



San Diego Promise Zone Healthy Communities Working Group

Thursday, March 18, 2021 | 1:00 – 2:30 PM (Via Zoom)

Working Group Goal: To increase access to healthcare and healthy food in the Promise Zone

In Attendance

Barrio Botany, Bayside Community Center, Blue Shield of California, City of San Diego Council Districts 4 & 9, City of San Diego Economic Development, City of San Diego Planning, County of San Diego Health & Human Services, Healthy Day Partners, Kate Sessions Trees, Mercato, Mongol Tribe, National Conflict Resolution Center, Project New Village, San Diego Co-Harvest, San Diego Gas & Electric, Sherman Elementary School Garden, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, University of California San Diego, Urban Corps of San Diego County

Meeting Notes

I. Welcome, Agenda Review, and Introductions

II. Partner Announcements

- **City of San Diego Planning Department:** The City is amending its Climate Action Plan to include community input. Their [Environmental Justice Survey](#) has been extended to close on March 31, please complete the survey and share with residents.
- **San Diego Promise Zone:** The San Diego Promise Zone is hiring a new cohort of AmeriCorps VISTAs. Please forward inquiries to Alex Southard, ASouthard@sandiego.gov.

III. Healthy Communities Tree Program ([Link](#))

Mim Michelove, CEO & President, Healthy Day Partners

Morgan Justice-Black, Community Relations Manager, San Diego Gas & Electric

- The Healthy Communities Tree Program launched in the fall of 2020 to promote the planting of trees in low-income, under-resources communities. Created in partnership with San Diego Gas & Electric and Healthy Day Partners, their mission is to support community food security and environmental justice.
- **What They Offer:** Site visits with recommendations for placement and tree selection; Up to 10 young fruit trees chosen to meet the site's needs; Technical support for installation, planning, and care; A \$1,500 mini-grant for site infrastructure and long-term care
- **Site Eligibility:** School and community gardens with existing irrigation and water plans are eligible for this program. Sites are selected after completing the site visit.
- **How You Can Help:** Distribute information about their program to schools and community gardens! They are currently accepting applications, [Healthy Fruit Tree Program Interest Form](#). Ideally, applicants would plan/apply in the summer and plant their trees in the fall.

IV. Funding Opportunities

Lauren Welch, Urban Corps of San Diego County

Nathan Lou, Mongol Tribe

- **Skyline Hills Library Project:** Mongol Tribe is leading efforts to plant fruit trees at the Skyline Hills Library. Currently, they are working with the City's Public Libraries and Planning departments to move forward with site approval.
- **Upcoming Funding Opportunities:** [Schwemm Foundation Grant](#), [GusNIP Grant](#), [USDA Beginning Farmer & Rancher Grant](#), [USDA Community Food Projects Grant](#), [CA Park Outdoor Equity Grant](#)
- Contact Haley Wintsch (HWintsch@sandiego.gov) to get involved in these opportunities.

V. COVID-19 Vaccine Update

Ariel Hamburger, County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency

- **New Standing Item:** After working group members have expressed their interest in staying informed on the COVID-19 vaccine, we added this standing agenda item for updates.
- **New Phase:** Phase 1C opened on March 15, visit the [County COVID-19 Vaccine Phases](#) site for more information on eligibility and resources.
- **COVID-19 Vaccine Resources:** [MTS Free Transportation to Vaccination Centers](#), [San Diego Latino Health Coalition: COVID-19 Updates](#), [Champions for Health Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

VI. San Diego Co-Harvest

Avery Cramer, Founder, San Diego Co-Harvest

- San Diego Co-Harvest (see attached flier) works to eliminate food insecurity and environmental racism in San Diego through their network of 40+ micro-farms. Their members receive assistance to begin micro-farms in their homes and backyards and this food is distributed in bi-weekly food distributions.
- **What They Offer:** Bi-weekly fresh food distributions, micro-farm installation and upkeep, food donations to the community, food scrap pick-up and compost, and youth outreach
- **How You Can Help:** Distribute information about San Diego Co-Harvest to food insecure residents and residents capable of hosting micro-farms and sign up to be a micro-farmer!

VII. Working Group Action Planning

- In the last meeting, working group members identified 3 activities to prioritize for the next few months. In this meeting, working group members provided feedback to refine the activities (see below):
 1. Prioritize 1-2 urban agriculture/backyard growing projects. *Working group members identified a need to distribute resources to residents and community members.*
 2. Disseminate COVID-19 vaccine information. *Working group members preferred to engage more health agencies and provide current resources in these meetings.*
 3. Provide feedback on the City's Parks Master Plan. *More research is needed before moving forward with this activity, we will reassess at next month's meeting.*
- **Next Steps:** Create ad hoc groups with interested working group members

VIII. Next Steps & Adjourn

- **Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 18, 2021 from 1:00 – 2:30 PM via Zoom