

**From:** [Walesh, Kim](#)  
**To:** [Downtown West Project](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Tell San José decision makers: the community should decide how we spend millions of dollars from Google deal  
**Date:** Friday, March 5, 2021 8:37:43 AM

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**From:** Scott Knies <sknies@sjdowntown.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 03, 2021 11:19 AM  
**To:** Walesh, Kim <Kim.Walesh@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Cc:** Klein, Nanci <Nanci.Klein@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Tell San José decision makers: the community should decide how we spend millions of dollars from Google deal

[External Email]

Kim, the downtown business community has some important input to share into how decisions will be made per the "strategic and annual plans and yearly budgets" (see below) of the community benefits plan for Downtown West. It would be prudent that Estolano Advisors or others on your consultant team talk to SJDA, since they have not done so to date. Scott

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Maria Noel Fernandez, Silicon Valley Rising** <[updates@siliconvalleyrising.org](mailto:updates@siliconvalleyrising.org)>  
Date: Tue, Mar 2, 2021 at 7:00 PM  
Subject: Tell San José decision makers: the community should decide how we spend millions of dollars from Google deal  
To: Scott Knies <[sknies@sjdowntown.com](mailto:sknies@sjdowntown.com)>

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Hi Scott,

The City of San José is in the final steps of a contract with Google authorizing the tech giant to build a huge new campus downtown. [Will you send an email telling key decision-makers at City Hall that community members should decide how we spend millions of dollars in community benefits from the deal?](#)

[Email City Hall](#)

For the past four years, our community has marched, held town hall meetings, and gone to City Hall and Google's headquarters, demanding justice in the Google project. We've made it clear that this project cannot destabilize our communities: **it must include affordable homes, protection for tenants, and good jobs so that renters, low-wage workers, and people of color can stay here and thrive.**

Google has heard us: the tech giant has made commitments like 1,000 affordable units in the project, steps towards good jobs for blue-collar workers, and putting millions of dollars into a San José Community Fund for uses like helping to keep families in their homes.

[Now, we need to persuade key decision-makers at City Hall that our community must be empowered to decide how we spend these community funds.](#)

[Email City Hall](#)

We need to tell City Hall that **grassroots leaders from Black, Brown, Indigenous and Asian communities must make up the Fund's board, with real decision-making power over strategic and annual plans and yearly budgets, and the authority to monitor and evaluate the project's impact.**

Where Silicon Valley has historically pushed out working-class communities of color from the region and underpaid the Black and brown folks who work in blue-collar roles, this is a chance to do something different: putting millions of dollars of resources for public good, directly into the hands of those most affected by racial injustice. **A community benefits agreement that writes community governance into its fabric is a step towards racial justice.**

In solidarity and health,

Maria Noel Fernandez  
Campaign Director

[P.S. — This Saturday, we're hosting a virtual art workshop with teaching artist Felix Quintana where we'll be exploring how we can win community power over the San José Google community fund through the creation of original digital artwork — register here.](#)

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