



# Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Trees and Green Careers Take Root in South L.A.**

Los Angeles – To better prepare individuals for green careers and beautify under-served neighborhoods, HACLA is teaming up with nonprofit North East Trees once again to kick off the Environmental Stewardship Program. In the next three weeks, ten youth from San Fernando Gardens public housing community will receive training in urban forestry techniques and use their skills to plant 300 trees in their community.

The Environmental Stewardship Program is an effort to reverse a long decline in greenery and improve energy conservation, storm-water retention, and civic pride while young adults apply the latest xeriscaping techniques (low-water use landscaping). They finish the program better prepared for green industry careers.

The program began in Spring 2010; Twenty-three dislocated young adults, ages 18 to 24, planted over 700 trees at Nickerson Gardens and Imperial Courts public housing communities. They received classroom training and were supervised by certified arborists.

“We believe this is a great way to provide job skills to youth and young adults while enhancing the environmental condition of our communities,” said Ken Simmons, HACLA Interim President and CEO. “Inner cities plagued with vandalism receive a boost of confidence from programs such as this one that aims to improve aesthetics while providing a productive activity to at-risk youth.”

The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Resident Opportunity for Self-Sufficiency Family and Homeownership grant.

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