

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Elisa Vásquez
(626) 586-1762
Elisa.vasquez@lacdc.org



Community Development Commission /
Housing Authority
of the County of Los Angeles
700 W. Main Street, Alhambra, CA 91801

LONG BEACH URBAN FARM AND PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT HOSTS EARTH DAY

10th Annual Event Highlights Sustainable Urban Agriculture



Long Beach, April 23, 2019 – The Growing Experience Urban Farm (TGE) hosted its 10th annual Earth Day Celebration for residents of the Carmelitos public housing development and members of the surrounding community. Over 100 participants came out to learn about sustainable agriculture, tour the farm and aquaponics system, purchase locally-grown and produced food, learn about starting their own garden, taste healthy snacks, and learn about local sustainability resources.

Operated by the Community Development Commission/Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (CDC/HACoLA), the 7-acre urban farm's goal is to support a healthy community by offering affordable, fresh, locally-grown organic food. It is the only known program operating a facility of its size at a public housing community in an urban setting, complete with a sustainable farm, community-supported agriculture program, and educational components.



Monique King-Viehland, CDC/HACoLA Executive Director said, “Earth Day celebrates the respect we have for our environment – which includes our community, our homes, and our neighbors. Events like this are the perfect opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and promote healthy living.”

Exhibitors at the Earth Day event included the City of Long Beach Office of Sustainability, UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program, Dramatic Results, Long Beach Public Library, and Long Beach Beekeepers. Healthy snacks were provided by local Chef Paul Buchannan from Primal Alchemy and Long Beach Health Department "Healthy Active Long Beach" program.

The event also highlighted youth from the after-school program TGE has been hosting for at-risk youth, Club Y.C.M.E. (Young Creative Micro-Enterprise). The program is led by TGE staff that facilitate the creation and establishment of a youth-led micro-enterprise utilizing the farm as the product source. The youth in the program developed healthy snack products utilizing a variety of produce items from the farm. Additionally, local food vendors including Feel Good Salsa, Rainbow Juices, and artisans from the Los Angeles Community Development Foundation, offered sustainable products for sale alongside the farm’s produce stand.



TGE is a unique feature in the community and seeks to expand their reach through future programs and projects. To do so, further support from the community is being sought to help maintain and reach new goals. To find out how you can lend your support, please visit www.growingexperienceb.hacola.org, or call Holly Carpenter at (562) 984-2917. Members of the media may contact Elisa Vásquez, CDC/HACoLA Public Information Officer, at (626) 586-1762.

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