



Volunteers building planter boxes

PEACE GARDEN VISION

Our vision for the PEACE GARDEN is that becomes a center for learning where youth and seniors will work together, build lasting relationships, and improve the quality of life for the Central Long Beach community, both aesthetically and nutritionally.

PEACE GARDEN PURPOSE

The purpose of the PEACE GARDEN is multi-pronged:

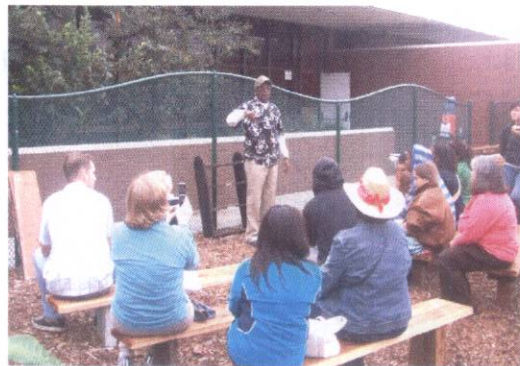
- To serve as a catalyst for neighborhood and community development.
- To provide multiple plots for families to work and grow fruit and produce.
- To provide the opportunity to organize, offer, and educate local youth on "green collar" jobs.
- To encourage positive social interaction and build community spirit where gardeners can benefit in raising crops and share gardening tips and advice.
- To encourage self-reliance.
- To provide continued education via partnership with local horticulture programs.
- To initiate the process to establish a Central Long Beach Farmer's Market.

A DREAM COME TRUE

The PEACE GARDEN originated with an idea of Sixth District Council Member Dee Andrews. That idea evolved into a dream come true for a neighborhood that was previously blighted with gang activity and crime. A committee of volunteers adopted the idea and applied for permits, obtained private funding, corporate business partnerships provided in-kind contributions and financial assistance, with the LB DHHS Weed & Seed Program serving as the incubator for this project. Community youth from rich cultural backgrounds were identified to help spearhead this project and have dedicated many hours that has been a labor of love.

PEACE GARDEN Youth Leadership Green Team

Rin Chhoun	Antonio Ciriaco
La'Daisha Ford	Jazmine Franklin
Genesis Higareda	Kayla Mercado
Semajanet Moore	Sothyroed Rath
Vuthara Sok	Jericho Williams



Council Member Andrews at The Learning Center



A Creation of
The Men of La Mancha

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NUSA Neighborhoods USA 2011
Building Stronger Communities
Multi Neighborhood Partnerships
2nd Place Project Award Recipient



Guardians of the PEACE GARDEN

WEED & SEED PROGRAM MISSION

The LB DHHS Weed & Seed Strategy aims to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse and gang activity in Central Long Beach through funding provided by the U.S. Department of Justice. The strategy operates out of three safe havens at Martin Luther King Jr., Park, MacArthur Park, and McBride Senior Park as safe places for youth and families to access community resources.



Volunteers working with youth

A CENTER OF LEARNING

The PEACE GARDEN is where many lasting partnerships and relationships are fostered. Community seniors partner with the youth who learn how to plant, cultivate, harvest, as well as connect to their history and the land.



Green Team prepares mulch for PEACE GARDEN

The PEACE GARDEN and the Long Beach City College Horticulture Department has partnered to educate gardeners on seed saving techniques. A Water Reservation, created from the rains is currently under consideration as well as other water-saving techniques.



Green Team uses vintage wood for the PEACE GARDEN

Learning how to grow and identify healthy organic vegetables and fruits are key objectives of the PEACE GARDEN. Master gardeners donate their time to instruct youth about seasonal crops. They teach the difference between "Heirloom" and "Hybrid" as well as how to harvest the seeds of heirloom crops and use the seeds for the next year's planting season. They also instruct about organic methods that successfully address planning disease.



Boy Scout Eagle project added this side of the GARDEN

The produce grown in the PEACE GARDEN represents the cultures of the Central Long Beach community. After harvest, the community joins together to fellowship and prepares different ethnic meals. Professional chefs are recruited to teach the gardeners how to prepare meals using the produce from the GARDEN.



Preparing gifts of the PEACE GARDEN

As a recipient of the Long Beach 2011 Peace Maker of the Year Award, the PEACE GARDEN was acknowledged as a learning center and the staff, youth, and community volunteers were recognized for engaging the public at many seasonal events and innovative festivals, including:

- Harvest Hoe Down
- Dia de Los Muertos del Mundo
- Holidays Around the World
- Peace Fest & Candlelight Peace March



PEACE GARDEN Drum Circle performs at City events



PEACE GARDEN crops are ready for harvesting

LONG BEACH COMMUNITY GARDENS

Other community gardens in the City of Long Beach include:

- El Dorado Park Community Garden
- Grace Park Community Garden
- Wild Oates Community Garden
- North Long Beach Community Garden
- Wrigley Community Garden

COMMUNITY GARDENS WORLDWIDE

The City of Long Beach now joins the ranks of more than one million gardens throughout the world who are dedicated to the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

- Shanghai, China • Haifa, Israel
- Assisi, Italy • Thessaloniki Greece
- Abidjan, Cote de Ivory • Geska, Japan
- Cork, Ireland • Taipei, Taiwan
- Caracas, Venezuela • Sydney, Austria
- Seoul, South Korea • Estele, Nicaragua

PEACE GARDEN STAFF

Deborah Kearns, MAED
Peace Garden Manager

Stephen Duprey
Peace Garden Assistant Manager

PEACE GARDEN COMMITTEE

Annie Greenfeld-Wisner
Peace Garden Co-Chair
NAG Chair, LB DHHS
Weed & Seed Neighborhood Restoration
Sub-Committee Co-Chair

Jose M. Flores
Peace Garden Co-Chair
Central Neighborhood Advisory
Committee (CNAC) Chair

Virgie Wade
Peace Garden Member
CNAC Co-Chair

INCUBATOR

LB DHHS W&S Steering Committee
Lydia A. Hollie, JD, MAED, Co-Chair
Ted Marquez, Co-Chair

DHHS CENTRAL FACILITY

Tracy Colunga, MSW
LB DHHS W&S Site Director

Dana Slay
LB DHHS W&S, UCLA Graduate Intern

PEACE GARDEN

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