



Larnie Fox

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Dear Philanthropic Leaders,

As former Director of Arts Benicia, a regional art center based in Solano County, I know first hand about the funding "doughnut hole" that Solano County experiences. We are the poorest and most diverse of the nine Bay Area Counties, yet we receive the smallest share of grant funding. One study from the 2010's showed that San Francisco received \$1,200 per capita in foundation grant support, while in Solano County it was \$3 per capita. It has improved since then, but there is still a long way to go.

A recent United Way study shows that although Solano County currently makes up nearly 6% of the Bay Area's population, it receives less than 1% of nonprofit funding. This imbalance hinders local organizations like Arts Benicia and the Benicia Community Foundation from serving the community effectively.

Local nonprofits work hard providing essential services and fostering cultural enrichment and economic vitality - but underfunding limits their impact. Achieving fair funding is crucial for their survival and the community's cultural health.

I urge you to help us advocate for equitable funding. By raising awareness and urging officials to re-evaluate financial allocations, we can better support Solano County's hard working nonprofits. Corporate donors are also encouraged to align their contributions with community needs.

We want to ensure no one in our community is left behind. Please join us in advocating for fair funding to build a better future for Solano County's nonprofit sector.

Sincerely,

Larnie Fox