

# African American Chamber of Commerce Celebrates Juneteenth

Posted by **story posting** on June 26th, 2010 by Carla Thomas  
Resource: The San Francisco Post on Line

Hundreds of business and community trailblazers convened at the St. Regis Hotel for “A Celebration of African American Freedom and Achievement,” hosted by the San Francisco African American Chamber of Commerce. Board Chairman and President of the chamber Frederick Jordan of FEJ & Associates, Executive Director Ruth Bolden Mays and co-chairs Matt Thomas and **Bridgette LeBlanc hosted the Juneteenth business luncheon** with Mistress of Ceremonies journalist Janice Edwards.

In the spirit of Juneteenth, commemorating the end of slavery in the US, guests enjoyed a “soulful” lunch complete with gourmet fried chicken, collard greens, black-eyed peas, corn bread, iced tea and lemonade. “We tried to provide a cultural, educational and business experience. As a people we must integrate economics,” said Jordan. Morning workshops, provided by Wells Fargo, included financial services and supplier diversity with speakers including Scott Vowels, Senior Vice President of Sourcing, Derek, Cantey and Northern California Minority Supplier Development Council President.

While guests dined, program panelists discussed issues relating to the federal stimulus funds and how African Americans can access the resources. Panelist California Inspector General Laura Chick, whose is responsible for shepherding \$50 billion in California stimulus funds, encouraged attendees to contact their elected officials and websites at [recovery.ca.gov](http://recovery.ca.gov) and [recovery.gov](http://recovery.gov).

Additional panelists included Commissioner Timothy Simon, state Public Utilities Commission; and Sedrick Tydus, President and CEO of Alta Alliance Bank. “We’re making loans every month. We have money,” Tydus informed business owners.

Chamber awardees included Gina Paige, President of Ancestry.com, who received the Cultural Award; Activist Aileen Hernandez, who won the Public Service Award; Dr. Raye Richardson of the Bay Area’s legendary Marcus Books, who received the Outstanding Business Award; and Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown of Third Baptist Church of San Francisco, who received the Beyond the Call of Duty Award. SFAACC Co-Chairman and President of World Connect Inc. Mathew Thomas received the Special Achievement Award.

In a special tribute, Jordan and Michael Baines of the Baines Group unveiled a sculptured bronze bust of San Francisco businessman James “Jim” Jefferson, who was instrumental in the development of the Fillmore Renaissance Project and multiple business and cultural ventures. Other guests included Grace Stanislaus, Executive Director of MoAD; Lynette Sweet, campaigning for District 10 Supervisor; Sweet’s campaign coordinator Kymberlee Pittman; Gayle Orr Smith; Maria Costen of KBLX; and Bank of the West Director Robert L. Toney.