Latin-XCEL Fund

Background

Created by the Castellano Family Foundation and Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the Latin-XCEL Fund is a new initiative that calls for vastly increased funding for Silicon Valley’s Latinx community leaders and nonprofits through targeted, long-term investments.

Latinx communities experience widening disparities in income, education, health, and housing compared to their white and Asian counterparts. This equity gap is exacerbated by a persistent lack of access to philanthropic dollars by Latinx nonprofit leaders and Latinx-led organizations.

The LatinXCEL Fund builds on the recommendations and findings of the Castellano Family Foundation’s Blueprint for Change, which documents the unique needs and perspectives of more than 65 Latinx community-based organizations. The report is a call to action for philanthropy to invest time, effort, and dollars in eliminating structural barriers faced by Latinx leaders and nonprofit organizations.

The Fund will help reverse the impact of historical disinvestment and disempowerment by enabling these organizations to meet their greatest needs and realize their full potential, leading to a more just and prosperous region for all.

The work to dismantle systems of injustice must include the leaders and organizations who are disproportionately impacted by those systems. Invest in Latinx communities by contributing to the LatinXCEL Fund.

Who the Fund Will Support

- Latinx-led and Latinx community-based organizations located in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties whose overall leadership reflects the communities they serve.
- Trusted community anchor organizations that advance equity and social justice through advocacy and/or movement-building.
- Emerging organizations rooted in the Latinx community with locally focused missions and/or racial equity agendas.

What the Fund Will Support

The Blueprint for Change identified four key areas in which more effective philanthropy and substantial investments can lead to exponential change, and which are the focus of this fund:

- Leadership development including executive coaching, board development, peer mentoring, and cross-sector learning.
- Capacity-building, organizational development, and infrastructure needs.
- Cross-sector collaboration, consulting and technical assistance.
- Unrestricted funding to enable these organizations to engage in policy advocacy, movement-building, and coalition work.

The LatinXCEL Fund is a fund at Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which will manage the funds and implement the program.

For more information or to contribute to the LatinXCEL Fund, contact Stuart Burden at sburden@siliconvalleycf.org or Armando Castellano at armando@castellano-ff.org

1 At a national level, Latinx nonprofits receive only about 1 percent of all philanthropic investment, and only about 2 percent of private foundation CEOs are of Latinx heritage. Mara Perez, “Rewriting the Future: A Latino Prosperity Movement,” Stanford Social Innovation Review (22 June 2016): https://ssir.org/articles/entry/rewriting_the_future_a_latino_prosperity_movement.

Latinx individuals comprise Silicon Valley’s most significant community of color in all age categories under 35.

Latinxs have higher labor force participation rates than non-Latinxs and own 14 percent of all small businesses in Silicon Valley.