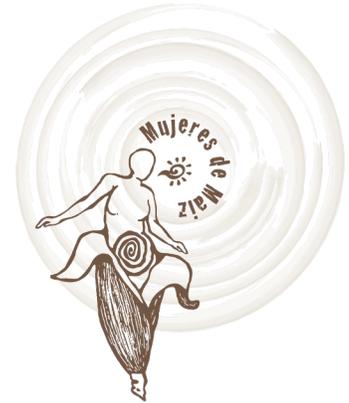


January 30, 2016



To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to express our highest support to preserve Proyecto Jardin as a cultural community garden and asset in Boyle Heights.

Our organization, Mujeres de Maiz, which provides empowering art and holistic programming to women across Los Angeles has worked for the last 19 years across Boyle Heights and the Eastside and have seen firsthand the important experiences, healthy food, and relevant education that Proyecto Jardin brings to the Eastside and surrounding areas.

There is considerable research evidence that green space and working in community in a culturally relevant way have positive physical and social outcomes for people of all ages. The Eastside and area specifically around White Memorial is surrounded by freeways and it is of crucial importance to have green space that is run by, for, and about community. Our organization and members have been a part of the garden in various ways over the last decade and have been empowered by learning how to grow our own food. We have experienced the beauty of being in nature and working with the land, as well as working in community and collective action with a common purpose—all this at the irreplaceable Proyecto Jardin. The garden has allowed us to grow in mind, body and spirit and we are lucky enough to have seen hundreds of community members learn, share and feel the same within the beautiful greenery and colors of the garden. The Jardin has been supportive of our own projects and has found ways to work with local community based organizations and schools in a way that is valuable and beneficial to all.

For these reasons and more, it is my duty to urge you to work with the current gardeners, volunteers and staff of Proyecto Jardin to keep the space as is and also support them with unrestricted funding and support. We thank you for your consideration and ask that you please contact us directly for any questions, or additional comments at 323-359-6288.

Sincerely,

Felicia Montes

Felicia Montes
Director of Programming & Outreach