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**From:** Leigh-Ann Kazolas <lakazolas@cedarfoundation.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 9:47 AM  
**To:** 'Chair Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia'  
**Cc:** 'Newton Pham'; 'Nick Kovacevich'; 'Robert Ruiz'; 'Sandra Cervantes'; 'Barbara Bagneris'; 'Ashleigh Aitken'; 'Vice Chair Doug La Belle'; Michele Richards  
**Subject:** Equestrian Center Vision Goals and Plans

Dear Chair Rubalcava-Garcia,

Thank you so much for bringing matters surrounding the Equestrian Center to the board for discussion and ensuring that the facility has a solid management contract in place moving forward and helping establish its committed long-term vision and mission. Access to equestrian activities is disappearing quickly in urban areas as ever-encroaching development squeezes horses out for housing or other purposes. Having been involved with horses since my tumultuous teen years, I know first-hand how important horses and equestrian activity are for physical and mental health. As an adult, having spent 30 years working in Philanthropy and equal education opportunity access, I know the power of change and benefit that is possible when barriers to access are lifted.

During non-COVID times, the Equestrian Center sees hundreds of members of the public coming to take riding lessons, vaulting lessons, attend Summer, Spring or Winter break camps, participate in horsemanship classes, receiving benefit from the therapeutic programs or simply stroll through as part of a family outing and pet some noses and watch the activities. We have serious riders who ride daily, we have recreational riders who come once a week, we have groups from addiction recovery centers and group homes currently attending therapy sessions. We have kids, we have senior citizens, we have members that are mentally and physically challenged, we have some kids that have their lessons or camp fees sponsored if they cannot afford. We have had Olympians who got their start riding at the Fairgrounds and the next budding stars may be there now and we have those that will never do more than walk or trot around in a lesson and enjoy their outdoor, healthy, recreation time.

As the Equestrian Center users and supporters, we look forward to working with Mr. Lofstrom, the Board and Staff to ensure that the Equestrian Center continues to thrive and flourish as a top-notch model of a public boarding facility and community resource. We have numerous ideas how to increase economic accessibility. We already have some great diversity initiatives happening and have countless ideas on further programming we would like to see as well as great community organizations the current trainers would like to work with. As well, we have great ideas on management – what has been working well and where adjustments can be made on future contracts. Overall, we are simply enthusiastic in our love of the Equestrian Center and the value that horses can bring to everyone's lives and we look forward to being included in future planning and development.

Sincerely,

Leigh-Ann Kazolas