

PRESS RELEASE

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LONG BEACH URBAN FARM AND PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT HOST EARTH DAY

9th Annual Event Highlighted Sustainable Urban Agriculture



Long Beach, April 30, 2018 – The Growing Experience (TGE) Urban Farm hosted its 9th Annual Earth Day Celebration for Carmelitos residents and members of the surrounding community. Over 100 participants came out to learn

about sustainable agriculture, tour the farm and aquaponics system, learn how to start their own garden, and taste healthy snacks.

Located in the Carmelitos Public Housing Development and operated by the Community Development Commission/Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (CDC/HACoLA), TGE is a 7-acre urban farm whose 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, job/skills training, and educational components.

Monique King-Viehlend, Executive Director of the CDC/HACoLA, which oversees the farm, said, “TGE has been a vital part of the Carmelitos community for over 20 years.

It has established itself as a valued community resource and proven partnerships are the key to TGE's creative programming and flourishing garden. This Earth Day event is a celebration of our collective efforts to bring fresh healthy food options to local residents, and educate ourselves on how to better care for the Earth."



The event also highlighted the new after-school program TGE hosts for at-risk youth, Club Y.C.M.E. (Young Creative Micro-Enterprise). The program facilitates the creation and establishment of a youth-led micro-enterprise, utilizing the farm as the product source. Program participants use produce from the farm to develop goods ranging from healthy snacks to natural body care products. Visitors had an opportunity to try samples, and provide feedback for the Club's market research.

Exhibitors also included the City of Long Beach Office of Sustainability, Long Beach Junior League, 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 Growing Experience 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 growingexperiencelb.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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