Celebrating Community

2017 Annual Report

CALIFORNIA ReLEAF

President's Message

Thanks to your generous support, MUCH was accomplished on behalf of the urban forests and our California communities this year.

Your support may have taken the form of sharing expertise, speaking up to advocate for trees, financial contributions, or sweat equity getting trees in the ground and watered.

Whatever form your support took, it made a real impact on California's urban forests and communities. We believe deeply in the power of working together. Our collective action is growing greener, healthier, and stronger California communities.

Remember that we plant trees to make life healthier and better for all Californians. That includes you and me and the people who are important to us. It includes our children, parents, aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews. It includes the local soccer teams, Girl Scout troops, choirs and bands, our co-workers, our pals at the coffee shop, and our buddies at the community garden. It includes every Californian.

All Californians deserve trees and green space in their neighborhoods.

Here are some highlights of what California ReLeaf's Network and partners accomplished this year – what **we accomplished together** for our communities:

- Planted 55,000 trees and cared for 206,000
- Hosted 2,300 outreach events and reached 143,000 community members
- Secured $20 Million for the state's urban forest program
- Nurtured new partnerships with the tree care industry, landscape architects, Pacific Gas & Electric, the Every Kid in a Park program, and The Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation, because trees are woven into so many of our lives
- Connected urban forestry jobs to community resiliency with training opportunities
- Shared expertise, experiences, and excitement with many urban forest colleagues at our August 2016 Power of Trees Conference in LA and our May 2017 ReLeaf Network Retreat in Oakland
- Celebrated the new requirement for two green infrastructure components in the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities grant guidelines, and
- Advocated for substantial revision to the Urban Forestry Act which includes:
  - -Setting tree canopy targets for communities,
  - -Advance payments to NGOs working with low-income communities,
  - -Focusing more attention on maintenance in the face of climate change and invasive pests.

It was a busy and fulfilling year for all of us. **Thank you for your tremendous support, engagement, and positive energy!**

With every good wish for an even better 2018,

Haydi Boething Danielson
California ReLeaf, Board President

CALIFORNIA ReLEAF

Empowering grassroots efforts & building strategic partnerships that preserve, protect & enhance California's urban & community forests

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Building Knowledge

California ReLeaf worked with Network members and other partners through The Power of Trees Conference and Network Retreats to provide education on job pathways in tree care careers, optimizing a nonprofit's use of social media, and racial justice.

Educating Youth about Green Industry Careers

After long hours and hard work with partners, Merritt College in Oakland will roll out an Arboriculture program in Fall 2018. With local tree care companies, the Tree Care Industry Association, Merritt College, and California ReLeaf worked on developing a curriculum for community colleges to use throughout California to educate youth and provide professional development in the field.

Creating an Informed, Resilient Network

The California ReLeaf Network member organizations had two opportunities to gather and learn this fiscal year. In August, the 2016 Network Retreat preceded The Power of Trees Conference at the historic Pico House in the heart of Los Angeles. The group tackled timely topics such as racial justice, local advocacy, and green jobs as well as emerging pests and diseases.

In May 2017, the Network met at the Lake Merritt Sailboat House in Oakland. The goal of this Retreat was to build resilience within the grassroots community groups to better sustain themselves in the face of challenges such as drought, invasive pests, and increasing pressures on urban trees.

Celebrating Arbor Week

California Arbor Week was widely celebrated thanks to the support of Pacific Gas & Electric and the US Forest Service ***Every Kid in a Park*** initiative.

The primary goal of the Arbor Week celebration is community education. The 2017 program engaged 20 communities across the state with 49 Arbor Day Celebration events. PG&E provided educational information on ***Call 811 Before You Dig*** and ***Right Tree Right Place, Plan Before you Plant***.

Artwork by Kimberly Lum, California Arbor Week 2017 Poster Contest 5th Grade Winner

"The California ReLeaf Network Retreat left me feeling inspired and determined to continue pursuing urban forestry in my hometown. It was truly wonderful to learn from the challenges, experiences, and accomplishments of other urban forest organizations. The California ReLeaf Network is a powerful resource and community."

— Rachel O'Leary of City Plants

Building Alliances

Thanks to the support of our environmental justice partners, state grant funding, and the Network, California ReLeaf built social relationships with new community groups and provided grants to social justice groups throughout the state, working in environmentally disadvantaged communities with organizations such as Fathers and Families of San Joaquin and Growing Together.

Turning an Empty Lot into a Community Garden

Last year, Fathers and Families of San Joaquin (FFSJ) received a Planting with Purpose grant to build a community garden and start a small tree nursery to provide trees to residents.

The location of the new garden is significant to the community because of its history in representing community struggle. Dolores Huerta, a United Farm Workers leader, was raised on a lot neighboring the location of the new garden. She fought for laborers' rights in the Central Valley long before the current environmental justice movement.

Now that FFSJ has purchased the property, the community has a lot to look forward to in the new space. The community garden will be used to integrate holistic health, healing, and transformation within the community while also keeping the area's cultural history intact. The garden will provide organic produce for community members, environmental education benefits, and a healing space for victims of assault.

FFSJ Arbor Week Celebration in Stockton

Tree Planting Event at Hoover Elementary School in Oakland

Turning Asphalt into Trees

The Social Equity Tree Planting Program allows California ReLeaf and its partners to educate and support disadvantaged communities. In December 2016, Growing Together worked with the Oakland Zoo and five schools in disadvantaged communities to replace asphalt playground space with lush greenspace—complete with newly planted fruit and shade trees.

At Brookfield Elementary School, **Growing Together** worked alongside Urban ReLeaf and Higher Ground to remove large sections of asphalt in the schoolyard to begin a fruit orchard that will double as an outdoor classroom. They are involving students in all stages of the project, including soil remediation, tree planting, native plant installation, and tree care.

Mallika Nair, the Director of Growing Together said, "It is important to have the school's students present for tree planting so they can become directly connected to the project from the start, so that they know the trees by name and feel that the garden is their space, to play and learn."

"I have never seen such a well-coordinated and powerful coalition as that assembled by California ReLeaf. ReLeaf is effective, well-organized, and able to mobilize support of more than 100 organizations overnight."

— Howard Quan, Legislative Consultant, Office of Assembly Member Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher

Building a Better Tomorrow

Years of hard work and grassroots advocacy by our Network, our conservation colleagues, and our environmental justice allies resulted in a comprehensive urban forestry public policy platform emerging in Sacramento – one that looks to the needs of the future while also committing to California's current tree canopy.

New Leadership Voices

Two committed voices emerged from the public sector that permanently changed the urban forest landscape this year. Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher (D-San Diego) used her political leadership in the State Assembly to drive record levels of funding for urban forestry in the State Budget while also championing legislation that significantly augments the Urban Forestry Act and makes the Program permanent. At California's Strategic Growth Council, Executive Director Randall Winston and his team revised grant guidelines for the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program to require no less than two urban greening components for every project. Combined, these changes expanded the public policy optics of urban forestry as a critical component to sustainable infrastructure and healthy communities.

Same Leadership Core

Support for urban forest public policy expanded to more than 100 nonprofits that were actively committed throughout the year. From international conservation organizations to community-based groups, these champions consistently backed a broad-based agenda that included incorporating meaningful changes into the Forest Carbon Plan, the revised Scoping Plan, the Legislature's park bond, and the aforementioned public policy issues. More than any year prior, urban forestry enjoyed sustained, active support from nonprofit leaders in the health, transit, affordable housing, environmental justice, labor, and natural resource sectors. Their vision is our vision for how urban forestry will continue its essential role as a multi-faceted social, environmental, and economic driver for California.

Numbers & Financials

In the past year, your support has meant:

55,055
Trees Planted

206,041
Trees Cared For

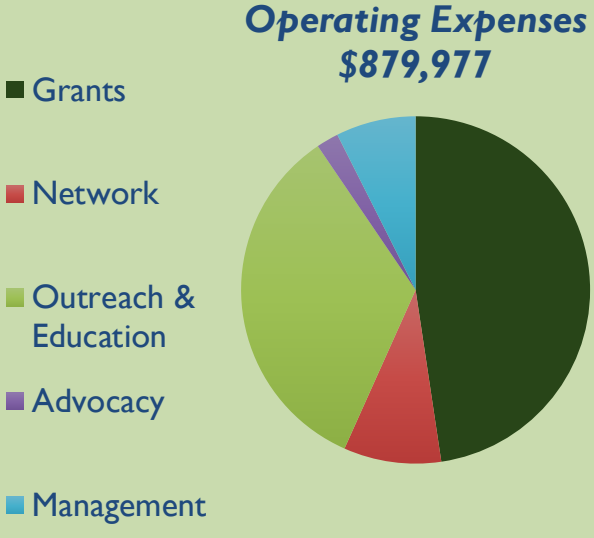
2,340
Outreach Events

142,590
Community Members Reached

36,599
Volunteers Engaged

40
Active Pass-Through Grants

A Closer Look at Financials



These financials reflect California ReLeaf's annual Independent Accountant's Review Report for July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

Extending Our Gratitude

The generous support of private and corporate donors allows us to help take the next step in expanding grassroots urban forest and community development work. Thank you for supporting greener communities!

Individual Donors

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The ReLeaf Network

Now approaching 100 groups, the ReLeaf Network speaks and acts for trees in local communities throughout California. Learn more at californiareleaf.org/network.

- A Cleaner Greener East LA
- Amigos de los Rios*
- Atascadero Native Tree Association*
- Balboa Park Conservatory
- Benicia Tree Foundation*
- Butte Environmental Council*
- California Community Forests Foundation*
- California Association of Local Conservation Corps
- California Forestry Challenge*
- California Urban Forests Council*
- Canopy*
- Carpinteria Beautiful
- Chino Basin Water Conservation District
- City of Lompoc Appearance & Beautification Commission
- City Plants
- City Trees
- Climate Change Education*
- Collective Roots
- Common Vision*
- Community Services & Employment Training, Inc. (CSET)*
- Coronado Stree Tree Committee
- Council for Watershed Health
- Fallbrook Land Conservancy*
- Fathers & Families of San Joaquin*
- Friends of Balboa Park
- Friends of Carmel Forest*
- Friends of the Palo Alto Parks
- Friends of the Urban Forest*
- Full Circle Farm
- Greater Valley Conservation Corps
- Greenspace — The Cambria Land Trust
- Growing Together*
- Huntington Beach Tree Society*
- Industrial District Green*
- Inland Urban Forest Council
- Just One Tree*
- Keep Eureka Beautiful*
- Koreatown Youth & Community Center*
- Los Angeles Beautification Team*
- Los Angeles Community Forest Advisory Committee
- Los Angeles Community Garden Council
- Los Angeles Conservation Corps
- Magic*
- Markham Regional Arboretum Society*
- Mendocino County ReLeaf
- Mountain View Trees
- Mountains Restoration Trust
- North East Trees*
- Ojai Trees
- Ojai Valley Land Conservancy
- Orange County Great Park
- Our City Forest*
- People and Trees*
- Petaluma City Tree Advisory Committee
- Professional Tree Care Association of San Diego
- PUENTES*
- Richmond Trees
- Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District*
- Roseville Urban Forest Foundation*
- Sacramento Tree Foundation*
- San Diego Community Forest Project Advisory Board
- San Francisco Estuary Institute*
- San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden
- Santa Barbara Beautiful, Inc.*
- Sempervirens Fund
- Shadetree Partnership, Inc.
- Solano Advocates Green Environments (SAGE)
- Sonoma Ecology Center*
- South San Francisco Beautification Committee
- Southern California Mountains Foundation
- Stewards of the Coast & Redwoods
- Street Tree Seminar, Inc.
- Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates*
- The Incredible Edible Community Garden*
- Tree Foundation of Kern*
- Tree Fresno*
- Tree Guild of Arroyo Grande
- Tree Lindsay
- Tree Lodi*
- Tree Musketeers*
- Tree Partners Foundation*
- Tree San Diego*
- TreePeople*
- Trees for Seal Beach
- University Arboretum, CSUS
- Urban Conservation Corps of the InlandEmpire
- Urban Corps of San Diego*
- Urban ReLeaf
- Urban Tree Foundation
- Victoria Avenue Forever*
- Walnut Creek Open Space
- West Hollywood Tree Preservation Society*
- Woodland Tree Foundation*
- Your Children's Trees*

**Dues-paying member between July 2016 — June 2017*

Follow us!
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