



Fact Sheet 2010 *Equal Justice, Democracy and Livability for All*

“The City Project [is] working to broaden access to parks and open space for inner-city residents and . . . to fight childhood obesity by guaranteeing that . . . students get enough physical education.” New York Times

Robert García has been honored as one of the 100 Most Influential U.S. Hispanics, “men and women who are changing the nation,” by Hispanic Business Magazine

The Vision of the City Project is to build a new sense of community, one that promotes environmental quality, economic vitality, democratic participation and a higher quality of life for all, including underserved people.

We are building a “**new green urban movement**” focused on meeting the needs of people who traditionally have been bypassed, including the poor, Latinos, and other diverse populations.

Our urban vision will use land use planning, land conservation, policy and legal work, partnerships, and grassroots community organizing to create **healthy, livable communities for all**:

- Increase park space, school fields and access to natural public places for urban communities,
- Build healthy communities by focusing on physical activity and healthy eating in the inner city,
- Help students move more, eat well, stay healthy, and do their best in school and in life,
- Create public art and monuments that celebrate diversity, democracy, and freedom,
- Promote transit to trails and transportation justice for the working poor,
- Engage, educate, and empower people to create the kind of community where they want to live and raise children.

This vision promotes environmental quality, human health and economic vitality *for all*, and reflects the diverse cultural urban landscape.

The Need for The City Project’s Work

If you are poor, and especially if you are a child of color, you face a significantly greater struggle to access parks and schoolyards. Children of color and their families disproportionately live in communities of concentrated poverty without places for physical activity, with few cars or an adequate transit system to reach parks and schools. They lack access to healthy food, and disproportionately suffer from obesity and diabetes. There are many opportunities to make our city, our region, our country a better place.

Priorities for 2010 and Beyond ~ Our Projects

The City Project has identified critical needs in the most underserved communities. Much remains to be done to achieve our vision for a “green urban movement.” Our priorities include:

- Economic stimulus, green space and public work projects to get the nation working by building healthy, livable communities for all;
- Enforcing physical education laws in public schools;
- Keeping public land open for all, including saving California’s endangered state parks, and keeping beaches and campgrounds in Malibu and the Santa Monica Mountains open to the public;
- Creating places and policies for physical activity and healthy eating in parks and schools;
- Working with Native Americans to protect sacred sites and the rights of indigenous people;
- Improving parks and recreation in park poor and income poor communities throughout California;
- Greening the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers and creating great new urban parks at Ascot Hills and Griffith Park on the East Bank of the L.A. River, working with diverse allies like the Alianza de los Pueblos del Rio, and supporting the creation of the San Gabriel National Recreation Area;
- Supporting America’s Great Outdoors for All;
- Ensuring equal access to parks and recreation by implementing the “Blueprint for Change” by the Los Angeles City Controller;
- In Baldwin Hills: Working with Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles, Community Health Councils, the community, and agencies to put people, health, homes and the environment first, before oil company profits;

- Promoting Transit to Trails with Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, National Parks Service, Anahuak Youth Association, CORBA, Old Timers Foundation and others;
- Supporting public art along the L.A. River and the Heritage Parkscape with Judy Baca and SPARC, ensuring public monuments reflect the diversity of the region, state, and nation; and preserving history and green space at El Pueblo do Los Angeles Historic Monument;
- Working with the community and federal, state and local authorities to ensure Clean Water Act compliance in South Los Angeles;
- Publishing Policy Reports on green access and equity for more healthy, livable communities for all;
- Extending the lessons of Los Angeles to other cities and regions around the nation.

Our Track Record

By engaging, educating and empowering communities, The City Project is **enforcing physical education laws** in public schools in Los Angeles. We helped create the **Los Angeles State Historic Park (Cornfield)** and the **Río de Los Angeles State Park (Taylor Yard)** as part of the **Greening of the Los Angeles River**. We helped save the sacred Native American site of **Panhe and San Onofre State Beach**. We have helped save the community and Park in **Baldwin Hills**, the largest urban park designed in the U.S. in over a century. We helped define legislative standards to invest in **park poor** and **income poor** communities. We have influenced the investment of over \$20 billion for public school construction and modernization.

Our **research publications** have been timely and well-received. **Recognition and awards** have come from Hispanic Business Magazine, American Society of Landscape Architects, California Parks and Recreation Foundation, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board, City of Los Angeles, Community Partners, and Cultural Landscape Foundation. These awards recognize the vital role that The City Project is playing in underserved communities.

Strategies for Success

The City Project will use many tools to accomplish our work:

- Coalition building to bring people together to meet the needs of the community as defined by the community;
- Multidisciplinary research and analyses with academics and practitioners;
- Strategic media campaigns, including traditional and new social media;
- Policy and legal advocacy outside the courts; and
- Creatively engaging opponents to find common ground, including access to justice through the courts.

Values at Stake

The City Project addresses the values at stake in healthy parks, schools and communities for all: the simple joys of playing in the park or school field; social cohesion, or bringing people together; improved physical, psychic, and social health; youth development and improved academics; positive alternatives to gangs, crime, and drugs; economic justice including local green jobs; conservation values of climate justice, clean air, water, and land, and habitat protection; art, culture and historic preservation; spiritual values and indigenous rights in protecting the earth and its people; and sustainable regional planning. Equal justice and democracy underlie these other values.

**The City Project celebrates ten years of speaking truth to power and providing access to justice
2000-2010**

The City Project

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