



PRESS RELEASE

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE GROWING EXPERIENCE URBAN FARM RECEIVES GREEN LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR BEING A MODEL OF SUSTAINABILITY

The Board of Supervisors Recognizes the Program's Outstanding Efforts
that Benefit the Residents of Los Angeles County



Los Angeles, CA, April 11, 2017 – In the heart of North Long Beach lies an ever evolving community jewel designed to educate, nourish, and provide agricultural training to local residents. The Growing Experience Urban Farm (TGE), a project of the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA), is a seven-acre facility located within the

Carmelitos Housing Community in Long Beach. Today, TGE was proud to be recognized by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, with a Green Leadership Award.

Los Angeles County's Green Leadership Awards recognize programs and projects that demonstrate outstanding efforts by individuals and organizations to improve the County's environmental sustainability. TGE exemplifies the goals of the Green Leadership Awards by

filling a void in an economically disadvantaged part of Long Beach. The program has established itself as a community environmental resource center that provides not only affordable fresh produce, but also features cutting edge technology, demonstration space, and educational opportunities.

From 2014 to 2016, TGE launched several complementary initiatives to address an increased growing demand for local produce, provide education pertaining to drought-tolerant landscaping and renewable energy alternatives, and divert growing



amounts of garbage to landfills. To further environmental sustainability for the community, TGE introduced a productive water-efficient Aquaponics and Vertical Towers Growing System raising leafy greens with fish; a demonstration Community Food Forest featuring drought-tolerant plants with nutritional or medicinal benefits; a Food Waste Composting Program in conjunction with the City of Long Beach's Office of Sustainability and local restaurants to divert food waste; and a demonstration solar energy system to offset electric energy usage onsite. These four initiatives provide long-term replicable solutions to environmental challenges throughout Los Angeles County.

Sean Rogan, HACoLA Executive Director said, "Through our well established community partnerships, and forward thinking, The Growing Experience is able to encourage healthy living and social responsibility. We appreciate the County recognizing our tremendous efforts to promote a greener environment."

For more information on TGE, please visit www.growingexperiencelb.org, or follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/GrowingExperience. All media may contact Elisa Vásquez, HACoLA Public Information Officer, at (626) 586-1762.

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