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## **Beware the Ides of March....sponsorship falls short for Free Shakespeare in the Park in Cupertino**

**\$24,000 needed by end of month to save Cupertino's Free Shakespeare in the Park**

SF Shakes' efforts to replace the annual \$30,000 hole created by the City of Cupertino's budget cuts have fallen short. While the Cupertino Library Foundation and the San Jose Water District have committed support, another \$24,000 is needed by the end of the month to secure performances of *The Tempest* in Cupertino's Memorial Park this summer. (Performances will still take place as planned in Redwood City's Red Morton Park and San Francisco's McLaren Park this summer.)

"We are issuing this final appeal for support because without this funding, we just can't cover the expenses of performing in Cupertino" says Executive Director Toby Leavitt. "We are so grateful for the many decades of support offered by the City - we were all really hopeful that local heroes would step forward."

Efforts to fundraise for this summer's Free Shakespeare in the Park production of *The Tempest* began last October, and the company has now reached the deadline for signing contracts for the summer. "We know there is tremendous community support for this popular program's performances," says Cupertino Mayor Sheila Mohan.

San Francisco Shakespeare Festival has been performing Free Shakespeare in the Park in the beautiful Memorial Park amphitheater each summer since 1995. Free Shakespeare in the Park is only possible through careful collaboration and coordination. Financially, the largest costs of putting on a play are associated with mounting the production, of designing and building and rehearsing the play. By sharing the annual summer production with multiple cities – with Cupertino being the marquee city in the south bay- each city contributes only a small but important portion of the costs of the program. The scale of the program also allows SF Shakes to attract philanthropic funding from regional funders such as the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and national funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Prospective supporters can email Executive Director Toby Leavitt at [tleavitt@sfsakes.org](mailto:tleavitt@sfsakes.org) or donate directly at [sfsakes.org/donate](https://sfsakes.org/donate) For more information on the campaign, please visit <https://sfsakes.org/community/support-free-shakespeare-in-cupertino/>



Pictured above: Free Shakespeare in the Park's *Romeo and Juliet* at Cupertino's Memorial Park Amphitheater in 2015. (Photo: John Western)

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Note to Editor: To schedule an interview with the artists and educators of SF Shakes please email [sfshakes@sfshakes.org](mailto:sfshakes@sfshakes.org) or call 415-865-4422. The mission of the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival is to make the words and themes of Shakespeare accessible to everyone, regardless of age, ethnicity, financial status, or level of education.