

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CONTACT:

Jennifer Vega  
Marketing and Graphic Design Manager  
Rising Sun Center for Opportunity  
510-665-1501 ext. 322  
vega@risingsunopp.org

### **“Women Building the Bay” Graduation Ceremony at Rising Sun Center for Opportunity**

Oakland, CA – March 30, 2019 – On Friday, April 12, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. Rising Sun Center for Opportunity will proudly commence the newest graduating class of Women Building the Bay, the Bay Area’s first and only all-women construction training program. We invite you to join us in celebrating these amazing women, who for the past several weeks, have honed their skills in preparation for jobs in union apprenticeships and construction-related trades.

Women Building the Bay is the Bay Area’s only all-women’s cohort and is part of Rising Sun’s Opportunity Build program. Opportunity Build provides low-income Bay Area residents who experience barriers to employment with a pathway out of poverty. We focus on providing family-sustaining career opportunities for those who need it the most, including a special emphasis on preparing women and individuals in reentry for careers in the building trades. Our Women Building the Bay graduates have worked in the classroom and in the field over the past weeks to successfully complete the construction apprenticeship readiness program, overcoming significant barriers to do so. Each graduate has earned her Multi-Craft Core Curriculum certification, First Aid/CPR certification, and OSHA 10 certification, which will give her a leg up in entering a union career in the building trades.

Women Building the Bay graduates join the ranks of other trailblazing women disrupting a male-dominated field. Nationwide, women represent less than 10% of the construction workforce and 2.6% of the construction apprentices in California. These numbers are increasing and Rising Sun is committed to doing our part to support that growth. Julia Hatton, the Director of Strategy Development and Policy says, “You can’t be what you can’t see. Not only do programs like Women Building the Bay create a larger pipeline of women who are prepared to enter the trades, they also provide women with a real-life visualization of what is possible.” Come help us celebrate the women who will inspire more women to build the pipeline of tradeswomen in the Bay!

Rising Sun Center for Opportunity is an Oakland-based non-profit with a mission to **empower individuals to achieve environmental and economic sustainability for themselves and their communities.** Rising Sun Center for Opportunity is a local nonprofit that operates job training and employment programs for underserved youth

and adults to address climate change and economic inequity!  
<https://risingsunopp.org/about/>