

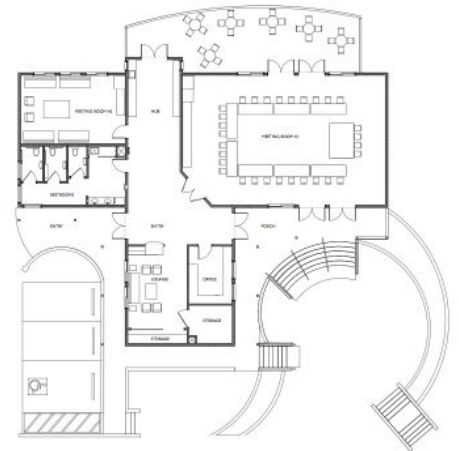


NEW MEETING HALL & REDEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN COMPLETED!



After many years of deeply thoughtful redevelopment, our vision to upgrade nearly every building at OAEC, including our meeting, housing, nursery, office, and dining facilities, has finally come to fruition. The most recent project, our new Meeting Hall, was completed this year. Financed and built by hundreds of people, these beautiful, spacious and highly functional indoor and outdoor spaces set within our 80-acre demonstration site is our offering to the present and future.

OAEC has long been a place for retreat, reflection, integrated learning, and strategic planning in the context of beauty, nature, and inspiring practices for how to live and labor in a more regenerative manner. With greatly enhanced facilities, deep and well-practiced participatory training pedagogy, and long-built relations with diverse social movements, we are ready to significantly expand our work.



Our New Meeting Hall features a 1,450 sq. ft main hall, a 385 sq. ft auxiliary meeting room, a comfortable lounge, reception office, and kitchen, plus multiple other indoor and outdoor breakout meeting spaces, including a deck with a panoramic view of the North Garden and Wildlands. We hear from every group that comes to OAEC that the integrated facilities, food, flora, and fauna facilitate a one-of-a-kind experience, where space is safe, minds and hearts are opened, and new big ideas emerge.

We invite you to visit [our website](#) for more details about these new facilities.

MOVEMENT BUILDING AT OAEC IN 2018

Below are just some of the remarkable groups OAEC hosted and collaborated with this year.

• **Sustainable Economies Law Center** – Coming to OAEC for their staff retreat now two years in a row, [SELC](#) cultivates a new legal landscape that supports community resilience and grassroots economic empowerment.

• **Thousand Currents** – [TC](#) develops long-term funding relationships with effective organizations led by women, youth, and Indigenous people working on the interdependent issues of food sovereignty, alternative economies, and climate justice, as well as working to change the way donors in the Global North interact with grantees. They held two staff retreats at OAEC this year.

• **Kairos Fellowship** – OAEC hosted for the second time the [Kairos Equity Cohort Fellowship](#) retreat, a program designed to address racial disparity within the field of civic technology and online organizing by training, mentoring, and placing fifteen fellows at leading national and state organizations.

• **Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights** Supporting women's rights activists who create cultures of justice, equality, and peace, [UAF](#) held a *Healing Justice* convening at OAEC with their staff and partners.

• **Movement Generation Justice & Ecology Project** OAEC's long-time partner, [MG](#) inspires and engages in transformative action towards the liberation and restoration of land, labor, and culture. MG held four retreats at OAEC this year: a Staff Planning Retreat, the annual [Just Transition Retreat](#), an Ecology Study Retreat with OAEC staff, and a video shoot for the upcoming Season Two of the [North Pole](#) web series.

• **California Foodshed Funders** – [CFF](#) is a fellowship of funders dedicated to regenerating California's agriculture and food systems. At their request, OAEC designed and facilitated a workshop for CFF on designing and practicing organizational and ecological resilience.

• **CalCAN** – [CalCAN](#) is a statewide coalition that advances policy to achieve the climate solutions offered by sustainable and organic agriculture. OAEC co-founded and is the fiscal sponsor of CalCAN, and we again facilitated and participated in CalCAN's Coalition Member strategy retreat at OAEC.



Movement Generation Just Transition Retreat at OAEC

• **Sherwood Design Engineers** – [Sherwood](#) is a site civil engineering practice committed to the optimal integration of ecology, infrastructure, and design, holding their staff retreat at OAEC.

• **Sierra Club Ready For 100 Campaign** – The leadership of [this national movement](#) of people working to inspire city leaders to embrace a vision of healthier communities powered with 100% clean, renewable energy came to OAEC for a year-end planning retreat.

• **North Bay Organizing Project** – Holding their leadership retreat at OAEC, [NBOP](#) is a grassroots, multi-racial, and multi-issue organization comprised of over 20 faith, labor, environmental, student, and community-based organizations in Sonoma County.

• **Tompkins Conservation** – The [TC](#) staff and advisory council came to OAEC to celebrate and plan for their future work after TC's leader Kris Tompkins and Chilean President Michelle Bachelet expanded Chile's national parkland by 10 million acres, with TC giving what has been billed as the world's largest donation of privately held land.

• **The Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies Public Benefit Corporation** – [MPBC](#), whose leadership team met OAEC, works to balance income from newly-legal sales of therapeutic MDMA with [their mission](#) to develop medical, legal, and cultural contexts for people to benefit from the careful uses of psychedelics and cannabis.

CELEBRATING OPERATIONS AT OAEC

OAEC's operations teams maintain our beautiful 80-acre site for our visitors and staff. Below, we highlight some of the work of several of OAEC's operations departments this year.

FACILITIES

Led by Site Manager James Pelican and Facilities Manager Ryan Silva, our facilities department is responsible for maintaining all the buildings and infrastructure at OAEC – no small task with over 40 small and large buildings! This year, the facilities department made major improvements to both our water and energy systems. We upgraded our water filtration system, which includes charcoal and UV filters, and enhanced our testing regimen to ensure that our on-site water system provides clean water for all our visitors. In addition, the facilities department is nearing completion of plans to install a grid-connected 63kW solar array. Along with our existing 10kW solar array, once installed we will generate as much electricity as we use.



KITCHEN

In 2018, OAEC welcomed a new Kitchen Manager, Maureen Murray. She brings to OAEC's kitchen over 20 years of experience in the Bay Area as a chef, restaurant owner, and purchaser, building relationships with local producers and farmers. She is also an award-winning affineur with Tomales Farmstead Creamery. Maureen is working to further regionalize the procurement of our food and to improve our systems of turning kitchen waste into on-site resources. Maureen and our wonderful kitchen crew continue to showcase the abundance of the OAEC garden in all of our meals, and are working to expand kitchen capacity while showcasing the creativity of each of our cooks.

BEAUTY WAY

OAEC seeks to infuse beauty into all we do, and OAEC's Beauty Way department, led by Manager Stacy Lippincott, keeps our site clean, organized, and welcoming for all our staff and visitors as they conduct their meaningful work. Our many new buildings have created more spaces to care for, and our Beauty Way team is designing new systems to meet this growth and the needs of our visitors. While we have always focused on using non-toxic cleaning supplies, the Beauty Way department is also focusing on reducing our use of plastic products and packaging that pervade the cleaning product industry.



RESILIENT COMMUNITY DESIGN AT HOME AND ABROAD

Building community resilience – the ability of whole communities to thrive in place over time with dignity, justice, and ecological sustainability – is OAEC’s ultimate goal. By invitation, OAEC guides communities through our facilitated, community-driven design process which we call Resilient Community Design. Below are some highlights of our Resilient Community Design collaborations in 2018.

Northwest Prep Public School, Santa Rosa, CA

[Northwest Prep](#) is a 7th-12th grade school where more than 70% of students receive free or reduced lunches. Working with OAEC’s Kendall Dunnigan, the students have designed, installed, and are managing an integrated perennial food forest and roofwater catchment system. The roofwater system captures water from one of the classroom buildings into a 5,000-gallon tank. The garden in front of the school has been transformed by the students from an annual production garden to a perennial food forest that was designed to bloom during the school year, watered exclusively by the rainwater tank.

CEJUDHCAN, Nicaragua – OAEC’s Kendall Dunnigan and Brock Dolman have partnered with [CEJUDHCAN](#), an indigenous-led Nicaraguan human and land rights organization, to support the autonomy of indigenous communities in the North Atlantic region of Nicaragua who are under direct threat of illegal forest resource extraction and violent land grabs. These indigenous communities are the traditional guardians of the Mosquitia rainforest, which is the second largest contiguous rainforest in the Americas after the Amazon. OAEC is working to support CEJUDHCAN’s women’s agroecology project to transition food cultivation to more secure and comprehensive perennial food forests near the village centers for safer and more stable food production. In addition, OAEC is coordinating an international network of support organizations and has raised tens of thousands of dollars to directly support CEJUDHCAN’s work.



OAEC worked with CEJUDHCAN to purchase tools for indigenous women to transition to safer home gardens



Community design map for St. Stephen's Church

St. Stephen's Church, Sebastopol, CA – OAEC’s Kendall Dunnigan is facilitating the faith-based community at [St. Stephen's church](#) through a design and implementation process for creating an integrated food forest on their 4.5-acre property. Emerging out of a 6-month church community vision, mapping, and design process, the church community has created a plan for a 4-acre food forest that surrounds the church buildings, installed a drip irrigation system, sheet mulched the ground, and will plant the first section of the food forest along the main entrance road in the spring with OAEC’s Permaculture Design Course students.

Wildseed Community Farm & Healing Village, New York & Cooperativa Las Cañadas, Mexico
[Wildseed](#) is an emerging Black and Brown-led, feminine and queer-centered, earth-based intentional community, organic farm and healing sanctuary, on 181-acres in Millerton, NY, 2 hours north of NYC. [Las Cañadas](#) is a cooperative agroecology and permaculture project on 756-acres in the endangered cloud forest of Veracruz, Mexico, whose 24 partner-members are creating and educating about a different rural culture that meets the needs of the local community and the environment. Acknowledging the unique opportunities and challenges of mobilizing resources to support radical land-based projects, OAEC’s Cooper Freeman worked with both groups to help design and build financial abundance to support their work.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND FACILITATION FOR SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

OAEC staff often serve as facilitators for environmental and social justice organizations. As an example, we're featuring just some of this work that Dave Henson, our Executive Director, did in 2018.

Break Free From Plastic – [BFFP](#) is a global movement of hundreds of organizations from across the plastics supply chain – from petrochemical extraction to ocean plastics dumping. Dave is a strategy consultant and facilitator for BFFP US and for BFFP Global, including facilitating a strategy conference in Bali in October with 75 leaders from movements in 25 countries.

Hawai'i Food Movement – Dave has served since 2004 as a strategy consultant and facilitator of this annual [HI conference](#) which develops movement-wide organizing, legal and legislative strategies to win pesticide- and GMO-free farming and food in HI, and a return to native Hawai'iian sovereignty.

Pollinator Protection Network – Since its founding in 2014, Dave has facilitated the bi-annual meetings of the PPN, an important national alliance of environmental health, farming, farm labor, beekeeping and anti-pesticide groups working to restore and conserve our diverse pollinators.

Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives – Dave serves as a strategy consultant for this global alliance of 800+ groups from 90+ countries working for a just and toxic-free world without incineration. In February, he facilitated the [GAIA](#) international strategy meeting in Marrakesh, Morocco.

Californians for Pesticide Reform – Since 2004 Dave has served as the strategic planning facilitator for [CPR](#), a coalition of California grassroots anti-pesticide and public health organizations.



OAEC NURSERY MOVING TOWARDS PERENNIALS



The [OAEC Nursery](#), led by Doug Gosling and Marley Peifer, is continuing its primary mission of educating about biodiversity and the importance of its preservation by offering plants that represent an ever-widening selection of unique, rare and unusual plants that can't be found anywhere all in one place. We are offering fewer annuals and are instead focusing on perennial food crops, medicinal and culinary herbs, fiber and dye plants, habitat plants for pollinators, and ornamentals for drought tolerant landscapes, many more appropriate in the face of a changing climate. The Nursery is also a new member of Fibershed, which works to build viable and sustainable regional textile industries. We support its mission by offering heritage dye and fiber plants that are hard to find and offer an alternative to synthetics.

BEAVER CAMPAIGN BUILDING A CULTURE OF STEWARDSHIP

For nearly a decade, OAEC's [Bring Back the Beaver Campaign](#), led by Kate Lundquist and Brock Dolman, has worked to highlight the critical role California's native beaver can play in river and wetland habitat restoration, threatened and endangered species recovery, improved water security and abundance, and increased native biodiversity. To make beaver stewardship a priority and a reality in California, in 2018 the Campaign:



Photo by Dirt Rich The Movie

- Convened at OAEC stakeholders from across California and environmental lawyers to articulate legal and policy strategies to better protect beaver in California. As a result of this meeting, OAEC and partners will be advocating for a policy change with the California Fish and Game Commission towards better protection of beaver in recognition of the critical habitat their dams create for threatened and endangered species.
- Collaborated with the Nature Conservancy and US Forest Service, among others, to develop the GIS-based beaver restoration assessment tool ([BRAT](#)) that identifies where beaver would most likely be able to build dams in the Sierra Nevada and Northern California. BRAT will be immensely helpful in identifying and mapping priority areas for beaver restoration at both large and small scales.
- Collaborated with members of the [Sierra Meadows Partnership](#) to support beaver restoration in key locations including Sequoia National Forest, Desert Terminus Lakes, and the Tasmam Koyom (Humbug) Valley. We also continue to collaborate on beaver restoration efforts in salmonid-bearing coastal regions, such as West Marin county and the Scott Valley.
- Gave many presentations, interviews, and field tours during a "[beaverpalooza](#)" outreach tour in June and July, traveling across Northern California to increase beaver literacy amongst the public and with key decision-makers, continuing to create a broad culture of beaver stewardship in California.

SEEDING THE OAKS OF THE FUTURE IN OUR WILDLANDS PRESERVE



We have observed that the recent wetter winters have increased the prevalence of Sudden Oak Death in our Wildlands Preserve, consequently increasing the mortality rates of our native oaks. We are working to [increase the diversity and presence of oak species](#) that are not susceptible to SOD, namely the Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*), by strategically collecting and planting acorns.

This fall, we collected over 50 pounds of acorns from a particularly healthy white oak grove and then hand-dispersed the acorns throughout our 70-acre wildlands preserve, mostly in edge zones. We termed this the "throw-n-sow" method. The healthiest acorns were saved and will be sprouted in special oak seedling pots and transplanted into key locations next season. Guided by our [Wildlands Stewardship Plan](#), we continue to mend and tend our wildlands for diversity and resilience.