



Greenbuild Legacy Projects Focus on Urban Gardening in San Francisco

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Tenderloin Community Garden, one of the Greenbuild 2012 Legacy Projects

San Francisco is a city of folks who love to grow and eat food. How do you do that in an urban setting with few open land spaces for gardens? [Greenbuild's Legacy Projects](#) demonstrate two variations of urban gardens working with the little space they have available to show exactly how this can be accomplished and meet the goal of providing produce to local area families with no access to fresh fruits and vegetables. These areas are known as "food deserts."

Over 17 project applications were submitted for review this year. Fortunately, enough money was raised to provide monies to two different legacy projects.

The Texas Street Farm is an integral part of the Rebuild Potrero Healthy Living Initiative, which is a long-term, holistic approach to improving the lives of residents living in Potrero Terrace and Annex (PT&A) public housing.

"Local youth will co-manage the farm program researching appropriate seed varieties, learning the art of seed growing and saving, and providing seeds to family barrel gardens in the PT&A at each doorstep," says Steve Pulliam, project co-manager.

The seed program will eventually package and sell seeds bringing money back into the program. Construction has begun on the raised beds in the larger community garden and a small residential garden.

The Tenderloin Vertical Garden, located at the corner of Larkin and McAllister Streets at the site of the Civic Center Powerhouse, consists of a vertical wall of plants and a ground garden in front of the wall. This whole area is in redevelopment and part of the Civic Center Historic District requiring and receiving a Certificate of Appropriateness for the garden in this historic area. The Tenderloin Vertical Garden will serve a neighborhood with a large low-income and homeless population, is backed by an established community organization as well as several city agencies, and has viability, visibility and longevity. The project is another example of a well-located urban garden that will supply fresh fruits and vegetables to local families.

Both of these projects fall in line with new legislation in San Francisco promoting urban farming discussed in [John Upton's article](#). Also, [check out the "before" pictures](#) of each project.

6 comments

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Mara Baum

Sustainable Design Leader, LEED Fellow, HOK

2 years 15 weeks ago

Volunteer opportunities may be available at the sites during Greenbuild and throughout the year. If you are interested in volunteering for the Tenderloin People's Garden, please contact Lorenzo Listena, Community Organizer, at llostana@tndc.org. For the Potrero Hill Texas Street Farm, please contact Antonio Roman-Alcala or Steve Pulliam, the farm organizers, at potrero@bridgehousing.com.



Melissa Vernon

Consultant, Interface, Inc.

2 years 17 weeks ago

Is there an opportunity for Greenbuild attendees to volunteer at these project locations while we are in town?



Shara Resch

Customer Service Representative, U.S. Green Building Council

2 years 17 weeks ago

Hi Melissa,

I will send you the contact information shortly.



Nadav Malin

President, BuildingGreen, Inc.

2 years 16 weeks ago

Great suggestion, Melissa!

If that's an option for us, Shara, please do share it more widely. I can't think of anything I'd rather do after learning and schmoozing for 3 days than digging in some dirt!



Shara Resch

Customer Service Representative, U.S. Green Building Council

2 years 16 weeks ago

Hello Nadav,

For any questions related to Greenbuild, you can contact info@greenbuildexpo.org for further assistance.



Mara Baum

Sustainable Design Leader, LEED Fellow, HOK

2 years 15 weeks ago

This is a Host Committee activity and so the info@greenbuild contact will not likely have this info. Here's a response from the Legacy Project co-chairs:

"Volunteer opportunities may be available at the sites during Greenbuild and throughout the year. If you are interested in volunteering for the Tenderloin People's Garden, please contact Lorenzo Listena, Community Organizer, at l1istana@tndc.org. For the Potrero Hill Texas Street Farm, please contact Antonio Roman-Alcala or Steve Pulliam, the farm organizers, at potrero@bridgehousing.com."

Nadav and Melissa, I hope to see you in the dirt soon :)

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