

June 25, 2020

Board of Directors, Open Space Authority of Santa Clara Valley  
33 Las Colinas Lane  
San Jose, CA 95119

Dear Members of the Board of Directors,

As the Councilmember for District 3 in San José, I support CommUniverCity's proposal to the Open Space Authority for the Urban Grant Program. My office has frequently partnered with CommUniverCity on community engagement and education programs like Growing Sustainably and their Sustainability Fair which have become staple programs in our neighborhoods.

This Urban Grant would allow CommUniverCity to incorporate 3 programs into our communities designed to promote environmental stewardship, gardening knowledge and skills, and healthy eating among low-income children and their families in San Jose. These activities would include a comprehensive garden education program for 600 3rd to 8th grade students, interdisciplinary environmental science lessons and a family centered hands on garden with environmental education kits for 90 households containing learning activities aligned with grade level appropriate standards in English-Language Arts, Math, and Science.

Growing Sustainably will help raise environmental appreciation and create a self-sustaining food system in our low-income communities. Over 1,200 school-age students and 90 families will learn about urban agriculture, environmental science, and nutrition through hands-on learning. Families will be provided the opportunity to garden at their schools, homes and also experience a local urban farm at San Jose's Kelley Park.

CommUniverCity provides a unique model which immerses itself in our neighborhood associations, schools, and events to understand the needs of the community and reach those in our underserved communities. This program is important to our community because it will expose families to open spaces and will educate them on how to implement healthy habits at home. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Raul Peralez  
Councilmember, District 3  
City of San José