Los Angeles Community Garden Council (LACGC) is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to strengthening communities by building and supporting community gardens where every person in Los Angeles County can grow healthy food in their neighborhood.
How will you remember 2016?

We have certainly faced some challenges this year... the continued drought in Southern California, the dramatic water rate increases, and changes in leadership at many levels. However, our 42 partner gardens continue to thrive and we are bringing more gardeners into our family at a rapid pace!

At LACGC, we focused on digging deeper. We provided more support for our partner gardens than ever before by hosting more volunteer days to help maintain communal areas and by offering in-depth programs on sustainable gardening, water conservation, composting, and nutrition. We trained new gardeners, shared best urban agriculture practices, fostered new friendships, and helped develop new garden leaders.

We hope you’ll enjoy reading about some of our accomplishments during the year and we invite you to help us continue to grow lots of healthy food in 2017!

Thank you for all that you do for community gardens.

The LACGC Team
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Executive Director

Noelle Geller
Executive Assistant

Al Renner
Outreach Director

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The LACGC Family of Community Gardens

Belvedere Park Community Garden  Lancaster Community Garden
BEMA Trust  Lavendar Hill Farm
Brian's Orchard  Leimert Park Garden Tour
Crenshaw Community Garden  Manzanita Street Community Garden
Eagle Rockdale Community Garden  Mariposa-Nabi Community Garden
East Hollywood Garden Achievement Center  Milagro Allegro Community Garden
Eastmont Community Garden  Monterey Road Eco-Community Garden - East
Eastwind Community Garden  Monterey Road Eco-Community Garden - West
El Cariso Mountain Community Garden  Mott St Urban Farm
El Sereno Community Garden  Pasadena Community Garden
Elysian Valley Community Garden  Patton Street Community Garden
Florence-Firestone Community Garden  Seeds of Carver
Fountain Community Gardens  Solano Canyon Community Garden
Gaffey Street Community Garden  South Pasadena Community Garden
Glassell Park Community Garden  Spring Street Community Garden
Glendale Community Gardens  Stanford Avalon Community Garden
Hermosa Beach Community Garden  UR-Bin DownTown Network
Howard Finn Community Garden  Vermont Square Community Garden
Jardin Del Rio  Villa Parke Community Garden
LA Green Grounds  Willowbrook Community Garden
La Madera Community Garden  Wilmington Community Garden
Growing Healthy Food

In 2016, we connected more people with affordable land where they can grow healthy food for their families. We re-opened the Hermosa Beach Community Garden, which moved from its ice-rink location to a permanent location within the park. We took over management of the Howard Finn Community Garden, which had laid fallow for at least four years, and re-opened it with a strong leadership team and many local community connections. We celebrated the opening of the Belvedere Park Community Garden, funded by First5LA, built by the LA Conservation Corps, and organized by the LA Neighborhood Land Trust. We opened the Spring Street Community Garden in the heart of Los Angeles, thanks to Joe’s Parking for providing the land.
Building Community

We see the primary role of LACGC as building community. Often people have lived in a neighborhood for many years but have never met their neighbors. We bring people together in gardens to share in the joy of digging the earth, tending plants, and harvesting delicious fruit and vegetables. Many of our community gardens hold social events to taste each other’s produce, share recipes, and celebrate the seasons. Eagle Rockdale Community Garden organizes an annual seedling sale. Willowbrook Community Garden hosts an Easter Egg hunt. Pasadena Community Garden hosts summer suppers with guest speakers. Glassell Park Community Garden organizes a back-to-school backpack giveaway. Florence-Firestone Community Garden holds an annual potluck in the fall with games and entertainment for families. Elysian Valley Community Garden held a post-Halloween pumpkin smash to encourage families to compost their jack o’ lanterns. Mansfield Community Garden hosted a holiday garden party. These are just a few of the gardens that helped foster friendship and build more resilient communities in 2016.
LACGC held a May Day Celebration at Weddington Farm in Sherman Oaks where we honored David Vela for his extensive work building community gardens in East Los Angeles and children took turns dancing around the Maypole.

In October, we held the 10th Annual Gathering of Community Gardens at El Sereno Community Garden. We honored Toby Leaman for her decades of work with Metro Farms Insurance and at Wattles Farm.
In 2016, LACGC hosted more than 20 volunteer days for corporate employees, high-school and college students, a dance troupe, and other groups. Working in a garden makes a welcome break from an office environment and helps co-workers get to know each other. It is also a great physical workout! Our largest volunteer event was in September when more than 300 Pepperdine University students helped maintain community gardens.
Training Gardeners

Have you seen the look on a child’s face when they see a seed sprout for the first time? There are few things more precious in life. In 2016, LACGC led workshops for people of all ages – from toddlers discovering the soil for the first time to experienced urban farmers who realize that there is always more to learn about growing food.

Thanks to a grant from Kaiser Permanente, we led gardening and nutrition classes at Mott Street Urban Farm to help people suffering from heart disease and diabetes to learn the benefits of a plant-based diet.

Thanks to the support of Wells Fargo, we installed water barrels at the Vermont Square Community Garden and we educated gardeners in water-wise gardening and how to capture the few inches of rainwater that we received in 2016.
Composting is an essential part of sustainable gardening and we helped more than ten community gardens set up a composting area in 2016 so that they will never need to buy soil again.

LACGC co-founder, Al Renner, continues to teach gardening classes on the third Saturday of each month at Lavender Hill Farm.

We are excited to be opening the East Hollywood Garden Achievement Center in 2017, which will be an ideal venue for expanding our educational programs.
Developing Leadership

LACGC has helped build more than 40 community gardens throughout Los Angeles County. Breaking the ground to plant the garden is the easy part of this. The hardest part of starting a new community garden is developing a passionate and strong volunteer garden leadership team.

We partner with From Lot To Spot for hands-on community organizing in some of our larger gardens. In 2016, we led empowerment workshops to encourage gardeners to nominate themselves or others for garden leadership positions. We helped garden groups hold elections for new leadership teams. We work with the Food Policy Council to advocate for a good food system for all Angelinos. A group of 20 gardeners from the Stanford-Avalon Community Garden went to City Hall in February 2016 to knock on Councilmembers’ doors and let them know the adverse effects of the water rate hike on gardeners. We see gardeners develop into passionate leaders on a daily basis.
Financial Overview

We implemented new online software to track our organizational finances in 2016 and ended the year in a strong financial position. LACGC sources of revenues and expenses break down as follows.
Thank You to All Our Supporters

Our work would not be possible without your generous donations.

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