

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
Urban Grant Program Committee
33 Las Colinas Ln, San Jose, CA 95119

June 24, 2020

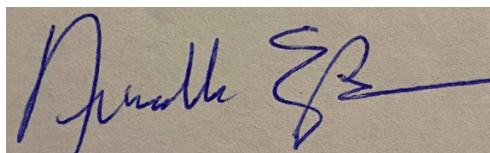
Dear OSA Grant Committee Members:

As Deputy Director, Capital Programs for San Jose's Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) Department, I am happy to write this letter of support for CommUniverCity SJSU's Urban Grant Program proposal, Growing Sustainably. PRNS has been a longtime partner of CommUniverCity, collaborating on park cleanups, big events and park activation activities in partnership with local residents, SJSU students, and CommUniverCity staff. We are thrilled that the Growing Sustainably work plan includes fieldtrips to our own Kelley Park and look forward to working with CommUniverCity to plan the trip details.

Below I provide details on our previous projects with CommUniverCity to illustrate the ways in which their work supports the grant goals of expanding public access to natural spaces and providing quality environmental education to schoolchildren living in low-income neighborhoods.

For the past two years, CommUniverCity has led a project with SJSU students called Spartans Serve. In 2018, the program introduced 95 incoming Freshmen to their community through a park clean up at Olinder Park. The cleanup was co-hosted by CommUniverCity and our own PRNS staff. Another longstanding park activation event co-organized by CommUniverCity with resident leaders is the South University Neighborhood Spring Festival at O'Donnell Garden Park, an Earth Day centered event with environmental education activities for the whole family. All these events support PRNS' mission of building community through fun, and activating quality places in San José where people want to live, work, play, and learn.

Sincerely,



Nicolle Burnham, Deputy Director, Capital Programs