

## Metcalfe Pushes for Change

SAN FRANCISCO

**B**en Metcalfe is overseeing the development of the Ironhorse Apartments, an affordable housing community that is part of a larger effort to take 28 acres anchored by a historic train station and create a new neighborhood in a neglected section of Oakland, Calif.



This is exactly the kind of project that Metcalfe, a project manager at San Francisco-based BRIDGE Housing, has wanted to do. The 32-year-old Amherst College graduate became interested in urban redevelopment after accepting an invitation from Rosanne Haggerty, a prominent affordable housing developer in New York City and an Amherst alumnus, to see the work of her nonprofit, Common Ground.

He accepted a position with the group, which came with the opportunity to live in and experience one of Common Ground's supportive-housing developments. "The apartments were small and humble, but there was a gracious lobby and community space," he said. "I was impressed by how those physical spaces empowered people to make them feel proud of where they lived."

Metcalfe soon knew that he wanted to work in urban redevelopment and promote social change through real estate development. He returned to school to earn a master's degree in public policy and urban planning from Harvard University.

Combining a mix of development experience and academics, he has worked with the court system to develop a prisoner re-entry project providing Harlem residents released from jail with services, and he has published several housing-related papers.

Metcalfe joined BRIDGE, a leading nonprofit, in 2004 as a fellow of the Center for Urban Redevelopment Excellence at the University of Pennsylvania and continues to manage several complicated projects. Ironhorse is scheduled to be completed in 2009.

"He has that rare ability to be equally good at all phases of development-finding deals, structuring, entitling," said Carol Galante, BRIDGE president. "He has the passion and the brains to pull off very complex transactions. Most impressive is Ben's gift for relating to all people."

-Donna Kimura