

Homegrown Ventures

Homegrown Ventures is a planned training and investment program for entrepreneurs ages 18-35 in the communities Magnolia Project serves. It will support young entrepreneurs ready to launch a business or formalize and grow one they already have, connecting to Magnolia Project's other programs and creating a cycle of opportunity and community reinvestment.



Impact

Young entrepreneurs receive the training, support and capital they need to launch sustainable businesses that generate income and create jobs in our priority communities. As these businesses grow, they become community assets, sponsoring Little League teams, community events, hiring alumni of the local public schools, donating money for Next Step Scholarships, and serving as mentors for Magnolia Project's Career Exploration and Career Catalyst programs.

Join Us

Magnolia Project is seeking an experienced nonprofit partner to help design and deliver the Homegrown Ventures program, along with early investment partners to partner and provide startup and growth capital for young entrepreneurs. Interested in partnering? Contact Magnolia Project at gia@magnolia-project.org or visit **magnolia-project.org**.



About Magnolia Project

Magnolia Project advances economic opportunity through three interconnected place-based programs: **Career Explorations & Career Catalyst**, the **Next Step Scholarship**, and **Homegrown Ventures**.

In partnership with public schools, young people and local entrepreneurs, Magnolia Project's programs create a cycle of opportunity and community reinvestment. Students who explore careers become scholars and entrepreneurs. The businesses they join or launch become the next generation of mentors and scholarship sponsors. **That's how small-town potential turns into lasting economic opportunity.**

Founded in 2022 by Gia Biaggi, a former teacher and graduate of Sonoma County public schools, Magnolia Project has connected more than 1,000 7th-12th public school students with over 100 trained and compensated industry mentors and entrepreneurs through its school-based programs. In the 2026-27 school year, Magnolia Project will serve **700** students in 21 public schools through its school-based Career Explorations and Career Catalyst programs, award four Next Step Scholarships to alumni, and lay the groundwork for the Homegrown Ventures entrepreneurship program.

Our Programs:



School Based Programming: Magnolia Project's semester-long, Common Core aligned Career Explorations and Career Catalyst programs connect students in 7th-12th grade with mentors from local businesses to work on industry aligned projects, helping them understand how school connects to economic opportunity, and build a personalized plan for life after high school.



The Next Step Scholarship: Magnolia Project offers flexible **\$1,500-€3,000** scholarships to help alumni cover the costs of postsecondary education and training outside of traditional four year college, so they can enter higher wage careers earlier with little to no debt.



Homegrown Ventures: Magnolia Project partners with an experienced organization to give young entrepreneurs ages 18-35 the training, mentorship, technical assistance, and capital to launch or grow businesses that generate income and create jobs in their communities.



Where We Work

Magnolia Project is proud to serve small towns and communities outside major metropolitan areas. It currently operates in Sonoma, Marin, and Mendocino counties in Northern California, with plans to expand to communities nationwide.



Learn More:

Magnolia Project is excited to expand to new communities and work with new partners. Visit [magnolia project.org](https://magnolia-project.org) or reach out to info@magnolia-project.org to connect with our team and start a conversation.