

Lake, Veronica A.

From: Dmitra Smith <spillyd@sonic.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 10:27 AM
To: CAO-Clerk
Subject: Agenda Item #21 public comment in support of Solano County affordable housing projects

Good morning,

I would like to express my strong support for the Vallejo Community Land Trust and the Mosaic Predevelopment Fund. I urge the Board of Supervisors to allocate ARPA funds to support these two outstanding projects.

Exclusionary zoning practices and the lack of affordable housing continue to deny housing stability and generational wealth to Black residents in Solano County and all nine Bay Area counties.

The ARPA funds are a once in a lifetime opportunity to implement equity based projects which will begin to address generations of marginalization and provide long term transitional opportunities for Solano County.

The Vallejo Community Land Trust will create the first-ever permanently affordable housing project in Solano County, providing 9 single family homes and 9 affordable Accessory Dwelling Units for Vallejo households who make up to \$77,000 for a household of four.

The project shields residents from the coming wave of eviction and displacement and creates wealth-building opportunities for owners and the community. The project team has already secured major funds to leverage, including \$2M from CalHome.

The County and City should take this essential opportunity to be partners. The Mosaic proposal creates mixed-income housing and provides multiple layers of benefits. For-sale low-income housing promotes intergenerational wealth creation.

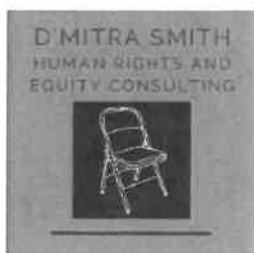
The wealth created sustainably addresses the major wealth gap between low-income and high-income households in the Bay Area.

I urge the county to address inaccuracies in its Working Group summary on both projects and ensure that a firm commitment to equity guides investment assessment and the ARPA process. I urge the County to fully fund these vital projects

to support affordable housing and Black residents in Solano County.

Best Regards,
Dmitra Smith

Former Chair, Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights
Co-Author, [AB 655](#) (Kalra), California Law Enforcement Accountability Reform (CLEAR) Act
Founding Member, [Save Your VI](#) - Title VI Civil Rights Protections for Students
Founding Member, [Food for All-Comida para Todos](#)
Executive Committee Member, Santa Rosa-Sonoma County NAACP Chapter 1074B
San Jose State University Human Rights Center Award 2021
Sonoma County Peace and Justice Center Activist of the Year 2021



*"If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair."
Shirley Chisholm*



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Lake, Veronica A.

From: Bob Allen <bob@urbanhabitat.org>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 4:47 PM
To: CAO-Clerk
Subject: Vallejo Community Land Trust request for ARPA funds allocation at BoS
Attachments: Support letter for Vallejo Community Land Trust ARPA funds request .docx

Please find the attached letter in support of the Vallejo Community Land Trust request for the ARPA funds allocation discussion at tomorrow's Solano County Board of Supervisors' meeting.

Thank you
Bob Allen

Bob Allen (he/him/his)
Policy and Advocacy Campaign Director
Urban Habitat
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Read our new report, [Advancing Community-Controlled Housing Preservation through the new Bay Area Housing Finance Authority](#).

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Solano County Board of Supervisors
675 Texas Street, Suite 6500
Fairfield, CA 94533
clerk@solanocounty.com

March 20, 2022

Dear Members of the Solano Board of Supervisors,

There is a deepening housing crisis that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and in order to solve it, bold action needs to be taken to preserve and create housing that people can afford. Access to safe, stable, and affordable housing is critical for well-being, as demonstrated by decades of public health data.

We ask that you allocate funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for capital grant to support permanently affordable housing in Vallejo through the Vallejo Community Land Trust (VCLT). An investment in the VCLT will help support the acquisition of 9 single-family homes and an additional 9 affordable accessible dwelling units that will be affordable to Vallejo residents that make up to 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) or \$77,000 for a household of four.

For the past two years, Vallejo Housing Justice Coalition has been working in collaboration with Northern California Community Land Trust (NCLT), Urban Habitat, and the Bay Area Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII) to bring the first Community Land Trust (CLT) in Solano County to Vallejo. CLTs allow one-time funding to create permanent affordable housing that can also offer wealth-building opportunities for low income families and communities that have been historically marginalized by housing discrimination. Land trusts can also be used for important purposes outside of housing, such as spaces for cultural work, community building, and resilience.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding provides a unique opportunity to address two pandemics: COVID-19 and systemic racism – both of which have had devastating impacts on the health and well-being of our most historically under-resourced communities. The CLT model has a 50 year track record of helping families build wealth this way while keeping units affordable for the next family. This model has the potential to address the racial wealth gap and provide permanently affordable housing for Vallejo residents. Securing land under a 99-year ground lease maintains

long-term affordability, and community control through a board that consists of residents, neighbors, and other stakeholder who support the CLT operations.

Public partnerships and public funds are essential for VCLT to bring in much needed philanthropic support to Solano County. National community development initiatives (such as the Strong, Prosperous, and Resilient Communities Challenge or SPARCC) are aware of Solano County's low per capita foundation support relative to the rest of the Bay Area. They are ready to support VCLT but are looking to Solano County and the City of Vallejo to help match the \$2 million dollars in state funding VCLT has secured in addition to leveraging new partnerships with institutions such as Umpqua Bank. We hope the Board of Supervisors will take action to support this proven community-driven model to address the housing crisis and leverage the other public and private funds VCLT has already brought to the county.

We urge you to invest in this proven community-driven model to address the housing crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Allen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Bob Allen
Policy & Advocacy Campaign Director
Urban Habitat