



For Immediate Release

**Contact:**

Julie Beals, Executive Director  
jbeals.lacgc@gmail.com  
323-942-9676

Los Angeles Community Garden Council

## Los Angeles Community Garden Council Hosts Mayday Fundraising Event

**Los Angeles (April 11, 2016)** - On May 1<sup>st</sup> The Los Angeles Community Garden Council will host their annual fundraising event on the traditional spring holiday, May Day. The celebration will be held at Weddington Farm in Sherman Oaks from 3pm to 5pm accompanied by garden grown appetizers, a kid's corner and a live performance by The Anand Bennett Jazz Trio.

Educator and environmentalist David Vela will be honored for his work and management of countless greening and garden projects in East Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley. Vela works diligently to implement many gardens and environmental projects in the Montebello community.

Glen Dake, President of the Board of the Los Angeles Community Garden Council says, "David Vela has advocated for communities to embrace gardening for many years. He says his grandmother Ana Maria Vela instilled in him a delight in gardening. He has established several community gardens in East Los Angeles while educating children and adults about where their food comes from and encouraging them to live healthier lives."

For more information on David Vela refer to the attached bio. The event will serve food that has been locally grown by active gardeners. Beverages will be provided by local Dry River Bed Brewery that uses specialty local ingredients like Boyle Heights grown hops, neighborhood wild yeasts, and local grown fruits and spices. The Los Angeles Community Garden Council is excited to resurrect the May Day tradition in celebrating the return of summer and the fruitfulness nature provides with the community.

For more information and details of event sponsors, visit [lacgcmayday2016.eventbrite.com](http://lacgcmayday2016.eventbrite.com)

\*\*\*\*

### **About Los Angeles Community Garden Council (LACGC)**

Founded in 1998, The Los Angeles Community Garden Council builds and supports community gardens where every person in Los Angeles County can grow healthy food in their neighborhood. LACGC oversees the management of 40 community gardens and facilitates the sharing of best practices across 125 community gardens, serving more than 6,000 families. LACGC offers workshops on gardening, landscaping, water conservation, and healthy eating and is currently developing a Garden Achievement Center in East Hollywood. LACGC is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization which relies on public support. Learn more at [www.lagardencouncil.org](http://www.lagardencouncil.org).

**DAVID VELA**  
*Greening and Garden Work*

David Vela spent over ten years as a Senior Deputy to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and eight years as an Elected School Board Member to the third largest school district in Los Angeles County, the Montebello Unified School District in the San Gabriel Valley. Mr. Vela worked and managed countless greening and garden projects in East Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley with the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, Montebello Unified School District, San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corp, Los Angeles Conservation Corps and various non-profits.

**Projects Include:**

- Montebello Unified Garden Club Program –implemented over 2,000 students at 19 schools, involved in gardening programs throughout Montebello Unified, and the District and its partners which sought grants to expand their programs, incorporate gardening activities into their curriculum, and promoted principles of sustainability and water conservation.
- As a School Board Member at the Montebello Unified School District he implemented a Tree Planting Program with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, who planted over 2000 trees in the district. Students and parents as well as teachers and staff participated.
- Implemented [Public Matters Market Makeovers](#) to alleviate food deserts by encouraging stores in underserved areas to offer more fresh produce and plant a garden on their property.
- Eastmont Community Center Garden – worked with Cobey Skye and LA County Public Works to initiate the beginning of the Eastmont Community Garden East Los Angeles Tree Planting Program - in East Los Angeles where they tripled the amount of trees on public right of way.

**Relevant Articles:**

[Montebello Unified Hosts Farmers Market](#)

[Students to sell produce from school gardens at farmers market car show](#)

[Montebello Unified Intermediate School unveils drought tolerant garden](#)

[School district goes drought friendly](#)