



MARCUS A. FOSTER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE

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## AN OPEN INVITATION TO OAKLAND'S COMMUNITIES

participate in  
**The Marcus A. Foster Educational Institute's  
Oakland Mayoral Candidates' Forum on Education  
April 13, 2006**

The Marcus A. Foster Educational Institute, a non-profit local education fund dedicated to supporting educational equity and academic excellence in Oakland's public schools, will host an **Oakland Mayoral Candidates' Forum on Education, Thursday, April 13, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Oakland Museum of California's James Moore Theatre, 1000 Oak Street.** As part of our planning efforts and commitment to honoring the relevance and power of the voice of the public concerning public education, **we are seeking the input of Oakland constituents in identifying the issues that will be presented to the candidates.** For your questions and issues to be considered, please complete the online questionnaire and submit it by February 27, 2006. **We also urge you and members of your organization and circle of friends/family, to attend this important forum.** Candidates Mr. Ignacio De La Fuente, Mr. Ronald V. Dellums and Ms. Nancy Nadel have confirmed their attendance.

The purpose of the forum is to provide candidates the opportunity to **state their positions on some of the educational priorities of Oakland** and define for constituents, the role of the Mayor in addressing these priorities. Oakland's public schools continue to face the great challenge of closing the historical and profound academic achievement gap and creating an educational system that fosters excellent educational outcomes for all students. Although the Oakland Unified School District's new mission and current reform efforts are addressing this great challenge; **education is everyone's responsibility.** The **sustained** improvement of schools and success of our students demands ongoing, strategic, citywide, community responsiveness. While the Mayor has no official or direct authority over the District, he or she has significant *influence* over the allocation of state and local resources to the city. Moreover, as the city's chief elected official, the Mayor is in the unique position to mobilize **broad-based** community response to the educational needs within the city.

The Institute is pleased to have the co-sponsorship of **the League of Women Voters of Oakland and the support of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Oakland Class of 2006**—a group of committed business and civic leaders who are lending their talents to work with the Institute to produce the Forum. The Candidates' Forum will also serve as a catalyst for the Institute's efforts in developing long-term, meaningful and effective community and civic engagement in supporting academic excellence and equity in public education.

We appreciate and value your time and input.

Looking forward,

Safi Jiroh  
Executive Director

*As a registered 501(c) 3, the Marcus A. Foster Educational Institute does not endorse candidates for office or take position on any pending legislation.*