



# women who **dare.**

27TH ANNUAL GALA

*Celebrate.*  
*Empower.*  
*Inspire.*

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Sponsorship Opportunities  
& Benefits Packet

# *Invitation from Girls Inc.'s CEO*

Dear Pro-Girl Supporter,

At Girls Inc. of the Island City, we turn curiosity into confidence—and confidence into leadership. Every day, girls in our programs code, collaborate, pitch ideas, ask hard questions, and discover what they're capable of. **Thanks to support from companies like yours**, they continue growing into the strong, smart, and bold leaders our communities need.

**This is an urgent moment.** With renewed attacks on women and girls, investing in a proven, women-led youth development organization isn't just philanthropy—it's necessary and transformative leadership.

Sponsoring Women Who Dare connects your brand to measurable impact:

- *Visibility with a highly engaged Bay Area audience of civic, business, and philanthropic leaders*
- *Pipeline development in STEAM, leadership, and communications for the next generation*
- *Community investment reflecting your company's values on equity and inclusion*
- *Employee engagement through volunteering and event participation*

Join us as a sponsor of Women Who Dare 2026. **Together, we can ensure youth have the skills, mentors, and opportunities to become the leaders our world needs.**

With gratitude and resolve,



**Jennifer Pigza Ph.D.**

CEO of Girls Inc. of the Island City



# Gala Sponsorship Levels



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	<b>PLATINUM</b> \$15,000	<b>GOLD</b> \$10,000	<b>SILVER</b> \$5,000	<b>BRONZE</b> \$2,500
VIP Invitations	✓	✓	✓	✓
Branding	Logo on website, gala program, quarterly newsletters, and annual report	Logo on website, gala program, and annual report	Logo on gala program, sponsor listing on website, and annual report	Logo on gala program and sponsor listing in annual report
Gala Tickets	8 (Full Table)	6	4 (Half Table)	2
Social Media	Annual Narrative + 3 Highlight Posts Collaborator on gala posts	2 Highlight Posts Tagged in gala posts	Shared Highlight Post	Shared Highlight Post
Speaking Opportunity	Gala remarks	1 Bold Hour Remarks	1 Champion event remarks	
Volunteer Engagement	Curated team service events	Volunteer engagement opportunities		
Email Spotlight	Dedicated email to 5,000+ Alameda supporters	Included in a sponsor highlight section		
Recognition	Acknowledged at all signature events			



Complete your Women Who Dare 2026 sponsorship registration by scanning the QR or [visiting this link](#).

Our team and Board Members are here to partner if you would like personalized support. For additional information, please also feel free to contact [marketing@girlsincislandcity.org](mailto:marketing@girlsincislandcity.org).

# About Girls Inc.



Girls Inc. of the Island City helps girls and youth grow up **strong, smart, and bold**. Through mentoring, hands-on learning, and research-based programs, we give them the skills and confidence to succeed in school and in life.

Our participants build knowledge, discover their strengths, and develop as leaders—ready to take on challenges and create bright futures.

**GEMS (Girls Empowerment, Mentoring & Support)** program provides hands-on social-emotional learning and body-positivity experiences, ensuring that elementary girls grow up strong, resilient, and confident.

Summer experiences and after school programming at the **Meyers Center** give girls the chance to explore science, nature, and the arts, expanding their horizons while having fun in a safe, engaging environment.

**Alameda Island Kids (AIK)** offers enriching after-school activities for K-5th grade, combining academics, arts, and homework support to help youth build confidence, curiosity, and a sense of community.

Programs like **Best Foot Forward (BFF)** help teens develop public speaking and leadership skills, preparing them to take on challenges in school and beyond.

92%

Of girls believe they can be leaders.

87%

Of girls believe they will graduate college.

92%

Of girls say there are adults at Girls Inc. they can depend on for help.



# women who dare.

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**Women Who Dare is Girls Inc. of the Island City's annual gala – a celebration of visionary women and a vital fundraiser supporting programs that equip our youth to grow up strong, smart, and bold.**

Each year, this inspiring evening brings together more than **250 business and community leaders, families, philanthropists, and changemakers** who share a belief in the power of investing in girls. Guests experience moving stories from Girls Inc. youth, hear from honorees who embody courage and leadership, and join in a night of connection, purpose, and celebration.

## 2026 HONOREES

### **Trailblazer Award - Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft**

A lifelong Alamedan and the city's first Arab-American Mayor, Marilyn is serving her second term and represents Alameda on regional and state bodies focused on housing, transportation, and equitable growth. She is a strong advocate for climate action and sustainable development, ensuring that Alameda remains a vibrant, resilient, and inclusive community. Marilyn is known for her collaborative leadership, dedication to public service, and commitment to building connections that strengthen the city for generations to come.



### **Joyce Denyven Award - Barbara Krummel**

Barbara Krummel has been an active member of the Alameda Branch of AAUW for 10 years, serving as President and Tech Trek Coordinator. A longtime board member and past President of the Alameda Welfare Council, she also spent 15 years at Girls Inc., supporting programs and events across the organization. Her mother's survival of Nazi Germany and the loss of her great-grandmother in the Theresienstadt concentration camp deeply shaped her belief that communities are strongest when we value our differences rather than judge or divide.



### **Community Leader Award - Joann Guitarte**

Joann Guitarte is the Executive Chef and Owner of Café Jolie and CEO of J. Peach Inc., overseeing restaurant operations and culinary ventures. She serves as Board Chair of the Alameda Chamber of Commerce, Chair of the Restaurant & Bar Coalition, Co-Chair of the Harbor Bay Coalition, and a Trustee at Notre Dame High School. Joann also founded Donut Petit, the Donut Fun Run, and co-organizes the Filipino Island Fest. A passionate mentor and advocate for the next generation, she is proud to raise strong, smart, and bold daughters.



**Youth Leader Award - To Be Announced Dec 2025 (Public Nomination)**

### **Past Honorees Include:**

Dolores Huerta, Doris Guess Behrstock, Supervisor Chan, Kate Schatz, Renate Westbrook, Cindy Houts, Tina "Bean" Blaine, Christine Chilcott, Amy Schneider, Capt. Jackie Leverich, Dr. Amy Patick, Jeannie Graham, Kelly Carlisle, Janet Koike, Betty Reid Soskin, Judith Goodwin and many more exceptional women leaders.

# Partner with Girls Inc. of the Island City today!



We would be honored to connect with you directly and explore a partnership that uplifts all girls and strengthens your company's community impact. Please connect with our leadership to finalize your sponsorship. Thank you for investing in our future!

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Ready to create lasting impact with us?

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inc.**

of the Island City