

THE FUTURE WE ARE BUILDING

Bay Evidence envisions a Bay Area in which public institutions are judged not by announcements, expenditures, or headline metrics, but by whether they produce equitable, measurable, and lasting improvements in people's lives. We are building an independent civic-accountability newsroom that begins with homelessness - the region's most urgent test of governance - and expands to investigate the public systems that determine whether communities can remain housed, healthy, economically secure, environmentally safe, and meaningfully represented.

1 A VICTORY, NOT AN ENDING

If homelessness were effectively eliminated tomorrow, Bay Evidence would verify how it ended; whether people entered permanent housing or were simply removed from public view; whether housing remained stable after one, three, and five years; whether racial, disability, and geographic inequities persisted; and whether housing insecurity continued through overcrowding, couch-surfing, motels, vehicles, institutions, or informal arrangements. The newsroom would move from counting homelessness to auditing housing stability and preventing its return.

2 THE SYSTEMS BEHIND THE OUTCOMES

Our reporting will follow the full chain of civic conditions: eviction and rent burden; utility shutoffs and medical debt; domestic-violence displacement; foster-care and reentry transitions; senior and disability housing insecurity; job and income instability; informal tenancy; code violations; safe and dignified housing; tenant power; behavioral and public health; and the institutional pathways that push people toward crisis or support durable stability.

3 PUBLIC MONEY, LAND, AND POWER

Bay Evidence will investigate which organizations receive public contracts, what they promise, what they deliver, and why failing programs are renewed. It will track administrative costs, executive compensation, resident participation, government dashboards, affordable-housing production, public land transfers, zoning, redevelopment, corporate ownership, vacancy, transit-oriented development, cultural displacement, loss of small businesses, and privatization of public space.

4 REGIONAL CIVIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTELLIGENCE

The newsroom will connect housing and economic security to the physical conditions of Bay Area neighborhoods: illegal dumping, air pollution, lead exposure, extreme heat, flood risk, industrial contamination, infrastructure neglect, sanitation inequities, transit access, public-space maintenance, and disparities in government response. Pure Street may document and address physical conditions; Bay Evidence will independently investigate the policies, budgets, and decisions that produce them.

OUR EVOLUTION

01 HOMELESSNESS ACCOUNTABILITY

PIT counts, displacement, programs, spending, resident conditions

02 HOUSING & ECONOMIC SECURITY

Eviction, tenant protections, benefits, wages, quality, prevention

03 REGIONAL CIVIC INTELLIGENCE

Nine-county reporting on systems that shape safety, stability, and power

THE ACCOUNTABILITY TEST

We combine original reporting, public records, resident knowledge, data analysis, and long-term outcome tracking to ask: What did the public pay for? What was promised? What was delivered? Who benefited? Who remained excluded?

The enduring subject of Bay Evidence is the distance between official claims and lived outcomes.