Renaissance Transforms Lives Through Entrepreneurship

Sharon Miller
Chief Executive Officer
Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center is a nonprofit small business development organization providing training and access to networks and resources for lower-income Bay Area women and men since 1985.

We are turning 30 this year!
Renaissance Services

**Information** – Training Classes, Workshops, Consulting

**Resources** – Business Incubation, Loan Packaging

**Networks** – Peer Support, Alumni Association, Consultants, Volunteers, Nonprofit Partners

**Community** – Building and revitalizing local communities with small businesses
Renaissance Clients

84% low – moderate income
72% women
62% people of color
16% LGBTQ
9% persons with disabilities

Yvonne Hines, Owner
Yvonne’s Southern Sweets
Why Entrepreneurship Training?

Because it works.

It is a proven pathway out of poverty.

The Ripple Effect: Clients achieve financial self-sufficiency. They establish assets and build better futures for their families and themselves. They build supportive and thriving communities.
Renaissance Impact

In 2013 Renaissance served 1835 clients who, in turn, started and grew 635 businesses.

According to microTracker Annual Client Outcome Survey 2013:

- **44%** of clients who came to Renaissance in the pre-launch stage launched their own businesses
- **91%** of businesses stayed in business after receiving services at Renaissance
- **47%** of businesses employ 2 or more individuals
- **68%** of clients donated goods, services in their communities
- **98%** of clients highly value Renaissance services
Renaissance: Historical Snapshot

Launched in 1985 in San Francisco with entrepreneurship training classes.

1990 – Financing Resource Center
1995 – First nonprofit small business incubator in SF
1997 – Purchased 275 5th Street building, has been home ever since
1999 – US SBA Small Business Administration Women’s Business Center
2001 – Renaissance Bayview
2004 – Expanded Incubator to 24 businesses
2007 – Renaissance Mid-Peninsula
2008 – Programming in Richmond, CA
2011 – Programming in Redwood City
2012 – Renaissance Marin, Programming in Daly City
2013 – US SBA Marin County Small Business Development Center
2014 – Renaissance Richmond
New in 2014

Opened office in Richmond, CA
Building an Incubator in East Palo Alto
Expanding our programs and services for women
Renaissance SoMa

Highlights
US SBA Women’s Business Center in SF
  Day time business planning classes
  Industry specific training in Fashion Sector
Workshops for women
Successful Women in Business Speaker Series
Largest Incubator Headquarters

Annual Holiday Sale 2013
Renaissance Bayview

Highlights
Bayview Strong – Support for Third Street and Vis Valley Merchants
Business Planning Classes – including Centro App
Contractors Program
Renaissance Mid-Peninsula Center

Highlights
English and Spanish language classes and workshops programs
Off-site model of training in Daly City, Redwood City and throughout San Mateo County
Secure Future$/Futuro$ Securos
New Incubator
Renaissance Marin

**Highlights**

Classes and workshops in English and Spanish

Urban Fire series for women at the Center and in Marin City

Open Work Space, Services and Kitchen Incubator

US SBA Small Business Development Center

ENCOREpreneurs
Renaissance Richmond

**Highlights**

**New Office** – previously all services were delivered off-site

Classes and Workshops in English and Spanish

Introduced women-focused classes
Thank you!

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