



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **African Diaspora Network on County of Santa Clara Budget Appropriation FY 2019-2020**

*African Diaspora Network receives fiscal support from the County of Santa Clara as a funded board priority*

August 1, 2019 — African Diaspora Network (ADN) has been selected by the County of Santa Clara to be a part of their fiscal year 2019-2020 budget appropriation. Recommended by Supervisor Dave Cortese of District 3, African Diaspora Network will receive \$100,000 from the County as an integral part of the Silicon Valley diversity and inclusion ecosystem. ADN will leverage this funding to expand the capacity of the organization to develop its programs and initiatives and mentor Silicon Valley-based entrepreneurs.

The approved funding is a part of the 2019-2020 County of Santa Clara budget that includes a General Fund of approximately \$3.7 billion and covers all discretionary and mandated services for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019. African Diaspora Network is among the funded board priorities, also known as “inventory items,” recommended by members of the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors. These proposals by board members support nonprofits and community organizations that need help with projects that benefit residents and improve the quality of life in the County.

The ADN County proposal, supported by Supervisor Dave Cortese, seeks program development funds to harness and engage the intellectual, financial, philanthropic and entrepreneurial capacity of African immigrants and friends of Africa in support of economic, social and civic engagement in Silicon Valley and across the continent of Africa. ***“This funding will go towards the strategic mobilization of financial and intellectual resources to ensure a brighter future for the African continent and the communities in which they live,”*** says Supervisor Dave Cortese.

With Africa being the ***“world’s youngest continent”*** and future base of the global economy, Bill Gates estimates that Africa will outpace India and China in workforce population by 2040. ADN believes there is a gap in the market, and that innovators and investors from around the world will benefit from a more connected and mobilized African immigrant network that energizes local and global systems to shape an inclusive, innovative future for Silicon Valley and the planet. ADN will address the market gap by investing in the recruitment and hiring of program development staff and mentorship of African entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley.

Supervisor Cortese of the County of Santa Clara first publicly announced that ADN will be in the 2019-2020 fiscal year budget appropriation during his January 24 welcome address at the 2019 African Diaspora Investment Symposium. His announcement at the ADIS2019 opening reception formally recognized ADN as a trusted partner that provides real value to the local economy in Silicon Valley and in Africa.

***“This is an affirmation of ADN’s stake in the local and global community. The Honorable Cortese made a promise at this year’s symposium and made it possible; his commitment to diversity and equity is unmatched,”*** says Almaz Negash, founder of African Diaspora Network. ***“As an African diaspora-led organization, we believe that the Diaspora***

remains intimately connected to the communities where we live and the African continent where we come from. The diaspora has vested interest in solving the social, environmental and economic issues that impact their families, villages, cities, and countries, where ever it is they live.”

Since 2010, the African Diaspora Network (ADN) has energized collaboration among Silicon Valley entrepreneurs, philanthropists, and African diasporans to uplift its local community towards the benefit of Africa and immigrants.

For more information on African Diaspora Network, please visit [africandiasporanetwork.org](http://africandiasporanetwork.org).

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### **About African Diaspora Network**

African Diaspora Network is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization. Our mission to harness and engage the intellectual, financial, philanthropic and entrepreneurial capacity of Africans and friends of Africa in support of economic and social development across Africa.

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