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[Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority](#)

2020 Urban Grant Program

Deadline: [7/1/2020](#)

Smart Yards Education

Bringing Nature's Wisdom to Urban Residents Through Permaculture Training

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\$ 249,485.00 Requested

Submitted: [7/1/2020 4:35:04 PM \(Pacific\)](#)

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Project Description [top](#)

Applicant Type

1. What type of organization is this?

- Public Agency
- School or School District
- 501(c)3 Nonprofit
- Eligible organization acting as Fiscal Sponsor for another organization

2. Does the application include a fiscal sponsor?

If the project includes a fiscal sponsor, the fiscal sponsor must be the applicant.

- YES
- NO

Overview

3. Which type of grant are you requesting?

- Small (\$10,000 - \$39,999)
- Large (\$40,000 - \$250,000)

4. Grant category (check all that apply)

- Environmental Stewardship and Restoration
- Parks, Trails, and Public Access
- Environmental Education
- Urban Agriculture / Food Systems

5. Type of project (check all that apply)

- Capital improvement (Large projects only)
- Planning
- Program

6. Project Location: Address / Neighborhood

What is the physical location of the project? If there is no physical location, please enter "N/A." If the project will be in multiple locations, please list all. Note: project location(s) must be within the Authority's jurisdiction.

The grant will fund an estimated 48 small projects at residential sites throughout San Jose, including some in the Deep Engagement areas. Each of these projects — such as lawn replacement, rain gardens, permeable pavers, gray water systems, etc — will be completed at different homes as part of the grant funded, hands-on training of low-income program participants. During the community outreach phase of our project, we will identify the home sites and secure written permission from the owners for our trainees to perform the installations — as well as to include their homes in a photographic "virtual tour" of these installations that will serve as an online educational asset for the whole community. However, until we are funded we cannot do the community outreach to identify these sites. An example of the homeowner agreement can be provided on request.

7. Project Location: Open Space Authority District (check all that apply)

A detailed map of the Authority Districts can be found under the Library tab, or online at <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/public-information/board-of-directors.html>.

- Authority District 1
- Authority District 2
- Authority District 3
- Authority District 4
- Authority District 5
- Authority District 6
- Authority District 7

8. Who does the project serve? Please indicate which Open Space Authority Districts are served (check all that apply)

A detailed map of the Authority Districts can be found under the Library tab, or online at <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/public-information/board-of-directors.html>.

- Authority District 1
- Authority District 2

- ✓ Authority District 3
- ✓ Authority District 4
- ✓ Authority District 5
- ✓ Authority District 6
- ✓ Authority District 7

9. Project Abstract

(Brief, 3-4 sentences)

To connect urban residents with our natural ecology, Smart Yards Education will teach permaculture to residents of San José. With hikes in OSA's preserves, trainees will learn how native plants and animals interact with our local environment. They will then recreate these natural processes in local home gardens with hands-on training in water conservation, soil improvement and non-toxic pest management, earning a certificate in permaculture landscaping and skills to start their own businesses.

Project Planning (20 points)

10. Describe the proposed project.

To grow awareness of the value/importance in preserving our natural ecology, Smart Yards Education (SYE) will offer a series of permaculture courses to a diverse group, including low-income and Spanish-speaking urban residents of San Jose. Combining hikes in the OSA's preserves with both classroom and hands-on instruction in ecological landscaping methods and cooperative business principles, SYE will engage trainees, their family members, homeowners, and volunteers in "Bringing Nature's Wisdom to Urban Residents through Permaculture Training."

With an overall goal to connect more urban residents of Santa Clara Valley with the preserves managed by OSA, SYE's program also has two sub-goals: a) to improve the economic well-being of low-income San Jose residents by teaching them permaculture landscaping skills so they can earn more money by potentially starting their own landscaping businesses ; and b) create more home gardens in the urban area where native plants, food gardens, water management methods and other permaculture techniques re-create living models of the ecological principles found in OSA's preserves.

We will accomplish these goals by engaging trainees, homeowners, family members and volunteers in three-month classes that teach skills such as native plant selection and maintenance, composting and mulching, building water catchment swales, raingardens and roof gutter systems, permeable surfaces, drip irrigation, gray water systems, integrated pest management, food forests, pollinators and more. These skills will be taught through hands-on instruction in home gardens throughout San José, leaving a lasting legacy of exemplary models of beautiful, ecologically sound landscaping in urban neighborhoods. In addition, a business skills class will teach trainees how to start a new company, including how to develop a cooperative business model. Lastly, to support these new businesses, the SYE website will include profiles of all the graduates with permaculture certification, the skills they offer, examples of their work, and their contact information.

To accomplish these goals, we will also hire staff and instructors and purchase native plants and materials needed for the various installations in the urban gardens where our trainings will occur. For instructors, we will contract with permaculture teachers well versed in the ecology of Santa Clara Valley, the ecologically-based philosophy of permaculture and the various techniques to bring urban landscapes into harmony with their natural surroundings. We will also hire an Executive Director to manage this program and an Outreach Manager to recruit participants — communicating with them when needed in competent Spanish. Lastly, we will contract with a photographer and a webmaster who can capture the beauty and utility of the landscaping features our trainees will create and share those images — and the new skills of our program graduates — with the broader community.

11. Describe key project deliverables and estimated completion dates.

Project activities will begin on April 1, 2021 (or when the grant is finalized) and continue through July, 2022. Here is our planned timeline:

Hiring staff —

April 1, 2021 - April 15: Executive Director begins process hiring for Outreach Manager.

April 1 - May 15: Executive Director begins hiring process for contract Instructors for the permaculture and cooperative business courses.

Community Outreach —

April 15 through June 2022: Outreach Manager begins community outreach to recruit participants in the permaculture training courses and the residents whose homes will serve as training sites. This effort will include at least 14 monthly outreach events, geared to educate potential trainees and homeowners about the benefits of ecological landscaping and its potential as a satisfying and economically viable career.

April 15 - May 1: SYE staff work with contract Graphic Designer to create electronic (and paper) flyers for distribution to community organizations and media outlets to publicize the permaculture courses and opportunities for home garden "makeovers."

Purchasing Materials —

April 15 through May 2022: Executive Director begins arranging for purchase of materials to be used in upcoming 12-week permaculture course (and subsequent reiterations of this course in the year ahead).

Home Training Sites Identified and Installations Planned —

April 30 - May 2022: Executive Director and Program Coordinator finalize homes to be used as training sites and plan permaculture installation(s) at each location.

Permaculture Classes Begin — May 31, 2021 - June, 2022

May 31: First permaculture course begins this week, ending 12 weeks later on Aug. 21 with a graduation celebration planned by Outreach Manager.

Aug. 23: Second 12-week permaculture course begins, ends with Nov. 13 graduation.

Jan. 3, 2022: Third 12-week permaculture course begins, ends with March 25 graduation.

March 28: Fourth 12-week permaculture course begins, ends with June 17 graduation.

Cooperative Business Classes Begin — Nov. 15, 2021 - July 23, 2022

Nov. 15: First 5-week cooperative business course begins, ends with Dec. 18 graduation.

June 20: Second 5-week cooperative business course begins, ends with July 23 graduation.

Program Completed —

Aug. 15, 2022: Final report submitted to OSA.

12. Does this project require permission, permits, or other approvals? If so, please describe the status of these.

During each one of our training sessions, we will install native plants and various aspects of permaculture design, such as permeable surfaces, "rain gardens" or "food forests" in the home garden of a San José resident. Our trainings will happen at a different address each week in a 12-week course, and we will of course need to have permission from the homeowner at each site. However, until we have completed our community outreach process, we will not be able to identify the sites nor their owners. We have developed a permission form that our Outreach Manager will use to secure this written approval, and this will be an early task for this SYE staff member to complete once s/he is hired. (See attached Site Control section of this application).

We also have received permission to use classroom space at Sacred Heart Community Services on an in-kind basis (see attached Partnership Letter), pending final agreement on the dates and timing of our scheduled classes which will be finalized in spring 2021 if we receive program funding.

13. What is the lifetime of this project? If applicable, describe plans for operating and maintaining the project in the future.

The work of this project will occur between March 2021 and August 2022. During this time, we will offer four 12-week permaculture courses and two 5-week courses in cooperative business management. While the grant program's initial activities will take place during this 18-month period, the lasting impact of this work will endure for many years, as described under item 21, "Impact."

The native plants and permaculture features our trainees will install in home gardens are "designed" by nature to be low maintenance, requiring little water and fitting in harmoniously with natural weather conditions such as rain and drought. Our trainees will be taught how to maintain these landscapes without use of gasoline-powered equipment or chemical pesticides and fertilizers, and that information will be shared with the homeowners who will be invited to participate in the installation process at their homes.

Because such educational efforts are a core part of the mission of Smart Yards Education, we will continue to seek other grants to carry on this program, including funds from private and corporate foundations, successful graduates and other individuals.

14. Describe the project's readiness for implementation.

Founded in 2017, Smart Yards Education (SYE) is a relatively new non-profit organization. We emerged out of a for-profit ecological landscaping cooperative, Smart Yards Co-op, which led our board members to see that there is a significant market locally for lawn conversion and natural landscaping — and a concomitant lack of skilled landscaping services to help homeowners create such gardens. Out of this related opportunity and need, Smart Yards Education developed its mission to offer training in ecological landscaping. This grant and our related application for a "small" OSA planning grant is the product of careful thought among SYE board members with considerable expertise in the fields needed to accomplish the project goals. (See item #15 re: Organizational Capacity).

The planning grant requests funding needed to make this larger grant "ready to go":

- Funds to hire an Executive Director and Program Director
- Curriculum development
- Purchase of two computers and software for this new staff
- Purchase of landscaping tools to be used by program trainees
- Purchase of classroom training tools (electronic projector, etc.)
- Direct costs (office space rental, publicity materials)
- Initial indirect costs (insurance, office supplies, payroll service)

If we are awarded this initial "small" planning grant, we can roll forward immediately with the plans for this full-scale program grant.

Project Budget (15 points)

15. Budget Summary - Grant Request

This is a budget summary only; a detailed Project Budget must be submitted using the Documents Upload tab. Please enter dollar amount. Note: after the application is submitted, the software will automatically add a TOTAL.

131,070	Grant request: Personnel
45,300	Grant request: Contracted Services
66,900	Grant request: Supplies / Materials
0	Grant request: Other Direct Costs

6,215	Grant request: Indirect Costs
249,485.00	TOTAL

16. Budget Summary - Matching Funds

This is a budget summary only; a detailed Project Budget must be submitted using the Documents Upload tab. Please enter dollar amount. Note: after the application is submitted, the software will automatically add a TOTAL.

99,218	Total Matching Funds
99,218.00	TOTAL

17. Budget Narrative

Provide a brief budget narrative to explain the expenses listed in each of the budget categories (e.g. Personnel).

Personnel

- Executive Director, .625 FTE, w/health care & other benefits @20% of salary, 71 wks April 2021-Aug. 2022 = \$74,550
- Community Outreach Manager, .5 FTE, w/health care & other benefits @20% of salary, 62 wks, April 2021-June 2022 = \$40,920
- Program Coordinator, .2 FTE, no health care benefits, 65 wks, April 2021-July 2022 = \$15,600

Contracted Services

- Permaculture Landscaping Instructor, 4 courses, 12 wks each, 10 hrs/wk = \$28,800
- Cooperative Business Instructor, 2 courses, 5 wks each, 10 hrs/wk = \$6,000
- Catering, Labor & food for 8 field study events, 20 people + 6 graduation events, 50 people = \$9,000
- Graphic Designer, create flyers for outreach & publicity, 50 hrs from April 2021-June 2022 = \$1,500
- Photographer, take photos at training events, field study trips & graduations + photos of graduates for website; volunteer basis at approx. 62 events = \$3,714 in-kind services
- Web Designer, create website w/course graduates, 6 courses, 12 hrs/course = \$2,156 in-kind services
- Webmaster, update website w/events; volunteer basis, 15 mos, 3 hrs/mo = \$1,348 in-kind services

Supplies/Materials

- Native Plants for 48 home training sites, @\$650 each; homeowners to pay = \$31,200
- Landscaping Materials, Compost, gravel, rocks, PVC pipes, other materials, 48 home training sites averaging \$1,350/site = \$64,800
- Copying, Educational materials, 60 trainees @\$10 during 4 permaculture courses = \$600
- Copying, Educational materials, 40 trainees @\$25 during 2 business courses = \$1,000
- Copying, publicity flyers for outreach, 6 courses @\$50 each = \$300
- Printing, 100 graduation certificates @\$2 ea = \$200

Other Direct Costs

- Classroom space rental for 4 landscape courses, 2hrs/wk for 12 wks each; in-kind from Sacred Heart Community Service @\$50/hr = \$4,800 in-kind services
- Classroom space rental for 2 business courses, 6hrs/wk for 5 wks each; in-kind from Sacred Heart Community Service @\$50/hr = \$3,000 in-kind services

Indirect Costs

- Printing, business cards, letterhead, etc. = \$140 est.
- Bookkeeper, \$150/month for 15 mos = \$2,250
- Website hosting = \$125 annual fee
- Office supplies = \$200 total for 15 mos
- Liability & Worker's Compensation Insurance, 3 employees w/some outdoor work = \$3,000
- Payroll service, online for 3 employees + contractors = annual cost \$500

Cash Income from Tuition Payments

(listed as matching cash payments from Course Participants under Personnel and Contracted Services, 2/3 attributed to staff costs and 1/3 attributed to instructor costs)

— Full cost tuition for the permaculture course is \$1,500:

30 students will pay only \$100 fee = \$3,000

16 students will pay half tuition = \$12,000

14 students will pay full tuition = \$21,000

— Full cost tuition for the business management course is \$1,000:

20 students will pay only \$100 fee = \$2,000

10 students will pay half tuition = \$5,000

10 students will pay full tuition = \$10,000

Project Goals (15 points)

18. Describe the specific problems, issues, or unserved needs the project will address.

This project addresses six issues facing the Santa Clara Valley residents served by OSA:

1) Loss of connection to nature. In high-tech Silicon Valley, many people are afflicted by what author Richard Luov calls "nature deficit disorder." Spending hours indoors in front of screens, people lose their connection to nature's rhythms. To overcome this, we must make conscious efforts to encourage people to visit our open spaces, and in addition, to recreate the natural ecology of our region in the spaces closest to their lives — our urban parks and home gardens.

2) Many urban "green spaces" are toxic to life. More pesticides and chemical fertilizers are applied to home gardens than are used in commercial agriculture, unleashing toxics that harm human health — and are deadly to bees and other natural pollinators. Moreover, urban lawns require more water than we have in drought-prone California, depleting underground aquifers and sucking water from the natural streams that fish need to survive.

3) Too few landscapers practice ecological gardening. A walk around local streets shows the growing interest in drought-tolerant and ecologically-sound gardens, but few landscaping companies are competent in such methods. "Mow and blow" services provide cosmetic "beauty" at a relatively inexpensive price — but there's a hidden cost of toxic chemicals, soil depletion and health impacts for garden workers (hearing loss, asthma and lung problems from blown dust, poisoning, etc.).

4) More people want careers related to nature and the outdoors. Increasingly, young people want careers that offer work in nature. Similarly, immigrants from Latinx countries who worked on the land have skills that can be enhanced by further training in ecological methods. Both these groups often find work in agriculture and restaurants, but changing conditions (due to the COVID-19 pandemic) have eliminated many food-related urban jobs. Urban landscaping can provide a satisfying and healthy way to earn a living. Our hands-on training will provide a smooth entry into a viable lifelong career.

5) Permaculture certification can help people find work. Permaculture is a whole systems approach to ecological land use, suited to home gardens, corporate landscapes and agriculture. We will offer a standard 72-hour permaculture course, and program graduates will receive a Permaculture Design Certificate signifying their reliable skills and enabling them to charge a living wage for their services.

6) Landscaping businesses need to avoid small business "traps." Some low-paid garden workers try to form their own companies but lack capital to buy a truck, equipment or materials. They get high-interest bank loans and fall into the trap of hiring other workers at low wages. To reduce such exploitation, we will train our graduates in how to run a cooperative business, help them form new landscaping co-ops, and publicize their companies on our website, opening more paths to living wages for all.

19. How does this project serve the community?

These metrics are required for all projects. Project-specific metrics can be added under Question 20 below.

Note: after the application is submitted, the software will automatically add a TOTAL that will not be used.

Number of people served

Number of youth served (under 18 years)

20	Number of programs provided
674.00	TOTAL

20. In what other ways does the project serve the community? Please list the project-specific goals (both social and environmental).

Please list any additional goals and how they will be measured (e.g. surveys, field measurements, attendance sheets, etc.).

Our programs will fulfill OSA's social and environmental project categories in the following ways: a) Environmental Stewardship and Restoration — Stormwater management using raingardens, bioswales, permeable pavement, etc; b) Environmental Education — Educational outreach/recruiting events open to the public; field study at OSA preserves, job training in ecological landscaping, and hands-on native plant stewardship projects at residents' homes; and c) Urban Agriculture/Food Systems — Creating home food gardens ("food forests") in urban areas.

Through these programs, we expect to serve approximately 654 people as determined in the following ways:

Fourteen monthly public outreach events at churches, neighborhood meetings, libraries, other community settings, with at least 10 attendees each, as measured by attendance records: $14 \times 10 = 140$

Four 12-week permaculture courses with 15 people enrolled in each, as measured by attendance records: $4 \times 15 = 60$

Average additional attendees (1.5 spouses, children, roommates of 15 class members) at 3 field trips during 4 courses to OSA preserves, as measured by attendance records: $1.5 \times 15 \times 12 = 270$

Four courses, serving 12 homes with native plant and water-conserving installations, with three people (on average, eg. spouses, children, roommates) in each home: $4 \times 12 \times 3 = 144$

Two 5-week cooperative business courses with 20 people enrolled in each, as measured by attendance records: $2 \times 20 = 40$

Total = 654 people

Impact (15 points)

21. Describe the lasting impact of the project.

This project will have three enduring streams. One outcome of offering four permaculture courses and two in cooperative business management will be a corps of well-trained and highly skilled ecological landscapers ready to serve Santa Clara Valley — and doing so through their own business ventures. SYE's webmaster will post graduates' pictures, brief biographies, and contact information, updating it as needed. This will be an on-going support to graduates in finding new clients for their businesses. We expect this to be a long-lasting contribution to the economic vitality of these individuals and their families. Over time, we hope that our trainees will hire more people to work with them, transforming the present workforce of "mow and blow" garden workers into a profession of permaculturalists who conserve water and care for the soil, plants, animals, and insects with a deep understanding of their interconnections and rootedness in this local region.

The second outcome will be the 48 home gardens enhanced by the installation of native plants and permaculture features. We envision these gardens as the seeds of an expanding urban landscape, based upon permaculture principles and in harmony with the natural conditions of our area. Located throughout San José, including in some of the Deep Engagement neighborhoods identified by OSA, these homes will be

maintained by their owners — and we hope that some will decide to hire our program graduates to assist them! These gardens will be a lasting legacy of beauty and water-smart landscaping for their neighborhoods, as well as a source of fresh, home-grown foods for their owners.

Third, during each 12-week course, our classes will make three visits to OSA preserves. We will invite the class members and homeowners to bring their families along on these preserve visits, to engage their support and interest in the work of our trainees and acquaint even more people with an appreciation for nature. In this way, the project will involve a broader group in learning about the fine-tuned balance of nature as they spend time in our local wildlands. This too should leave a lasting impression on all who attend, building a cadre of urban environmental champions and open space advocates.

Community Engagement / Stakeholder Support (10 points)

22. Describe the community support and/or community engagement process.

Please submit letters using the Documents Upload tab.

All of our outreach activities will be enhanced through supportive relationships with Sacred Heart Community Services and its La Mesa Verde program, and with faith-based organizations such as Stone Church and the Catholic Diocese of San José (see letters). We will also ask our Outreach Manager to create relationships with organizations such as Our City Forest, Master Gardeners, San Jose Parks Foundation and Veggielution, adding them to a master list of community organizations that we will develop. We will also meet with neighborhood organizations throughout San Jose, and give presentations at City libraries and community centers.

We will prepare news releases and Public Service Announcements (PSAs) for radio stations aimed at younger audiences such as KFJC (Foothill College), KZSU (Stanford), KSCU (Santa Clara University) and KSJS (San Jose State) along with well-known local stations like KKUP, KSJO, KRTY, KEZR, and KLIV. We will also write PSAs for Spanish-language stations like KSOL, KBRG, KSJX, and KVVJ as well as press releases for the El Observador newspaper. To address the large Vietnamese population in San Jose, we will also identify radio stations and written media using that language and find ways to translate our messages into Vietnamese.

Lastly, we will seek publicity help from elected officials in the San José area who have constituent newsletters, including Assemblymember Ash Kalra, Councilmember Raul Perez, and others familiar with our board and staff

Leadership & Innovation (10 points)

23. Describe how this project employs innovative approaches or encourages collaboration and partnerships.

If there are project partners, please upload partner letters on the Documents Upload tab.

Our first innovation will entail beginning each course with field training in OSA's preserves to learn about ecological principles such as sunlight, water, soil types, plant and animal habitats, decomposers, pollinators, patterns of wind and rain, and other ecological conditions. During a 12-week course, at least three visits to different preserves will demonstrate the diversity of life in OSA lands. With a solid grounding in how the natural world functions in this region, trainees will be better suited to create urban gardens that emulate this native habitat. OSA will be a significant partner in this part of our trainings.

Another innovation will include training in how to create and run a cooperative business. New gardening businesses typically use a sole proprietor or partnership model. However, many such companies fail because they lack capital and end up in debt to banks, or they have high employee turnover because of low wages or lack of health care. Co-ops avoid these traps because everyone is an owner and shares the costs and benefits of the business. With more owners working together, more resources can be gathered from personal sources, family and friends. The business can thus be more resilient to economic stress.

Increasingly, the cooperative model is seen as a good one for small businesses, and the City of Santa Clara recently funded support for development of co-ops in their city. SYE's board member Rob Yanagida, an expert on co-ops, will advise our program.

Organizational Capacity (15 points)

24. Briefly describe the organization and its ability to successfully implement this project. This might include successful past projects, key staff qualifications, financial resources, etc.

If the applicant is a Fiscal Sponsor, please describe both the Fiscal Sponsor and the sponsored organization. As noted in items # 13 above, SYE is a relatively new organization, but we have considerable experience and expertise among our Board of Directors and are confident of our ability to successfully implement this project.

Here are some brief biographies of our board:

— Dr. Liliana Castañeda Rossmann, Ph.D.: SYE Board President; retired professor of Communications at Cal State University San Marcos, member of MACSA Board and San José Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force among other organizations; a native Spanish-speaker.

— Bill Ribble, MBA: SYE Treasurer. Retired business leader, serving as CEO and Director of several Silicon Valley start-ups; former fighter pilot and Chair of South Valley YMCA; currently volunteer Elder at Stone Church and with Rebuilding Together, among other community projects.

— Rob Yanagida, J.D. & MBA: SYE Secretary; attorney specializing in cooperative business law; board member at Silicon Valley Independent Living Center and National Lawyers Guild; founder of Asian Americans for Equality

— Ahmed Alhafidh, BS : Patent Agent & Owner, Intellent Patents, LLC; volunteer webmaster; expert in aquaponics; experience in program development, strategic planning, community outreach and training

— Debbie Mytels, BA: Retired as Associate Director at Acterra, a non-profit where she initiated a leadership training course, started a "green gardener" project, and trained over 500 volunteers in a home energy-saving program; currently chair of Peninsula Interfaith Climate Action; a volunteer outdoor docent for MROSD; and active in many local organizations and political campaigns

— Elizabeth Sarmiento, BA: Founder of Smart Yards Coop landscaping business; created 40+ permaculture landscape projects; former board president of Human Agenda; board member of Santa Clara County League of Conservation Voters and Environmental Advisory Committee member at Valley Water District.

Along with the ability to tap into our board's expertise, Smart Yards Education has also collaborated on three successful Earth Day events for the San José community over the past three years which leveraged our community connections. Funders for these events have included Valley Water District, Human Agenda, and Assemblymember Ash Kalra (from District 27 in San José). Community partners have included Sacred Heart Community Service, Stone Church, Mariposa Gardens, and the Smart Yards Co-op — along with dozens of homeowners and neighborhood volunteers each year. (See photos from Earth Day events on the Smart Yards Co-op website: <http://www.smartyardscoop.com/education>)

BONUS POINTS: Underserved Communities (10 points)

25. Describe how the project addresses open space needs for sensitive populations such as residents of park-poor neighborhoods, underserved or disadvantaged communities, youth, seniors, persons with disabilities, or is located within a Deep Engagement Community (DEC).

This question is optional; please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A." A map of the DECs can be found by clicking on "Apply" at <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/urban>.

Another innovative aspect of our project is that, rather than holding training events in public spaces or the homes of wealthy individuals, we will hold trainings at the homes of low- and moderate-income San José residents who might not consider themselves able to pay for the work our trainees will do. While we will ask

the residents to pay for the plants and some materials, residents' cost will be considerably discounted. (See budget details.) In this way, we expect to dot diverse neighborhoods of San José — including some in the Deep Engagement areas — with updated gardens that illustrate beauty as well as permaculture principles.

We will also invite participating residents to join us for the field study visits to OSA preserves along with our trainees. We will thus expose more people to the local ecology lessons gained during these field trips, and expose them to the OSA preserves that belong to them.

In particular, because we will offer full and partial scholarships to almost 75% of our course participants, the tuition cost of \$1,500 for the 12-week permaculture course and \$1,000 for the 5-week cooperative business course should be within reach of many people of modest means.

BONUS POINTS: Community Building (10 points)

26. Describe how this project actively encourages community building by engaging or accommodating local residents in novel and creative ways.

This question is optional; please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A."

Smart Yard Education believes in wholistic landscaping processes, and that includes seeing the land where we work as part of a whole community. So we naturally want to include all the members of a household in learning about what our trainees are doing to install native plants and water-conserving installations in their gardens. After our trainings are over, these residents will need to operate installations such as gray water "laundry to landscape" systems, drip irrigation and rain gutter piping, etc., so we want them to be engaged throughout the process. We will encourage residents in whose homes we are working to invite housemates, family, children and neighbors to join in the program.

Similarly, we will invite the homeowners and the spouses, children and housemates of class members to our OSA field study events, so that they too can learn about the ecological principles evident in the natural world, and how permaculture aims to mimic those processes in urban landscapes.

In addition, we will hold graduation celebrations for each of the four permaculture courses and the two cooperative business courses, inviting all the residents, family members and other participants to come and celebrate the new graduates. This festive occasion will include food for everyone, and photos of the event will be posted on the SYE website. By encouraging broad participation and doing so over multiple occasions, we will build community among our program participants.

BONUS POINTS: Climate Resilience (5 points)

27. How does this project enhance and/or raise awareness about climate resilience?

This question is optional; please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A."

Our permaculture course will aim to raise awareness of climate resilience and our home garden installations will enhance their resiliency. The permaculture sessions will address the causes of climate change (human burning of fossil fuels), how we can curb carbon emissions, and the increasingly evident impacts of climate change (droughts, excessive storms and stormwater flooding, limited water from the Sierra snowpack, heat waves, fires, etc.). This is the background for why water conservation and other permaculture techniques are needed in today's urban landscapes. Lastly, by installing native plants and water conserving features, we will be increasing the resilience of these home landscapes, since native plants are more adapted to the low-water environment that is natural in California.

Our Outreach Manager will also include climate information during recruiting presentations and discuss how our trainees will learn to create landscapes more likely to thrive in a changing climate. Having permaculture installations in one's home garden will also be part of the recruitment "pitch" to potential homeowner participants as well, since their gardens will become more resilient in the face of global warming and its impacts.

Lastly, all the participants who join in the field study visits to OSA sites will learn about the impact of climate change in the preserves — and how native plants, animals and insects are managing to survive (or not) during the today's changing climate.

Documents Upload [top](#)

Documents Requested *

Financial Statement

Project Budget

[download template](#)

Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement

[download template](#)

Site Control Documentation

[download template](#)

CEQA Compliance Certification Form

[download template](#)

Letters of Support

Project Partner Letters

Maps and Site Plans

Photographs

Other

Required? **Attached Documents ***

✓

[Smart Yards Education Form 990 for 2019](#)

✓

[Project Budget Smart Yards Education](#)

[Smart Yards Educ.Support Letter from Stone Church](#)

[Smart Yard Ed Support Letter Catholic Diocese of San Josse](#)

[Partner Letter for SYE from Sacred Heart Comm Service](#)

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