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Eco Urban Gardens, Arroyo H.S., and US Green Building Council-L.A. to Host “Regenerative Learning Garden” Ribbon Cutting and Community Day on September 21st

Project Highlights Career Pathways, Green Space in San Gabriel Valley

LOS ANGELES (August 22, 2019) Eco Urban Gardens and Arroyo High School, along with representatives from the [U.S. Green Building Council-Los Angeles](#) (USGBC-LA) and local community leaders, will be celebrating the [ribbon cutting](#) – as part of a wider community day – of the Regenerative Learning Garden (RLG). Located at Arroyo High School in El Monte, CA, the ceremony and activities will be held on Saturday, September 21, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

Proposed by [Eco Urban Gardens](#), the RLG was selected as the USGBC-LA’s fourth Legacy Project (the first in the San Gabriel Valley) due to the area’s need for increased access to garden and green space, combined with environmental/resilience education, and active student and community workforce development. The beneficiaries of the project are Arroyo High School students and the wider El Monte community, with a vision for the school campus – home to the largest opportunity for a green space in its school district - to become the model for other area school garden programs.

“We are beyond excited to help welcome the El Monte community to this thoughtfully designed and beautifully executed native garden. I can’t wait to have folks experience and enjoy this community resource,” notes Legacy Project chair Maya Henderson of Kilroy Realty Corporation.

USGBC-LA provided \$20,000 in funding, along with design, strategy and project management support, and member volunteers. This allowed Eco Urban Gardens to renovate about 12,000 sq. ft. of the 32,000 sq. ft. garden space. At the event, people will see:

- CA native plant, low water meadow to increase biodiversity; over 400 plants installed.
- Bioswale to capture and store rainwater.
- EcoLab to increase biodiversity of insect, bird and animal species.
- Medicinal and edible plant foraging knoll for education in plant identification.
- Benches, walking paths and signs created for student and community education and engagement.
- Rosemary labyrinth for walking meditation and to support pollinators.

The greater garden is hoping to combat air quality issues and a high heat index in an area that is primarily surrounded by concrete and freeways, even though it is uniquely situated next to Peck Park, a mini-estuary and the only green park space in North El Monte and Temple City.

The end goals for the RLG include:

- Growing organic food, and educating the community on how they can reduce their carbon footprint by purchasing local produce or growing their own produce (behavior change)
- Demonstrating and teaching the use of low water California native plants in a garden setting (living demonstration lab)
- Reducing water use and cost in maintaining a green space, as well as providing a habitat for native fauna (eco-system support)
- Increased carbon sequestering in a community with a lot of paved surfaces (climate action)
- Providing students choices for environmentally-friendly careers. Proposed CTE pathways include: (a) regenerative landscaping and agriculture, and (b) environmental science and health

“The grant from USGBC-LA has helped us refurbish the Regenerative Learning Garden and expand on our concept to a far greater green space. With that, students are able to study environmental science. It has been a great delight to welcome students and the community here by turning this underutilized area into a vibrant green space,” says Marianne Zaugg, Executive Director of Eco Urban Gardens.

The Legacy Project is an annual gift from the USGBC-LA to a local community to help install a permanent project that is replicable and provides an enduring means of service and education. Past impactful projects include the EcoTech Makerspace in Gardena (2016), the Veggie Bus Project in South Central LA, and the Discovery Garden in Simi Valley.

“The RLG is a holistic project, taking into account so many aspects of how urban green space can have a positive impact, and we’re thrilled to have played a role in helping to make the RLG a reality for the community of El Monte,” notes Ben Stapleton, USGBC-LA Executive Director. “From workforce development and community learning, to inspiring the hearts and minds of our next generation of environmental leaders, this garden represents everything our annual Legacy Project is meant to be.”

For more information on the Legacy Project and the Sept. 21st event, or to apply for the 2020 project RFP, please visit the [Legacy page](#). If you’d like to contribute to this project or any other sponsorship support, please email ben@usgbc-la.org.

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About U.S. Green Building Council-Los Angeles

USGBC-LA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to creating a prosperous and sustainable future within one generation. Our mission promotes sustainability in Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties’ built environment by delivering access to knowledge, resources, recognition and networking. (www.usgbc-la.org)

About Eco Urban Gardens

Eco Urban Gardens is a nonprofit dedicated to educating communities about the connection between agriculture, health and environment.

The mission of Eco Urban Gardens is to improve the health and wellbeing of all by bringing farms and gardens to your door. It is our goal to build healthy communities by cultivating edible gardens and installing regenerative gardens with



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California native plants, while conserving water and creating thriving ecosystems. Eco Urban Gardens offers an in-depth Farm to School program for students to learn about organic farming and Grow Gardens to build regenerative gardens. (ecourbangardens.org)