



**Facilities Division**  
**San Francisco Unified School District**

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July 30, 2021

Drew Becher  
Chief Executive Officer  
SF Parks Alliance  
1074 Folsom Street  
San Francisco, CA

SENT VIA U.S. MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL TO [Drew@sfparksalliance.org](mailto:Drew@sfparksalliance.org)

Dear Drew,

SF Parks Alliance has acted as a fiscal sponsor for fundraising for the SF Shared Schoolyards Project (SSY) for the past several years. My understanding is that SSY began as a joint effort between multiple agencies and non-profit organizations, including SFUSD, SFDPW and SF Parks Alliance (SFPA). While the relationship between the parties may have initially been memorialized in writing, in more recent years SFUSD has struggled to understand the roles and obligations of the parties, due in part to the retirements or departures of responsible staff members at SFUSD. Nearly a year ago, SFUSD undertook efforts to gain a deeper understanding of the relationship so that it could best leverage the funding being raised for the benefit of the community and the Shared Schoolyards program.

To that end, in August, 2020, Cadi Poile, SFUSD's Director of Custodial Services, met with SFPA's Associate Director of Strategic Partnerships, Luke Spray. She followed up with an email to Mr. Spray on September 9, 2020, requesting an accounting of funds raised by SF Parks Alliance on behalf of SF Shared Schoolyard Project. Kearstin Krehbiel, Director of Research & Development for SFPA, responded and directed Ms. Poile to Philip Winn, Director of Parks & Places, as SFPA's point of contact for the SSY program.

Ms. Poile wrote to Mr. Winn on September 10, 2020 and again on October 20, 2020, to request a meeting. On October 29, 2020, Mr. Winn responded and said he first hoped to meet with Michael and Christine Carr, who apparently manage the SF Shared Schoolyards Project for SFPA. Mr. Winn said he hoped to obtain a better understanding of the Carrs' role in SSY before meeting with Ms. Poile. On November 10, 2020, Mr. Winn advised Ms. Poile that he was awaiting additional information from the Carrs, and he suggested they schedule a meeting. On November 23, 2020, Ms. Poile provided her availability for a meeting, but she has had no further response from Mr. Winn and no meeting was ever scheduled.

As a result, the information that Ms. Poile requested in September, 2020, regarding the account balance and fundraising on behalf of SSY, remains outstanding. I would like to reiterate our request for a balance statement for the SF Shared Schoolyards Project account. Specifically, we would like to have information regarding any remaining balance in the account and how funds have been expended on behalf of SSY in the past.

As you may or may not know, in summer 2020, with financial support from the City and County of San Francisco, SFUSD rolled out Shared Schoolyards 2.0 (SSY 2.0). SSY 2.0 increased programming and provided necessary amenities, such as handwashing stations and restrooms, to make SSY sites safe and accessible while COVID19 Shelter in Place restrictions were in place. The focus of SSY 2.0 improvements were in the most open space deficient neighborhoods of the city, which, sadly, have also been the neighborhoods with the highest COVID19 infection rates.

The pandemic demonstrated the need for, and the value of, the SSY program. Given the continuation of the pandemic, SFUSD's goal is to roll out SSY 2.0 amenities to all SSY locations, and to expand the number of locations. It is therefore critical that SFUSD assemble and deploy all potential resources available to SSY -- including funds raised for SSY by SF Parks Alliance.

Additionally, we understand that the launch and early existence of the SF Shared Schoolyard Project involved a series of formal and informal agreements across multiple agencies and nonprofit partners. As we plan for the expansion and growth of the SSY program, we plan to formalize programming and fundraising partnerships in accordance with SFUSD policy, including SFUSD Board Policy 1321. That policy requires any organization fundraising on behalf of SFUSD to obtain written authorization from the Superintendent.

As stated above, the future of the SSY program is important to SFUSD and the community, and we look forward to working with you to obtain more clarity around the fundraising your organization has performed on behalf of the SF Shared Schoolyards Project. I would appreciate a response within two weeks. If that timeframe does not work for you, I would appreciate receiving an acknowledgment of this letter along with a proposed timeframe by which you could provide the financial information we requested.

Sincerely,



Dawn Kamalanathan  
Chief Facilities Officer  
San Francisco Unified School District

CC: Cadi Poile, Director of Custodial Services  
Myong Leigh, Deputy Superintendent Policy and Operations