



Leading From Within Hires Ed France ***First-ever full-time Executive Director starts November 11***

The Leading From Within Board is delighted to announce Ed France as their first full-time Executive Director.

“Ed is a visionary nonprofit leader and community advocate who has changed our region for the better,” said Ken Saxon, Founder and Board Chair at Leading From Within. “At SBBIKE, Ed and his colleagues have demonstrated how the social sector (nonprofits, philanthropy, government and citizen action) can make life better in our local communities. Lucky for us, he is eager to bring what he has learned to LFW, as we work to foster a more effective, innovative and collaborative social sector.”



After accepting the position, France commented “Leading From Within has built an innovative and powerful platform for investing in civic leadership over its first 11 years. I look forward to working with them, as well as their many partners and alumni, to grow their work investing in leaders and strengthening our local social sector. The potential of their network to build trust, collaboration and innovation is just one example of why I’m so excited to be a part of the LFW team.”

France comes to LFW most recently from more than a decade in community building and advocacy work through the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition (SBBIKE). In 2007 France and a group of friends created a financially sustainable social enterprise – Bici Centro – that addressed the lack of bike shops serving low-income and “do-it-yourself” clients. That effort set the tone for SBBIKE’s well-regarded approach involving bilingual and culturally inclusive community organizing.

France has stewarded SBBIKE through multiple stages of growth, including establishing Bici Centro facilities around Santa Barbara County as well as advocating with various government agencies to improve local bicycle infrastructure and policy. He also successfully led a capital campaign to purchase SBBIKE’s headquarters in downtown Santa Barbara.

Before founding Bici Centro, France served as Recycling Coordinator for the City of Santa Barbara. He graduated from UCSB in 2005 with a degree in Environmental Science, and he is an alumnus of LFW’s Courage to Lead program.

About LFW

Founded in 2008, Leading From Within (LFW) invests in social sector leaders to grow as individuals, improve their effectiveness as leaders, and make meaningful changes on complex community challenges in Santa Barbara County and beyond.

For more information visit: www.leading-from-within.org