



PRESS RELEASE

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LONG BEACH URBAN FARM RECIPIENT OF BOEING GRANT

**The Growing Experience Urban Farm to Serve as a Center for
Environmental Sustainability and Community Engagement**

Long Beach, December 30, 2015 – Earlier this month, the Boeing Company announced an award of \$15,000 to The Growing Experience (TGE) Urban Farm. Located at the Carmelitos Public Housing Development and operated by the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA), TGE is a 7-acre urban farm whose goal is to support a healthy community by offering affordable, fresh, locally-grown organic food.



The award will launch TGE as a center for environmental sustainability and community engagement by providing for the installation of an array of solar panels that will passively provide power for approximately 50% of the electrical energy needs for TGE's existing greenhouse aquaponics and vertical tower system.

Upon installation, the TGE is expected to serve as a demonstration site to introduce the concept of solar energy to Carmelitos public housing residents. It will also

provide community education and serve as a model to teach the mechanics behind the design and installation of solar energy systems.

The installation is expected to be unveiled during Earth Day 2016 in mid-April, and showcased in the following months, through October 2016, to help deliver educational curriculum to local community groups and students, and field trips to local schools. With Boeing's assistance, TGE is in a position to further enhance its mission of environmental sustainability and local food system creation.

Sean Rogan, HACoLA Executive Director, said, "The Growing Experience has worked hard to showcase environmental sustainability and serve as a replicable model for the greater Los Angeles region. Boeing's award is a testament to the vision and dedication of TGE to meet its mission."

TGE's 7-acre urban farm is the only known program operating a facility of its size



at a public housing community in an urban setting, complete with a sustainable farm, community-supported agriculture program, job/skills training, and educational components. Its partnership with Boeing spans over three years, and is the site of Boeing's Annual

Volunteer Day, where volunteers of all ages work alongside staff from TGE to help with the greenhouse's vertical plant towers, community food forest, and community garden maintenance.

For more information about TGE, please visit www.growingexperiencelb.org, or call Jimmy Ng at (562) 984-2917. Members of the media may contact Elisa Vásquez, Public Information Officer, at (626) 586-1762.

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