

re*new
UPHOLSTERY
PROGRAM



FURNITURE THAT WOULD OTHERWISE
BE DISCARDED IS REUPHOLSTERED
AND RESTORED HERE.

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**BUILDING SKILLS AND PATHWAYS
INTO THE TRADE OF UPHOLSTERY.**



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Re*New Upholstery Training & Incubation Program is a workforce development initiative created by Make It Home (MIH), a Bay Area nonprofit furniture bank based in Novato, California. MIH was founded on the belief that furniture inequity is a logistics problem, not a scarcity problem — and Re*New extends that mission by transforming underutilized furniture into meaningful economic opportunity.

Re*New provides participants with a multi-stage pathway into the upholstery trade: from hands-on classroom instruction through paid real-world internships and year-long assistant roles. Upon completion of all five levels, participants will have logged approximately 2,490 hours — roughly 50% of the hours required to achieve Journeyman status in the upholstery trade.

Re*New Level 1–3 courses are where the journey starts! It's the time to explore the trade of upholstery with hands on instruction. Participants who have found a new passion during their Level 1–3 training are then eligible for paid internship and assistantship opportunities in Levels 4 and 5.

Scholarships and stipends are available for eligible participants in the 18–25 year old age ranges.

PARTICIPANT SUPPORT

BARRIER REMOVAL

- Stipends available for Levels 1-3
- Paid opportunities available for participants moving into Levels 4-5
- Regular check-ins for accountability, encouragement, and course correction

EMPLOYMENT READINESS

Level 4-5

- Resumé workshops, interview coaching, and job search assistance
- Employer partnerships for direct placement in upholstery businesses, furniture manufacturers, and interior design firms
- Individualized career coaching and career development planning for each participant

WHERE TO BEGIN

- Interested 18-25 year olds can begin to explore the trade by enrolling in Upholstery Level 1, a once per week, 5 hour course at the Make It Home Classroom in Novato. Level 1 meets 6 times for a total of 30 hours of hands on coursework.
- If upholstery resonates, students from Level 1 get priority to enroll in Level 2 and Level 3 training courses. Each courses is 30 hours.
- After completion of Level 1-3 coursework eligible participants can enter Levels 4 and 5 where the skills acquired are brought into a real world upholstery studio with a paid, full-time schedule to continue their education.
- **Space is LIMITED. Re*New will have 4 cohorts in 2027 and each cohort has spaces for 3 scholarship/stipend recipients.**

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM GOALS & OUTCOMES

- Completion of three levels of upholstery classroom training (90 hours) (Level 1–3)
- Successful completion of a paid, full-time internship (240 hours)(Level 4)
- One year of full-time paid employment in the upholstery trade (2080 hours) (Level 5)
- Approximately 2,490 total training hours — roughly 50% of hours required for Journeyman status
- A portfolio of completed upholstery projects with documentation
- Resume-ready certificates of completion from each classroom level
- Connection to a regional network of industry professionals and employers



MISSION ALIGNMENT

Re*New sits at the intersection of three of MIH's core values: dignity, circularity, and abundance. Every piece restored is a demonstration that both people and objects deserve a second chance.

DIGNITY

Participants earn stipends or wages from day one of paid programming.

CIRCULARITY

Furniture is repaired and returned to use rather than sent to landfill.

ABUNDANCE

Re*New builds a pipeline of skilled tradespeople to meet growing regional demand.

LONGEVITY

Training produces durable, quality work — and durable, quality careers.



2027 UPHOLSTERY COHORT LEVEL 1 OPPORTUNITIES

MAKE IT HOME 415-578-3205 15 PAMARON WAY NOVATO CA 94949

re*new



COHORT ONE:
JAN 6, 13, 20, 27 FEB 3, 10

COHORT TWO:
FEB 1, 8, 22, MAR 1, 8, 15

COHORT THREE:
MAY 27 JUNE 3, 10, 17, 24
JULY 1

**COHORT FOUR
INTENSIVE:**
NOV 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17

EMAIL TRAINING@MAKEITHOMEBAYAREA.ORG TO REGISTER