

Santa Monica LOOKOUT

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Santa Monica Ed Foundation Raises More than \$550,000

September 2, 2021 -- The Santa Monica Education Foundation raised more than \$550,000 during its back-to-school campaign, more than doubling the amount raised last year.

A total of 524 donors -- prompted by a \$25,000 matching grant from Kilroy Realty -- contributed \$561,442 to fund staff and programs at the Santa Monica public schools.

That compares with \$218,203 in contributions from 309 donors during last year's back-to-school drive, which was dampened by a crippling coronavirus shutdown (["Education Foundation Raises Nearly \\$250,000 for Santa Monica Schools,"](#) September 11, 2020).

The money raised will fund arts programs, classroom aides, STEM and wellness programs at Santa Monica public schools, Foundation officials said.

"This back-to-school campaign was a fantastic way to kick off our fundraising efforts this year," said Alison Havel, president of the Ed Foundation's Board of Directors.

"While we still have a long way to go in our fundraising efforts, we are ecstatic about this phenomenal start."

The \$25,000 match from Kilroy Realty ran from August 13 through August 31 and prompted two other local businesses to offer one-day Flash Matches to encourage donations.

The Harmony Hoefner Group/Compass matched \$2,500 in donations on August 24 and Santa Monica Music Center, owned by Councilmember Lana Negrete, matched donations up to \$2,500 on August 31.

"Kilroy Realty is honored to support Santa Monica's public schools and we are thrilled that our matching gift inspired so many people to donate," said Philip Tate, the firm's senior vice president of Development and Government Affairs.

"We are committed to doing our part to provide an excellent education to students, and we are proud that our support will help give students the vibrant education they deserve," Tate said in a statement.

Last year, the Ed Foundation's annual fundraising contributed nearly \$2 million to fund staff and programs in Santa Monica schools, according to Foundation officials.

Fundraising for the 2021-2022 campaign will continue through June 30, 2022.

For more information or to donate to support Santa Monica students, go to smedfoundation.org.