Nah Thong & Small Business Steering Committee Member of SCALE Fresno; Dao Lor, Program Manager of The Fresno Center & Steering Committee Chair of SCALE Fresno and Dr. Tolou Thao, Executive Director of The Hmong Inc.

Dao Lor grew up on a small family farm and has lived the struggles facing many Southeast Asian business and agricultural communities firsthand. He now serves as The Fresno Center Program Manager and Steering Committee Chair of SCALE Fresno. His mother arrived in the United States with only a fourth- to fifth-grade education and turned to the craftsmanship she knew best. But local business models weren't built to support her, or other Southeast Asian refugees like her. Fresno County’s Southeast Asian Business Study aims to reverse this trend, though.

Learn more

Have an idea for a story we should tell? **Submit your story idea here.**

Walking the Walk: How a neighborhood audit is reshaping accessible streets

Picture of neighborhood residents participating in the Columbia Neighborhood Walking Audit in Spring 2026

As thunder clouds billow and rain splatters the pavement during a storm, a child’s clothes get caked in mud while walking to school. Dirt-filled roads instead of sidewalks, are common in the Addams neighborhood located in Central-West Fresno. According to Live Again Fresno Founder and Executive Director Richard Burrell, experiences like these were the driving force behind the *Addams Neighborhood Walking Audit*: a desire to improve the quality of life for the next generation.

Discover more

Legacy weavers reflect on weaving in everyday life

Pictured (left to right): Legacy weavers Deiglis Delgado-Wells and Harman Singh

This year, Fresno DRIVE is selecting 20 weaver awardees to receive microgrants to support their work to build connection and meaning in our community. Two community leaders serving on the selection committee, also known as legacy weavers, share their thoughts on how weaving shows up in everyday life. Legacy weaver Harman Singh, a Central Unified School District trustee and community organizer, explains why weaving is essential to local education and activism and how it's strengthened through shared community spaces. Fellow legacy weaver Deiglis Delgado-Wells, Lowell CDC's Resident Services and Community Engagement Coordinator, speaks to how weavers help their communities grow stronger and more connected.

Read more

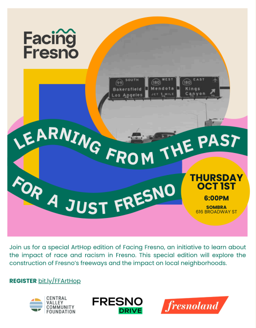
Fresno DRIVE Events

Facing Fresno’s Freeways Innovation Event

Join us for a special ArtHop edition of Facing Fresno to learn about the impact of freeways on south Fresno neighborhoods. Hear from residents and community advocates on life before the freeways and how they have still found ways to celebrate their neighborhood history and culture.

Panelists include:

Gwendalynn Morris, SJV Black Communications Network
Van Der Mugrdechian, Armenian Cultural Conservancy
Kathy Omachi, Fresno Chinatown Preservation, Inc.



Facing Fresno

LEARNING FROM THE PAST FOR A JUST FRESNO

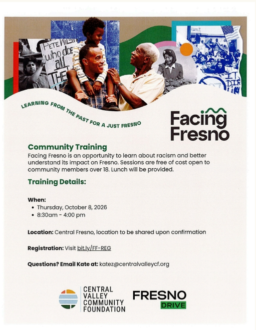
THURSDAY OCT 1ST
6:00PM
SOMBRA
616 BROADWAY ST

Join us for a special ArtHop edition of Facing Fresno, an initiative to learn about the impact of race and racism in Fresno. This special edition will explore the construction of Fresno’s freeways and the impact on local neighborhoods.

REGISTER bit.ly/FFArtHop

99 SOUTH Bakersfield Los Angeles
180 WEST Mendota JCT 1 MILE
180 EAST Kings Canyon
CENTRAL VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
FRESNO DRIVE
fresnoland

Facing Fresno Community Training



LEARNING FROM THE PAST FOR A JUST FRESNO

Facing Fresno

Community Training

Facing Fresno is an opportunity to learn about racism and better understand its impact on Fresno. Sessions are free of cost open to community members over 18. Lunch will be provided.

Training Details:

When:
- Thursday, October 8, 2026
- 8:30am - 4:00 pm

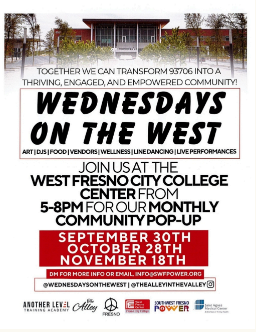
Location: Central Fresno, location to be shared upon confirmation

Registration: Visit bit.ly/FF-REG

Questions? Email Kate at: katez@centralvalleycf.org

Community Partner Events

Wednesdays on the West



TOGETHER WE CAN TRANSFORM 93706 INTO A THRIVING, ENGAGED, AND EMPOWERED COMMUNITY!

WEDNESDAYS ON THE WEST

ART | DJS | FOOD | VENDORS | WELLNESS | LINE DANCING | LIVE PERFORMANCES

JOIN US AT THE WEST FRESNO CITY COLLEGE CENTER FROM 5-8PM FOR OUR MONTHLY COMMUNITY POP-UP

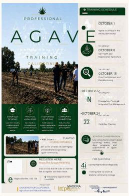
SEPTEMBER 30TH
OCTOBER 28TH
NOVEMBER 18TH

DM FOR MORE INFO OR EMAIL, INFO@SWFPOWER.ORG

@WEDNESDAYSONTHEWEST | @THEALLEYINTHEVALLEY

ANOTHER LEVEL TRAINING ACADEMY
The Alley
FRESNO
West Fresno Center Fresno City College
SOUTHWEST FRESNO POWER
Saint Agnes Medical Center

Madera Community College's Professional Agave Community Training


PROFESSIONAL AGAVE TRAINING CALIFORNIA

TRAINING SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 1
Agave as unique in the whole plant world

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 8
Soil Health and Regenerative Agriculture

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 15
Crop Establishment and Field Monitoring

OCTOBER 22
THURSDAY
Propagation, Pruning & Integrated Pest Management

OCTOBER 24
SATURDAY
Field Day: Planting

EXPERT-LED SESSIONS
PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE
SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS
COMMUNITY CONNECTION

• FIELD DAY - PLANTING
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
Join us for a hands-on planting day and celebrate our growing agave community.

REGISTER HERE
https://bit.ly/agavetraining
Scan or click the QR code or visit the link to register and learn more.

Scholarship opportunities available

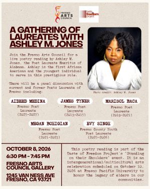
JOIN THE CONVERSATION
Stay connected and learn about upcoming events, field days, programs, and opportunities in agave cultivation.

FOR QUESTIONS
outreach@maderacollege.edu
Training held via Zoom & Madera Community College

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Agriculture and Natural Resources | MADERA COMMUNITY COLLEGE | UC DAVIS

View the Spanish flyer

Fresno Arts Council Live Poetry Reading


FRESNO ARTS COUNCIL
Taste of Freedom Project

A GATHERING OF LAUREATES WITH ASHLEY M. JONES

Join the Fresno Arts Council for a live poetry reading by Ashley M. Jones, the Poet Laureate Emeritus of Alabama. Ashley is the first African American and the youngest individual to serve in this prestigious role.

There will be a panel discussion with current and former Poets Laureate of Fresno including:

Photo credit: Ashley M. Jones

AIDEED MEDINA
Fresno Poet Laureate
(2025-2027)

JAMES TYNER
Fresno Poet Laureate
(2013-2015)

MARISOL BACA
Fresno Poet Laureate
(2019-2021)

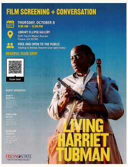
MEGAN BOHIGIAN
Fresno Poet Laureate
(2021-2023)

EVY SINGH
Fresno County Youth Poet Laureate
(2025-2026)

OCTOBER 8, 2026
6:30 PM - 7:45 PM
FRESNO ARTS COUNCIL GALLERY
1245 VAN NESS AVE
FRESNO, CA 93721

This poetry reading is part of the Taste of Freedom Project's 'Standing on their Shoulders' event. It is an intergenerational/multicultural arts celebration scheduled on October 10, 2026 at Fresno Pacific University to honor the legacy of elders in our communities.

"Living Harriet Tubman" Film Screening


FILM SCREENING + CONVERSATION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

LIBRARY ELLIPSE GALLERY
5241 North Maple Avenue
Fresno, CA 93740

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Seating is limited. Reserve your spot today!

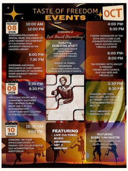
RESERVE YOUR SPOT
Scan me!

GUEST SPEAKERS:
NANCY WHITTLE
ERNESTINE WYATT
BRANDON FRANZIK

PRESENTED BY
FRESNO STATE
Title IV-E Child Welfare Education

LIVING HARRIET TUBMAN

Taste of Freedom Events


TASTE OF FREEDOM EVENTS
OCT

THURSDAY 08 2026
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
SCREENING FOLLOWED BY SPECIAL PANEL DISCUSSION OF LIVIN' HARRIET DOCUMENTARY AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY FRESNO IN THE MADDEN LIBRARY

6:00 PM-7:30 PM
SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION OF LIVIN' HARRIET DOCUMENTARY AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY FRESNO ROOM IT 101

SCREENING of Livin' Harriet Documentary!
featuring
ERNESTINE WYATT
great-great-great niece of Harriet Tubman
Artist, Historical Advocate, retired nurse & instructor

ASHLEY M. JONES – THOMPSON
the youngest and First African American poet laureate of Alabama

4:00 PM-5:30 PM
POETRY WORKSHOP AT THE BOYS AND CLUBS CLUB ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
540 N. AUGUSTA ST.
FRESNO, CA 93701

6:00 PM-8:00 PM
"AN EVENING WITH ASHLEY & FRIENDS"
FRESNO ARTS COUNCIL
1245 VAN NESS AVE
FRESNO, CA

FRIDAY 09 2026
5:30 PM-8:30 PM
WELCOME SOCIAL WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND GENERAL PUBLIC (RSVP ONLY) AT OLD ADMINISTRATION COURTYARD EAST LOCATED AT FRESNO CITY COLLEGE

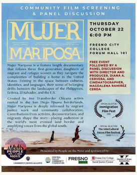
5:30 PM-8:30 PM
STANDING ON THEIR SHOULDERS ART DISPLAY AT FRESNO CITY COLLEGE, OLD ADMINISTRATION BLDG. M
1101 E. UNIVERSITY AVE.
FRESNO, CA 93741

SATURDAY 10 2026
10:00 AM-4:00 PM
STANDING ON THEIR SHOULDERS EVENT AT FRESNO CITY COLLEGE IN THE OLD ADMINISTRATION AUDITORIUM

FEATURING
- LIVE CULTURAL MUSIC
- DRUMMING
- ART & DANCING

FEATURING
BOBBY VAN MARTIN
Renowned First Nation artist, youth, and community advocate

"Mujer Mariposa" Community Film Screening & Panel Discussion


COMMUNITY FILM SCREENING & PANEL DISCUSSION

MUJER MARIPOSA

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 22
6:00 PM

FRESNO CITY COLLEGE
FORUM HALL 101

FREE EVENT FOLLOWED BY A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER, DIANA A. CERVERA, AND CINEMATOGRAPHER, MAGDALENA RAMIREZ CERDA

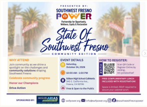
Mujer Mariposa is a feature length documentary that follows three first-generation daughters of migrant and refugee women as they navigate the complexities of building a home in the United States. Existing in the space between cultures, identities, and languages, their sense of belonging drifts between the landscapes of the Philippines, Eritrea, El Salvador, and the U.S.

Created by two Transborder Chicana artists rooted in the San Diego–Tijuana borderlands, Mujer Mariposa is deeply informed by migrant justice work and community collaboration. Contributions from activists, documentarians, and migrants shape the story—placing audiences at the world's most crossed land border and amplifying voices from the global south.

OFFICIAL SELECTION Immigration Film Fest
OFFICIAL SELECTION The InterCultural Voices Film Festival

Presented by People on the Move and sponsored by:
PEOPLE on the MOVE | COMMUNITY JUSTICE ALLIANCE | CENTRAL VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION | FRESNO DRIVE | Fresno City College Social Justice Center

State of Southwest Fresno


PRESENTED BY:
SOUTHWEST FRESNO POWER
Partnership for Opportunity, Wellness, Equity & Restoration

State Of Southwest Fresno
COMMUNITY EDITION

WHY ATTEND
Join community as we shine a spotlight on the challenges and **community solutions** shaping Southwest Fresno
Celebrate community progress
Honor our Champions
Drive Action

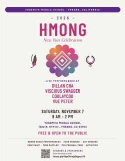
EVENT DETAILS
Saturday, October 24, 2026
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Edison High School Cafeteria
540 E. California Ave.,
Fresno, CA 93706
Free & Open to the Public

HOW TO REGISTER:
SCAN
Scan QR Code or Register Online by visiting, bit.ly/stateofswf

FREE COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH INCLUDED WITH REGISTRATION
Space is limited. RSVP required to secure your catered lunch.

SPONSORED BY: MIGUEL ARIAS
swfpower.org info@swfpower.org @southwestfresnopower

Yosemite Middle School's 2026 Hmong New Year Celebration


YOSEMITE MIDDLE SCHOOL · FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

- 2026 -
HMONG
New Year Celebration

LIVE PERFORMANCES BY
DILLAN CHA
VISCIOUS SWAGGER
COOLAYCOO
VUE PETER

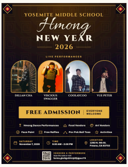
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7
9 AM - 2 PM

YOSEMITE MIDDLE SCHOOL
1292 N. 9TH ST., FRESNO, CA 93703

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

HMONG DANCE PERFORMANCES · FOOD VENDORS · ART VENDORS
FACE PAINT · FREE RAFFLES · POV POB BALL TOSS · ACTIVITIES

VENDORS & PERFORMERS
Scan the code or visit
forms.gle/8gvD4rzjdQgpucY9


YOSEMITE MIDDLE SCHOOL
Hmong
NEW YEAR
2026

LIVE PERFORMANCES
DILLAN CHA
VISCIOUS SWAGGER
COOLAYCOO
VUE PETER

FREE ADMISSION | EVERYONE WELCOME

Hmong Dance Performances
Food Vendors
Art Vendors
Face Paint
Free Raffles
Pov Pob Ball Toss
Activities

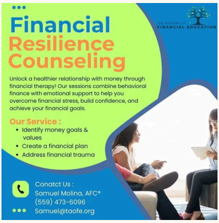
SATURDAY
November 7, 2026

TIME
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

LOCATION
1292 N. 9th St.
Fresno, CA 93703

VENDORS & PERFORMERS
Scan the code or visit
forms.gle/8gvD4rzjdQgpucY9

Academy of Financial Education Financial Resilience Counseling


THE ACADEMY OF FINANCIAL EDUCATION

Financial Resilience Counseling

Unlock a healthier relationship with money through financial therapy! Our sessions combine behavioral finance with emotional support to help you overcome financial stress, build confidence, and achieve your financial goals.

Our Service :
- Identify money goals & values
- Create a financial plan
- Address financial trauma

Conatct Us :
Samuel Molina, AFC®
(559) 473-6096
Samuel@taofe.org

Follow us or get in touch: DRIVE@centralvalleycf.org

CENTRAL VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Central Valley Community Foundation is a proud supporter of the Fresno DRIVE Initiative.

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