

[AARP Grant Details](#)

Project Summary:

Please provide a summary of your project in 2,000 characters or less.

The City of San Leandro proposes a design charrette for a community garden and outdoor education lab space at Bancroft Middle School adjacent to San Leandro Creek. Numerous community organizations are interested in establishing this public space for gardening, education, and nature, including the San Leandro Unified School District (SLUSD); Friends of the San Leandro Creek (FSLC); Sogorea Te Land Trust (STLT), a local Native American land rematriation group; and the David R. Brower- Ronald V. Dellums Institute for Sustainable Policy Studies and Action (BDISPSA). The site is part of the 'San Leandro Creek Greenway' (coursing through the cities of San Leandro and Oakland) and will provide an opportunity to connect the two cities while increasing active transportation and public access.

Teachers at Bancroft have long led science classes through this space and down an unpaved path to access the creek. Having an outdoor education lab will improve accessibility and hands-on experiences for students and community members to engage in watershed ecology, gardening, and indigenous history. This lab will create a spacelab for FSLC and STLT to hold educational public tours for residents. As a community garden, this site will open up greater access to urban agriculture and local food production.

Historically, teachers and students interested in utilizing the space for garden education were unable to connect with other community groups to move the project forward. With the help of the AARP grant, this collaboration of partners can ensure that everyone who wants to participate will have a voice in the design charrette on garden components and benefits.

Project Livability Improvement Statement:

Please specify in 350 characters or less the social impact this grant will bring to the community, especially to individuals aged 50-plus.

With this design charrette, the project team will engage students, residents, elders, and community groups on the creation of a public space for gardening, education, and exploring the San Leandro Creek ecosystem. Current access is limited by private property rights, steep terrain and stairway-only access. Site plans will be fully ADA-compliant.

Project Deliverables:

Please specify the individual deliverables. Provide as much detail as you can about any physical structures (such as benches, lighting, signage, etc.), dates, addresses and communications within 300 characters for each deliverable. See examples in Attachment D.

1. The project team will hold a design charrette for the community garden space and outdoor education lab by the San Leandro Creek at Bancroft Middle School during November 2020.
2. During this event, participants will break into intergenerational teams to develop design ideas for the garden and education lab space, and integrate benefits for all community partners.
3. The event will be virtual and be completed by December 18, 2020.
4. All promotional materials (such as newsletters, press releases) will include a statement about funding support from AARP.
5. Event signage will include AARP branding and language.
6. The project team will send an After-Action Report with visuals (photos and/or video) to AARP national office by January 31, 2021.

Please complete each section with 2,000 characters or fewer (excluding Question 27)

21. Livable Communities Activities. Please provide a brief summary of the ongoing efforts to make this community more livable for all ages and share how the Community Challenge project will support that effort and have a lasting impact.

The long term goal of this project is to build a community garden and outdoor education lab at Bancroft Middle School, which is adjacent to San Leandro Creek. This public space will benefit students with safe access to the creek, demonstrate growing food, native plant selection and learn about watershed ecosystems and local indigenous history. Having a space for hands-on activities such as planting, creek sampling, and food harvesting is paramount to re-establishing a connection to nature and the outdoors. Bancroft Middle, Washington Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, and San Leandro High schools are all within walking distance to this site, enabling student projects and lessons. Several partners have ongoing projects with STLT, and the education lab will enhance the public's awareness of local Ohlone culture and history. The garden itself can highlight native plant species that were traditional foods for the Ohlone people. In addition to student groups, the garden and education space will be accessible to members of the public interested in learning about the Ohlone and the creek. FSLC can use this as a site for ongoing naturalist education. Public access is an integral part of the CalTrans-funded San Leandro Creek Master Plan and this garden space is one location along the San Leandro Creek Greenway connecting the cities of San Leandro and Oakland, enhancing pedestrian and biking mobility. Phase 1, the first mile of the Greenway, is funded by the California Natural Resources Agency and will be completed in 2021. Adjacent to the Bancroft parcel is a multi-use crosswalk at Bancroft/Haas Avenues, that supports greater accessibility and active transportation.

22. Community engagement. Please describe how residents and local organizations have been engaged in the area's livable communities activities to date. How will you engage the community and involve older adults in the process as you execute this grant?

SLUSD is currently the property owner of the parcel where the garden and outdoor lab would be. Many Bancroft Middle teachers have expressed interest in using the space for community gardening and ecosystem education. Science teachers have brought classes down to the creek

before, but an outdoor lab and formal path would facilitate safe access and reduce travel time. Both teachers and students will be involved as key design charrette participants and the event will be held at the middle school to encourage more participation.

StopWaste, a local waste reduction agency, has been working with teachers and student clubs on composting programs and carbon drawdown strategies such as biochar. On this project, StopWaste will be the main design charrette organizers and facilitators.

FSLC has convened many residential groups for tours and presentations about the creek and has connected regional partners for the creation of the greenway. Both FSLC and the City have robust relationships with the Senior Community Center and homeowner associations that can be leveraged for the charrette. Elders will be an integral part of the intergenerational design teams in the charrette to ensure that youth are engaging with elders in each space. In addition, the City Senior Commission, Human Services Commission and Youth Advisory Commission will be activated in the promotion of the design charrette.

STLT is active in the region doing land restoration and creation of cultural spaces, including along the San Leandro greenway that this garden parcel is a part of. Their input in the design charrette will provide a unique perspective on integrating indigenous history and culture.

BDISPSA has been a lead consultant for Phase 1 of the San Leandro Creek Greenway. Many of the staff and volunteers are ages 50-70+ (as are FSLC's leadership and board members).

Role of Volunteers. Please describe how residents and local organizations have been engaged in the area's livable communities activities to date. How will you engage the community and involve older adults in the process as you execute this grant?

a. Do you anticipate volunteers age 50 and older playing a role in the implementation of the Community Challenge project?

Yes ☒ X

No

b. Please describe the role that volunteers (particularly those 50+) will play in implementing the Community Challenge project.

Volunteers will be needed for outreach and promotion about the design charrette. Community members will be encouraged to bring out their friends and family members. This is integral to making the design charrette participation representative of the entire San Leandro and East Oakland community. The elders from the Oakland Phase 1 portion will engage Oakland High School student ambassadors and residents to help plan, conduct, share and analyze the design charrette. Since it is a low income community, all will be compensated with stipends.

Intergenerational design teams with elders and youth partnered together will help with better cross-pollination of ideas and values. The emeritus Chair of the Merritt College Environmental Management and Technology Program will lead younger volunteers to reach out to former students who live along San Leandro Creek near the proposed outdoor education site. Millennials will help with putting information about the project online.

One benefit will be a discussion of providing safe vegetation along the creek corridor has been a contentious issue between those agencies responsible for large over-mature trees which are hazards to the residents and those residents who appreciate the forested views. Safer, ecologically helpful native trees can be planted in place of the Eucalyptus to create a win-win scenario. Elders will also be recruited to promote native planting along the creek in the future.

Metrics. Fill in the table with the estimated metrics you will be able to capture over the course of this grant activity and beyond, and include goals for each metric. For example: number of people served, number of certifications issued, structures achieving ADA-compliance, etc.

1. Number of participants: 50
2. Number of community partners engaged: 5
3. Number of designs created: *One large integrated design with garden, teaching, trial, storage, safety signage, furniture, indoor space elements*
4. Diversity of participants
5. ADA compliance will be accommodated by use of a service entrance at the site; all others will walk or bicycle in (in order to minimize auto traffic in a residential neighborhood).

Matching Funds and In-Kind Support. Matching funds are not required. However, please detail any matching funds or in-kind support the organization will receive to contribute toward this project.

- City - general outreach/publicity to stakeholders, report writing, and materials printing
- StopWaste - day-of charrette facilitation, San Leandro student coordination
- San Leandro School District - site host and teacher coordination
- Sogorea Te Land Trust - charrette participants
- BDISPA - support in charrette design
- Friends of the San Leandro Creek - photography/videography

Project Budget. Please specify what expenses will be covered by the grant. Itemize anticipated expenses and income (if any) for this proposal. Include in-kind services, such as donated materials and/or labor. Add explanations if necessary

- *Stipends for low income volunteers from Oakland and STLT \$5,000*
- *Graphic materials (50% donated by East Bay Depot for Re-use) \$100*
- *Volunteer Coordinators for San Leandro and Oakland students \$2,500*
- *Final report graphics \$500*
- *Event food \$500*
- *Promotion costs for social media push \$100*
- *Printing for flyers and design results booklet (in-kind from City)*
- *Videographer (in-kind from Friends of San Leandro Creek senior couple?)*

How will you use AARP branding?

We will include the AARP logo into all of the event promotional materials.