



## Stanford eCorner

### Unreliable Donations

Larry Brilliant, *Google.org*

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/2022/Unreliable-Donations>

Money that often fuels traditional philanthropic efforts comes from government money or a foundation. But relying on these sources for income is not a sure bet, says Executive Director of Google.org Larry Brilliant. Great causes can lose their financial footing easily, particularly when caught in-between political administrations with differing world views.



#### Transcript

The problem is that if you are basing an initiative on money that comes either through Congress or through a foundation, it is not reliable. It's not sustainable. We call Congress the Disease-of-the-Month Congress because they change their mind everyday. The Cost-of-the-Month Congress if you look at it wider. You just think we're going to be having a whole seismic shift in our political structure, and the next incoming administration wants to do exactly the opposite of the other one. If you're caught between two administrations, you don't have a sustainable project. The same thing is true in foundations. We live in a capitalist world. We owe a great deal of gratitude to the venture capitalists, to the entrepreneurial activities that create the jobs in this country and every other place. We will not be able to be successful in doing great and ambitious tasks unless we fit into that world.