



October 23, 2023

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Solano Economic Development Corporation Announces Pilot 'Syar Foundation Summit' Bridging Philanthropy, Nonprofits and the Public Sector to Showcase Solano County's Greatest Needs

VALLEJO, Calif. – [Solano Economic Development Corporation](#) (EDC), a public-private nonprofit dedicated to the economic growth of Solano County, announces it will be hosting the Syar Foundation Summit on Nov. 9 in Vallejo, Calif., aimed at bridging the historic gap between the philanthropic sector and Solano County nonprofits. This event will mark the first endeavor of its kind in Solano County, bringing representatives from philanthropic arms of Silicon Valley companies, as well as funders and philanthropists from across the Bay Area, to meet with local nonprofits, elected officials, and community leaders to learn about the needs and opportunities in the region.

“Three decades of tech in the Bay Area created massive wealth and historic inequity,” says Chris Rico, President and CEO of Solano Economic Development Corporation. “Solano County, and Vallejo in particular, have been overlooked and left behind by business and philanthropy. The goal of this summit is to put an end to this trend. We hope to bring awareness about Solano County among funders who know little about the region, what makes it unique, its business opportunities, and its many nonprofits that are doing amazing work but need support.”

Solano County is the most diverse county in California, including Vallejo, which has been consistently recognized as one of the [most diverse cities](#) in the country. This diversity extends to socioeconomic backgrounds. One in three Solano County residents are on public assistance, and since the closure of Mare Island Naval Shipyard in 1996, Vallejo has continued to face unique challenges that have impacted availability of and accessibility to resources in various sectors, from schools to businesses to City services—all of which have benefitted from the work of local nonprofits. This is not unique to Vallejo, as cities across the country face economic and social challenges; however, many other cities in the Bay Area have access to more funding. **According to a recent United Way Bay Area report, [Solano County receives the least amount of philanthropic funding](#) at \$168 per capita. The next closest is Napa County at \$812 per capita, and at the top of the list is San Francisco County with \$11,211 per capita.**

The multi-track, [daylong summit](#) will include a ferry ride for funders from San Francisco to Mare Island, where the event will take place at Touro University; a bus tour of Vallejo; and plenaries focused on different aspects of the funder and nonprofit journeys. Topics will include: ***Displacement in the Bay***, led

by Autumn McDonald, a senior fellow and head of [New America CA](#); **The Local Context**, led by Dr. Melvinia King, who leads [Fighting Back Partnership](#) in Vallejo, and Pati Navalta, who founded the [Robby Poblete Foundation](#); **The National Context**, led by Amanda Daflos, Executive Director of [Bloomberg Center for Innovation](#); and **Nonprofit Capacity Building 2.0**, led by Becky Endicott and Jon McCoy with [We Are For Good](#), as well as nonprofit experts [Floyd Jones](#) and [Kim O'Neil](#) among others. While this summit is closed to the public, the key findings from the event will be shared publicly and be used to determine next steps, which will also be shared in a post-event report.

The Syar Foundation Summit is being underwritten by the Syar Family Foundation, along with sponsors, including the [Wells Fargo Foundation](#), [Sutter Medical Foundation](#), [Kaiser Family Foundation](#), [Touro University](#), [First 5 Solano](#); [WETA](#), [Thistle](#), and [Mare Island Brewing Company](#).

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About Solano Economic Development Corporation

The Solano Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is a public-private, nonprofit, dedicated to the economic growth of Solano County – scaling local traded sector industries, attracting new jobs and investment and maintaining competitive advantages for both existing and new businesses. Solano EDC’s mission is to positively impact the economic growth of Solano County by maintaining and enhancing a competitive location for businesses to expand and locate, providing direct service to scale local traded sector industries, attracting new jobs and investment, and connecting businesses with resources to meet their needs. The EDC collaborates with the cities, county, workforce development, utilities, and education to deliver all resources.