

Social Welfare Initiatives: A Comparison of the Effects of the California Endowment Between Rural and Urban Minority Communities
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Project Summary:

During the two weeks of Spring Break I went to the Bay Area and the Salinas valley for a week each. This was done so I could conduct research on The California Endowment and its specific Non-Profit and Non-Government Organization (NGO) partners. I was specifically looking at The California Endowment's 10 year long Building Healthy Communities initiative. This was a billion-dollar initiative which partnered various NGOs and Non-profits to work with the community to tackle community issues such as: education reform, police reform, prison recidivism initiatives, and access to affordable healthcare reform. I was looking into the efficacy of the reforms as well as the efficacy of the partnerships which the Building Healthy Community initiative had been able to build between its various partners.

During my time in California, I interviewed both those who worked in the Building Healthy Community Initiative as well as partners at various Local NGOs and Non-Profits. Each of these helped to outline the larger ecosystem of philanthropy which Funders like The California Endowment help to maintain. I was also able to understand how the Building Healthy Community initiative helped many alternative types of Non-Profit groups as a way to also create a space for community building/healing. These were groups who looked at building the community through arts, music, performance, and theatre. Many of the people I interviewed here were. In the end, the research was helpful as it gave me a glimpse in to the NGO/Non-Profit/Philanthropy landscape which I found to be helpful in understanding how The California Endowment's Building Healthy Communities initiative was just a small part of a much larger ecosystem of philanthropy.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Marcos Lopez – Department of Sociology and Anthropology

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