



San Jose Garden Club

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

33 Las Colinas Lane

San Jose, CA 95119

Attention: Megan Dreger, Grants Adminis

June 8, 2020

Dear Ms. Dreger,

On behalf of the San Jose Garden Club, I am writing in strong support of Sacred Heart Community Service's proposal for the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority's Urban Grant. The grant would benefit Sacred Heart's La Mesa Verde program, which has had a tremendous impact on the community.

La Mesa Verde's program model, based on the principles of agroecology, connects individuals with organic gardening education, promotes cultural diversity and values, and fosters community engagement. Furthermore, their model invites individuals to drive the program design and movement-building efforts. Through this novel approach, they have created a strong network of allies, volunteers, and community leaders who take action towards food sovereignty in our San Jose communities.

The San Jose Garden Club has been a longtime partner of La Mesa Verde. We share their passion for gardening and facilitating learning spaces for community members to become involved in environmental efforts. Like La Mesa Verde, we invite members in our community to learn alongside seasoned gardeners. Throughout the years, members of the San Jose Garden Club have joined La Mesa Verde as garden mentors and Advisory committee members. For the last nine years, we have supported La Mesa Verde, using proceeds from our Annual Plant Fundraiser.

I fully support Sacred Heart's application to fund the La Mesa Verde program. I believe that Sacred Heart will help Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority achieve its goal of enhancing access to healthy food, through urban farms and gardens, and connecting a diverse community to green space.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at slabouff@sbcglobal.net

Sincerely,

Sharon La Bouff

Donations Committee Chair

San Jose Garden Club