



**Non-Profit
Community Partnership
Grant Proposal Phase II
Water Conservation**

Proposal for LADWP

December 5th, 2019

WECAN FOUNDATION

Main Office
4329 Degnan Blvd
Los Angeles CA 90008

LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER
GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT Non-Profit Community
Partnership Grants - Phase II November 4, 2019

RE: PROPOSAL FOR WATER CONSERVATION SEVENTH ROUND PHASE II 2019

To whom it may concern,

The WECAN Foundation is pleased to present this Community Partnership Outreach Grant application to the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) under the water conservation category. The geographic area for this grant will cover the Empowerment Congress West and Voices Neighborhood Council Boundaries of South-Central Los Angeles.

The focus of *Our Project* is to promote LADWP's Water conservation efforts for residential and commercial properties through the following programs:

- Turf Replacement Program
- Landscape Training Classes
- Rebates and Free Items
- Ordinance & Codes
- Drought Information
- Los Angeles Outdoor Landscaping Academy (LAOLA)

The LADWP's Los Angeles Outdoor Landscape Academy (LAOLA) offers a variety of workshops to help Angelenos replace turf with California Friendly ® Landscape and improve Irrigation Efficiency. *Our Project* will build a satellite training office along West 60th Street to advocate sustainable landscape transformations through educational courses and hands on training.

Building upon WECAN's history with hosting Urban Farm (UF) workshops and special events; *Our Foundation* proposes to host and conduct workshops for *Our Residents* to learn more about the LADWP Los Angeles Outdoor Landscape Academy (LAOLA). These *Bi-Weekly Events* will educate the public on ways to reduce urban runoff, promote environmental education, promote water conservation and enhance local urban wildlife habitat.

In 2009, WECAN launched the ‘Urban Farm Network” (UFN) to promote sane and sustainable 21st century land use policies for inner-city communities. In 2020, WECAN hopes to launch the *West 60th Street Green Street Project* that promotes and builds the LADWP Outdoor Landscape Academy while creating an Urban Environmental Center that focus on water conservation and water reuse. WECAN invasions West 60th Street as a potential Green Street (GS) that is inviting and educational to local residence of this underutilized community.

Our Team is excited to explore the option of other LADWP grants that focus on underutilized neighborhoods. However, this project request strictly targets water conservation efforts. Mainly, because we strongly feel this project could act as a hub for other projects and has the potential to scale into larger projects across the City of Los Angeles. Not only are we providing a safe neighborhood open space we are providing an environmental education center for all ages. *Our Proposal* will build a Green Street Educational Center in the heart of our community.

We look forward to hearing from you about this exciting and important project that introduces new Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Technology, Promotes City Water Conservation Programs, Battles the Effects of Global Warming and Educates the Public about the benefits of environmental actions through hands on training.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments you may have. We are open to ideas and suggestions.

Sincerely,

The WECAN Foundation





About Us

Our Mission is to Research, Organize, Analyze and Deploy (ROAD) programmatic methods and systems that are designed for individuals and their communities; most especially young people.

Established in 1995, WECAN a 501(C)3 nonprofit that addresses growing disparities in computer skills between various segments of society. WECAN is a community-based response to the challenges of our modern multi-culture, techno-based, global society. Since our establishment, WECAN's programs and projects have encompassed a range of activities, all with the common theme of expanding the application of computer and communications-based technology.

For the past 24 years, WECAN has provided a Supplemental Education Services (SES) center for students in at-risk communities. Our computer-based technological center combats the Digital Divide for underprivileged students. We operate with volunteers and sponsors to help promote sustainability development for South Los Angeles neighborhoods. For the past ten years, WECAN has maintained an Urban Farm Network (UFN) program in South Los Angeles on West 60th Street.

Previous Projects

In 2009, WECAN launched the ‘Urban Farm Network’ (UFN) to promote sane and sustainable 21st century land use policies for inner-city communities. UFN began with its “Planting a Little Piece of Paradise” project, in conjunction with the 2009 National Day of Service, by sponsoring and organizing West 60th Street-LA households to convert their parking strip brown-fields into “micro-parks”.

The objective of UFN is to build an “urban forest” of environments and to provide information, resources, and distribution opportunities that transform local neighborhoods, one-by-one, and connect them to more beneficial natural ecosystems. UFN specific goals include:

- Promote Water Conservation
- Promote Local Sustainability

In partnership with Tree People of Los Angeles, WECAN UFN established the “Orchard in Every Backyard” project, which distributed over 350 fruit trees (lemon, plums, apricots, apples, peaches, nectarines, and orange) for planting on West 60th street home sites and in surrounding neighborhoods. Currently, in partnership with the Los Angeles Dream Center, WECAN UFN provides distributions of free fruit and produce to the local community twice a week.

Our “City Chicks” project promotes local egg production and preservation of heirloom breeds. The WECAN “Read and Seed” project has engaged dozens of neighborhood youth with free books, reading & discussion circles, planting exercises, chicken care, and healthy cooking methods. The WECAN UFN also served as host for several years to Root Down LA’s Youth Entrepreneurship Community Service and Service-Learning programs for Hawkins High and Jefferson High School students.





Our Green Vision

We believe this falls in line with LA City Green Streets and LADWP Water Conservation and Education Goals

We believe that Green Infrastructure Design (GID) practices provide the greatest benefit to water resources and the community. Low Impact Development (LID) and Best Management Practices (BMP) in Stormwater System Design help control the flow and movement of pollution by infiltrating, treating or reusing a target volume of site runoff.

Historically, stormwater systems have been created to capture excess water and divert flows into storm drains and channels. Eventually, the stormwater leads to the ocean and bays carrying toxins and pollutants. *Our GREEN Goal* for this project is to acknowledge the great value of hydrated vegetation to our community as we conserve drinking water, reduce stormwater runoff and support urban forest growth

WECAN has created a strategic educational program and project to use LADWP existing projects to help educate and train our community in fitting global warming impacts, pollution control through water conservation.

Our Proposal

Our proposed project will focus on water conservation and water efficiency using public outreach and education. We have proven our projects can be scaled up from small residential properties to larger commercial and industrial properties.

WECAN proposes the development of **West 60th Green Street** to serve as a Model Demonstration Block (HUB) that residents of central Los Angeles can easily visit. The block will visually demonstrate the benefits and beauty of sustainable landscaping and stimulate interest in planting more trees and replacing grass lawns with sustainable drought tolerant landscape.

WECAN would like to promote the LADWP Los Angeles Outdoor Landscape Academy (LAOLA) by facilitating a variety of workshops in our neighborhood to help residence and local business owners transform their properties into more water efficient homes and offices. Rather than go door to door , *Our Vision* is to create a local meeting place that will provide the LA Outdoor Academy to educate and promote turf removal, water efficient irrigation, stormwater harvesting, ground water infiltration and fostering a health soil structure.

We believe this falls in line with LA City Green Streets and LADWP Water Conservation and Education Goals.

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Our proposed conservation goals include the following themes:

- Water efficiency for residential edible gardens
- Preventing indoor and outdoor leaks
- The benefits of sustainable landscaping and the turf replacement rebate
- Demonstration/installation of outdoor water efficient technology
- Sustainable landscape maintenance education of commercial gardeners

Our Community Outreach Program will assist residents and business owners with the following conservation efforts through education and outreach:

- Converting sprinklers to drip irrigation or other sustainable irrigation practices
- Removal of Turf in the project area and cover with weed barrier material that is organic mulch for soil building and erosion control
- Promoting rain garden design landscaping with rain barrels and vegetated swales
- Selecting California Friendly Drought tolerant plants for landscape design
- Mapping using GIS the properties converted from Grey 2 Green using the LA Hub GIS Platform

WE CAN proposes a multi-faceted program that will engage and benefit local community residents and schools and provide relevant information and training to thousands of local students and their families on the benefits of the LADWP Water Conservation Programs. It will promote the goals and objectives of the City's Green Streets program.

Grant objectives include:

- Development of local demonstration block for sustainable landscaping in South Los Angeles
- Community Information Hub for local Assistance to aid LADWP applications & rebate process
- Development of "Urban Rangers Conservation Intern" program for community outreach
- Facilitation of School Site Tree Planting Efforts at Local Schools
- Build a Green Los Angeles

Benefits to LADWP:

- LA City Green Streets program is expanded
- LADWP turf removal and city tree programs goals are implemented
- West 60th Street grows as a local model for sustainability
- Homeowners get about \$200 + lower water bill (after establishment)
- Students get training and information regarding sustainability
- Battles effects of Global Warming and Climate Change



URBAN RANGERS



WECAN proposes to work in partnership with LAUSD to develop student environmental sciences Service Learning and Community Service programs for Urban Ranger Conservation Interns.

WE CAN will develop online age-appropriate Urban Ranger “citizen scientist” kits that will educate and inform students about the sustainability crisis we face in Los Angeles and the multiple benefits of the LADWP Turf Removal and City Trees programs available to them. The kit would include:

- Colorful, age-appropriate information sheets that explain the unique characteristics of our alluvial plain landscape, the climate crisis we all now face, and proactive responses
- Colorful, age-appropriate information sheets that explain the unique characteristics of our alluvial plain landscape, the climate crisis we all now face, and what can be done about it
- Sample worksheets that students can use to conduct their own site assessments
- Program information regarding WE CAN support services that are available to facilitate resident participation in Turf Removal and City Trees programs

WECAN will develop and implement environmental science curriculum for LAUSD Service Learning and Community Service Conservation Intern programs to provide education, information and training in water and energy conservation.

Urban Rangers will engage in community outreach activities and hands-on landscape renovation projects that provide training code compliance, site analysis, sustainable landscape design, turf removal, sheet mulching and planting methodologies and techniques.

Urban Ranger projects will help young citizens learn about environmental challenges the future holds and give them the tools needed to meet them. The Urban Rangers program will provide relevant information to students and give them new perspectives on career possibilities. It will provide the information, knowledge, and skill set development required to make them participants in, and effective advocates for, sustainable environmental changes. This is part of the mobilization effort required to develop the new Green Workforce that will transform Los Angeles into a model for environmental sustainability.



SCHOOL TREE PLANTING

West 60th Street, zip code 90044 has been classified by the US Forestry Services as a critical area of the Los Angeles city, with only 7% of the available land space supporting tree cover.

WECAN, in partnership with GIS Corps, has conducted a GIS analysis of the three primary school sites surrounding and serving West 60th Street families. This analysis reveals that local school sites have sparse tree that provide little or no shade for the streets surrounding the schools.

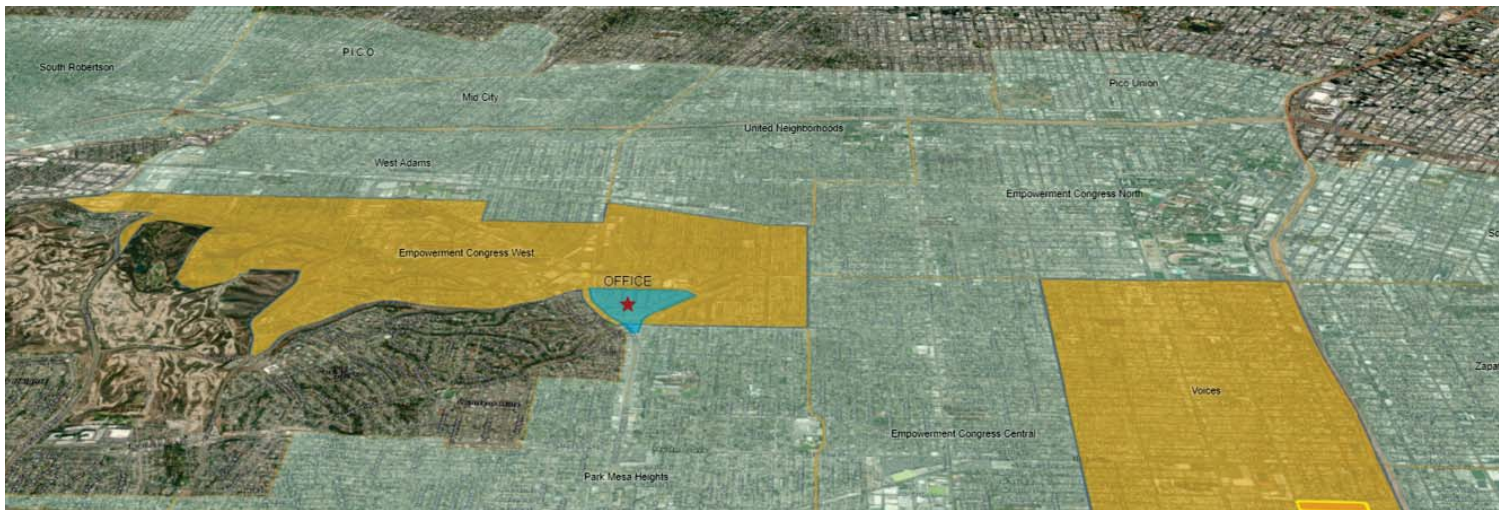
WECAN proposes to work in partnership with LADWP and LAUSD to assess, facilitate, and organize tree planting activities around school complexes.

WHY OUR COMMUNITY?

West 60th Street, between Figueroa and Hoover, has 60 home sites. Over the past ten years, WECAN UFN has engaged six home sites, 10% of the block population, in landscape renovation activities to remove grass and plant drought tolerant shrubs.

West 60th Street is evaluated by a CalEnviroScore to have a score of "80-85%", designating it as a Disadvantaged Community that has special socio-economic issues. The Pollution Burden is "74", with Toxic Releases at "78", Traffic (with all its associated pollutants) at "100" and Drinking Water at "79".

The overall Population Characteristics is "80", with a Housing Burden of "98", Poverty at "93", Education at "90", and Linguistic Isolation at "91". Specific pollution health issues include Asthma at "85" and Cardiovascular Disease at "65". If we can continue to grow we could make a larger impact on our community and our environment.



GREEN STREETS

Over the summer of 2019 WECAN work directly with GIS Corp to create a mobile and web application that allows the public to design and convert their property and neighborhood into a more water efficient community. Using ArcGIS Mapping Software provided by ESRI under a Non-Profit Grant, WECAN, GIS Corps and others used Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data in LA City Mayor's Office Geo Hub to create a Green Streets App that allows the user to calculate square area and design site plans.

GIS and GPS MAPPING for PROJECT MAPPING and DOCUMENTATION

Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) with Mobile and Server Technology WECAN will document projects at homes and commercial buildings that convert into more water efficient properties.

The WebGIS System provides a way for local residents to highlight areas of their communities that could be transformed into more efficient Green Streets by highlighting and documenting problematic areas, such as underutilized open space, pollution problematic areas, and areas that could be potentially used for Urban Farming and Wildlife Habitat.

During the duration of the project, WECAN will utilize Web and Mobile GIS to document and Display properties that have converted from Grey 2 Green using the LA HUB GIS System available from the Mayors Cities Office.

The WECAN Green Streets Mapping application helps find and track projects that promote sustainable landscaping.

To view the Story Map and GIS Application please visit www.WECANGIS.com





GROUND TRUTHING AND QUALITY CONTROL

Ground Truthing activities will be conducted for cross validation of GIS data. A three-level verification process will ensure that the GIS-based program information is verified, corrected and amplified through independent visual onsite analysis. This will establish Quality Control standards and provide for ongoing Quality Assurance efforts in the future. (QA/QC)

The location-based ground truthing analysis will include notations of the current landscape status of each home site. Ground truth datasets will be established for front and back yards as well as adjacent parkways for each home site. The baseline evaluation will collect information for measurements and observations about the type, size, and condition of home site landscaping. It will make specific notation of other physical characteristics of importance:

- Whether or not the home site still has grass
- Whether the grass is green and watered or brown and dry
- The number and types of trees currently present on the home site and parkway
- The number and types of shrubs on the home site and the home site parkway

In conjunction with the GIS program application, a companion mobile device-based program is being developed to enable initiation of a process for real time input of this data from the field. In addition to providing QA/QC for baseline data, the mobile device will be used to record and reflect all future project work that results in more turf removal and tree planting activities. This will provide a method and procedure for precise tracking of the progress of WECAN UFN program activities. All information will be pushed to the LA Hub for others to view and use.

PROJECT TEAM

Michel McLaughlin

Community Assistance Program Manager (WECAN)

Dr. Michél McLaughlin brings a special commitment to and enthusiasm for this proposed Community Partners program. She is a long-time resident of the community, having attended two of the schools involved in the project (61st Street Elementary and John Muir Middle School), before going on to graduate from USC and UCLA. In addition to 45 years of professional experience in law, higher education, federal supplemental education service program management, and nonprofit program management, Dr. McLaughlin, over the past ten years, has been instrumental in developing the WE CAN Urban Farm Network, supporting home garden development on West 60th with workshops, and distribution of seeds, plantings, and informational materials. McLaughlin, a Tree People volunteer, worked in partnership with Tree People of Los Angeles, to spearhead WE CAN UFN's "An Orchard in Every Back Yard" project that has planted over 350 fruit trees (lemon, plum, apricot, apple, peach, nectarine, orange) on West 60th Street home sites and in surrounding neighborhoods.

Responsibilities include program management, accounting; event development and scheduling. Additional duties include development of community outreach for resident and youth participation; management of Urban Ranger Community Service, and Service-Learning programs.

Kenneth Wyrick

IT Specialist & Community Development Specialist (WECAN)

Kenneth Wyrick is involved in Learning and Training Information Communications Technology with options for the parallel utilization options for Free Open Source Software. His activities for Civic Engagement targets adults in various LAUSD schools and various LA City and County Departments. He is active in various community, non-profit initiatives. He is responsible for maintenance of the WE CAN Foundation website: WECANF.net.

Responsibilities include coordinating and supervising Los Angeles Trade Tech and LAUSD students to plan individual sites; supervise Urban Rangers and community volunteers in installation and planting activities; execute installations by converting grass turf to drought tolerant landscaping and planting trees; coordinate with Community Assistance Manager for applications, scheduling Community Service and Service Learning program activities.

Stephanye Monahan

Marketing Communications Specialist

Stephanye Monahan brings to the project nearly 50 years of experience in program development, advertising, design, copywriting, publications production, and account management, having worked in advertising agencies; directed in-house university departments (University of Pennsylvania, UCLA); and served as a consulting partner on projects with government and private-sector clientele.

Responsibilities include development of bilingual online outreach and informational materials, Urban Ranger Field Kits, and event materials. Conceptualize, design of Age-appropriate online outreach materials for websites of local Neighborhood Councils, block clubs, churches, and local school; Online instructional materials for training programs; Homeowner workshop information; Project event materials; evaluation standards and project surveys.

Deborah Deets

Volunteer and Landscape Architect, FASLA

Deborah is a California State Registered Landscape Architect for the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation, Watershed Protection Program. Her stormwater project designs have been featured in the national Landscape Architecture Magazine (LAM), Stormwater Solutions Magazine, local public television (KCET), and have won national (CASQA and NACWA) recognition for design and technical innovation.

Her work has included design/drafting of some of the City's first "Green Streets Standard Plans" issued to the public in 2010 by the City's Engineer. These plans allow contractors to construct pre-approved BMPs that filter and or infiltrate runoff in the public right-of-way and avoid a full permit review.

John J. Schweisinger

Volunteer GIS & GPS Specialist & WebGIS Developer

John J. Schweisinger is a Master's Student in the GIST Program at the University of Southern California's Spatial Science Institute. Currently, he works as a GIS Specialist for the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering (BOE) - Land Development and GIS Division (LGD). The Land Development and GIS Division (LGD) is responsible for reviewing, identifying, and implementing the construction of public infrastructure such as street, storm drain, and sewer facilities in conjunction with City land development entitlement applications such as Subdivision Maps and City Planning Case applications.

Project Cost

WECAN POSITIONS & VOLUNTEERS

Community Assistance Program Manager	\$12,000 annual
IT & Community Development Specialist	\$12,000 annual
Marketing Communications Specialist	\$10,000 annual
Landscape Architect	Volunteer
GIS & GPS Specialist and WebGIS Developer	Volunteer

BUILDING MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES

Office Supplies & Printing	\$6,000 annual
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- Urban Ranger Green information materials production
- Outreach materials, flyers, brochures
- Instructional materials

Workshop Demos Plants and Materials	\$32,000 annual
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- Demo Material for Bi-Weekly Workshops
- Plants and Soil Materials
- Building Materials

OTHER CONSULTANTS AND PARTNERS

Urban Rangers Conservation Interns (2)	\$12,000 annual
Urban Rangers GIS Corps (2)	\$6,000 annual
GIS & GPS Training	DONATED / MATCH
Landscape Design	DONATED / MATCH
Website Development	DONATED / MATCH

TOTAL COST **\$90,000**