



April 28, 2009

Ms. Beatrice Soliz  
The California Endowment  
1000 North Alameda Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: *City Heights Building Healthy Communities Initiative*

Dear Ms. Soliz,

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the Building Healthy Communities Initiative in City Heights.

San Diego Futures Foundation (SDFF) is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit public benefit organization with a mission to make information technology available to the broadest range of San Diego County residents through the delivery of hardware, software, training, education, and technical services. SDFF's emphasis is on helping nonprofits, community-based organizations, and underserved populations. Since 1999, the San Diego Futures Foundation has refurbished and distributed **20,100 computers** to more than **2,000 nonprofits and individuals** and provided **19,500 hours of volunteer technical support** to schools, community and nonprofit organizations, foster family and youth programs.

The San Diego Futures Foundation (SDFF) serves the entire County of San Diego. We are located in City Heights for some of the same reasons the community was selected as a site by the California Endowment: the great need for services and the coordinated community efforts by which we deliver programs and services. SDFF programs respond to four of the ten Initiative outcomes including providing youth development and increasing access to civic discourse and involvement.

SDFF is currently working in City Heights through education programs and the San Diego Broadband Initiative. The goal of the San Diego Broadband Initiative (SDBI) is to accelerate the growth of technology to improve economic and educational opportunities and help close the digital divide. The SDBI is implemented using different approaches such as after-school programs, affordable access,

technical training internships, consumer advocacy and IT upgrades for non-profit and public agencies. Extensive efforts are made to improve access to technology for individuals with disabilities.

Broadband infrastructure and use present tremendous opportunities. Broadband can be used to substantially benefit education, healthcare, public safety and large and small business. Broadband also has the potential to raise levels of civic engagement, create community awareness and increase governmental transparency. Broadband connectivity promotes environmentally-friendly technologies such as telecommuting, video conferencing and distance learning. Information is rapidly disseminated which helps people become better consumers, patients and to communicate to a wider world of shared interests and different cultures and life styles.

There are large segments of the City Heights community that lack access to technology resources and training. Connectivity is an important determinant of success in school and computer literacy is critical for obtaining employment that pays at least the living wage. Technology has an essential role in the Building Healthy Communities Initiative. We are committed to the improving the quality of life and community health in City Heights and will support the Building Healthy Communities Initiative with all available means.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Graulich', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Megan Graulich  
Executive Director