

I'm Rachel Rosekind, and I am a member of the Measure X Community Advisory Board. In a recent county meeting, I was immediately asked "Rachel, who are you with?" Caught off guard, my response was "I'm with everybody."

I wasn't being cheeky, avoidant, or color-blind. I meant it. I believe in uplifting our shared humanity and upholding the responsibilities that come with it. What that means **in practice** is elevating the needs, voices, experiences, and learnings of those most impacted by racism and a fundamentally inequitable economic system—this is the same spirit from which our recommendations issue—from a rigorous, responsive, and reflective process in meaningful dialogue with county residents. Though MXCAB members may be associated with or particularly passionate about specific populations or issues, our collective focus is on systems of care and pathways to more equitable abundance. We have deep gratitude for the bravery, commitment, and conviction of our beloved community. This work is not easy, and these spaces are not always welcoming.

The American social safety net has always had gaps—most of them engineered to exclude the very populations named above. Those exclusions have framed up our present and its glaring inequalities, which inflict disproportionate pain, trauma, and divestment on our Black and brown communities. **So let's stop only talking about the net and talk about the debt.** What we owe one another and must own up to to make strategic equity-focused investments that move us from solidarity to structural change. And repair.

When we see people starving and unable to fulfill the most basic needs, what does this say about our shared humanity? When aging adults are one of the fastest-growing unhoused groups, yet we are not directing critical funds to them, is this elevating humanity across life's continuum? What about when youth targeted for their gender identity lack resources to navigate a hostile social landscape, and when our youngest children cannot be fully supported in their social-emotional development? Shouldn't elevating our shared humanity demand that we immediately begin funding an African American holistic wellness hub? Supervisors—Please help uplift our shared humanity by listening to your brave, impassioned, and hurting community. Thank you.