



**EAST LA COMMUNITY CORPORATION**  
**BUILDING A MORE EQUITABLE EASTSIDE**

January 29, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

We write this letter to outline East LA Community Corporation's (ELACC) support for the preservation of a treasured community resource that has served as a focal point for community building and leadership development in Boyle Heights, Proyecto Jardin. Specifically we write to assert Proyecto Jardin's right to remain at its current site, located at White Memorial Medical Center, and to be clear that my organization and its 3,500 members categorically oppose its displacement.

With a mission to advance social and economic justice on the Eastside, ELACC has been building with the community of Boyle Heights for the past 20 years. To see this property removed from the stewardship of Proyecto Jardin and its membership is deeply problematic and disturbing for our organization. For small organizations like Proyecto Jardin and so many more working in low income communities of color, we find ourselves stretching dollars far beyond what we think is possible, but it is done so because the need in the community requires it. Space to do this important work is critical. Community spaces like this should not be viewed as a commodity from which to make a profit, but as a resource for future generations of residents. Furthermore, when organizations that are trusted are uprooted, rebuilding the bonds and ties that it holds within the community becomes an impossible task.

Although to some this may be a small parcel of land, the impact that this space has had on the Eastside community cannot be quantified monetarily.

We strongly urge you to renew a long-term lease for Proyecto Jardin immediately and consider supporting this marvelous organization. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly should you have questions or would like to dialogue a more positive outcome for the community.

Sincerely,

Isela Gracian  
President  
323.604.1957

Mike Dennis  
Director of Community Organizing  
626.824.6797