

Gutierrez, Jeannette

From: Steve Espinosa
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 4:39 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Item 6.1 Strategic Roadmap Action Plan

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I am in support of a Community Workforce Agreement (CWA) for Mountain View. A CWA will ensure that City of Mountain View Public Works projects are on-time and on-budget, while providing a pathway to family-supporting careers for members of disadvantaged communities. Please keep the CWA on the workplan for the City of Mountain View.

Thank you,

Steve Espinosa
Field Representative
BAC # 3, CA

Gutierrez, Jeannette

From: Adin Miller
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 4:38 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Email regarding Agenda Item 8.1, April 27 City Council Meeting.

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Dear Members of the City Council of the City of Mountain View,

My name is Adin Miller and I serve as the Executive Director of Los Altos Community Foundation, a local philanthropy supporting the communities of Mountain View, Los Altos, and Los Altos Hills. I am also a 13-year resident of Mountain View. The Foundation is in its 29th year of operations and has been a consistent partner in supporting local nonprofits in our communities. It partnered with the City on the TogetherMV response and continues to provide funding to nonprofit organizations that play a significant role in assisting the community during the pandemic and recession. The Foundation has approximately 125 funds under its management, close to \$26M in assets, and has already processed nearly 14,000 grants locally, regionally, and nationally since the beginning of its fiscal year (July 1, 2020).

I'm submitting my email in support of an expected Council discussion tonight about using \$3M of American Rescue Plan Act funds to underwrite an universal basic income (UBI) or financial assistance pilot program in Mountain View. As the Council considers the idea, I encourage it to also contemplate how it could advance community participatory budgeting efforts and shift power over funding decisions to community members most able to bring about a resident-driven UBI effort / financial assistance pilot program. One such avenue might include the Fondo de Solidaridad de Mountain View / Mountain View Solidarity Fund, a fiscally sponsored project of the Foundation.

In late 2020, the Foundation approved a fiscal sponsorship request submitted by a community group in Mountain View. Known as the Fondo de Solidaridad de Mountain View / Mountain View Solidarity Fund, the project began its services earlier this year.

The Fund focuses on undocumented and mixed status families in Mountain View. These families continue to face the hardships of financial instability, food insecurity, the threat of eviction and homelessness, and high levels of stress and mental health issues. In some instances, there are unable or unwilling to seek support from services and access points already in place.

A dedicated group of working-class Latina immigrants in Mountain View have spearheaded the all-volunteer, multi-racial, and cross-class collaboration of this project. Nearly all of them are graduates of City of Mountain View's Spanish Civic Leadership Academy. The Fund's leadership identifies and vets families and individuals requesting support, and makes the recommendations on financial assistance.

The Fund represents a new type of priority for LACF. It represents a shift in the decision-making power over funding to the very community members most in need and currently affected by the pandemic and recession. It's an extension of the concept of participatory grantmaking and trust-based philanthropy, in which more

diverse community representatives are engaged in both the design and delivery of funding. It places the final decision-making in the hands of community members best situated to

Typically, in a fiscal sponsorship, a supporting organization (like LACF) collects and tracks donations, provides infrastructure support and marketing assistance, and lends tax-exempt credibility to the project. Projects receiving fiscal sponsorship benefit from the ability to accept donations (a portion of which covers any required fees) while building out their own operations and seeking tax-exempt status.

To date, LACF has supported the development of several emerging nonprofits using this type of approach. Some of the organizations LACF currently fiscally sponsors include GreenTown Los Altos, MVLA Scholars, MVLA Service League of Boys, and Soil&Water Garden. They remain under the Foundation umbrella since they can achieve their missions without having to create stand-alone nonprofits. The Center for Age-Friendly Excellence (CAFE), which focuses on sustainable, healthy, active, and intergenerational communities, has expanded its services beyond the Bay Area and has begun the process of becoming a stand-alone nonprofit. A local nonprofit success story, WomenSV, a nonprofit focused on domestic violence in the Bay Area, originally started as a fiscally sponsored project of the Foundation.

As I looked at our work within our communities and how we have supported emerging community leaders to date, I concluded that we had an opportunity - and an obligation - to expand our fiscal sponsorship approach beyond a simple revenue stream to one that provides projects with tailored organizational effectiveness support and resources. I shifted our fiscal sponsorship model to offer deeper support to community leaders - especially women and black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC). Our approach now also encompasses support on organizational development and scaling, strategic planning, board and staff leadership, funding, internal systems, communication, evaluation, and much more.

We have also adjusted our evaluation process to ensure that our future fiscal sponsorship agreements align with our mission and values more closely. Fiscal sponsorship projects should meet the following criteria as well:

1. Support and test a nonprofit concept that will directly benefit the residents of the communities we serve;
2. Avoid duplicating existing nonprofits already providing similar services in our area; and, most importantly,
3. Address a gap in the current tapestry of services available in our communities.

I'll close by returning to the simplicity of the Fund and LACF's role in supporting it. We had community residents step forward with a need to assist families and individuals who were falling through the cracks of our service network. The community leaders asked for the Foundation's assistance in building a project that would empower them to decide the means of providing financial assistance and to directly engage those in need. To date, close to \$100,000 been donated to the Fund from a broad coalition of foundation and individuals, and \$45,000 has been distributed in \$1,000 checks to Mountain View residents. If the Council were to consider ways to engage residents in community participatory budgeting efforts linked to the UBI / financial assistance model, the Fund would represent one logical candidate for partnership.

Respectfully submitted,

-Adin

Adin Miller, Executive Director

Los Altos Community Foundation
p: 650-949-5908 | m: 650-648-3485
adin.miller@losaltoscf.org | losaltoscf.org



LOS ALTOS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Serving Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View since 1991



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