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LADOT Celebrates Launch of \$60 Million South LA EcoLab Program

Los Angeles, CA (November 21, 2022)

LOS ANGELES – A coalition of community based organizations, including [Community Partners](#), [SLATE-Z](#), [CicLAvia](#), [Climate Resolve](#), [Coalition for Responsible Community Development](#), [GRID Alternatives](#), [LACI](#), [LA Neighborhood Land Trust](#), [SAJE](#), [SCOPE](#), [TreePeople](#), and [TRUST South](#) LA partnered with the City of Los Angeles, [LA Metro](#), and [Los Angeles Trade-Technical College](#) to secure a \$35 million Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) grant from the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) to improve environmental conditions and reduce pollution in South LA. This funding combines with \$24.6 million in funding from LA Metro, the City of Los Angeles, and other sources to support the South LA Eco-Lab: a community driven project to facilitate economic development through Climate Action within the project area to achieve the community's vision for a socially inclusive, sustainable, green community resilient to climate change, in the heart of South Los Angeles.

"South Los Angeles is the heart of LA, and this investment will set our sights on what tomorrow should look like in a community with big dreams for the future," said Mayor Eric Garcetti. "This grant is a big step toward building the South LA that residents have envisioned for years – with improved quality of life, public health, and access to economic opportunity."

"The Strategic Growth Council's Transformative Climate Communities Program supports under-invested communities who have built a network of organizations, residents, and businesses that have created a shared vision for the future. TCC provides resources to help catalyze this vision– whether that be affordable housing, community gardens, safe transit options, community resource centers, and more," said CA Strategic Growth Council Executive Director Lynn von Koch-Liebert. "We are honored to work in meaningful partnership with the South LA Eco-Lab, a group that has been an important leader in South LA, working for years to advance equitable and lasting community development."

The California EPA has identified South LA as one of the most polluted areas in the state. The South LA Eco-Lab project area includes 3.9 square miles bordered by Vernon Avenue, 60th Street, Western Ave, and Central at its northern, southern, western, and eastern limits respectively. 60% of the population in this area lives below the poverty level, 1-in-3 are unemployed, nearly half experience severe housing cost burdens, and approximately 1-in-5 individuals rely on active modes of transportation (walking, wheeling, or taking transit).

"The South LA Eco Lab project is an example of what can happen when we let communities lead and identify the projects that best meet their needs," said Connie Llanos Interim General Manager of LADOT. "This grant helps us expand on our commitment to deliver Universal Basic Mobility for South LA and ensure much-needed improvements for local residents including safer streets, cleaner air, and more options to get where they need to go reliably and affordably."

"Our community has been working to address poverty in South Los Angeles by revitalizing the economy in environmentally sustainable ways" said Zahirah Mann, President and CEO of SLATE-Z. The South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone (SLATE-Z) is proud serve as the strategic advisor for the South LA Eco-Lab, and form part of the lead applicant team with Community Partners and the City of Los Angeles; we have the privilege of working with



incredible, mission driven governmental, nonprofit, and resident leaders who developed holistic and transformative projects and plans. The South LA Eco-Lab will result in deep transformative change for South Los Angeles, launching our community as a leader in climate mitigation and preparing our businesses, residents, and students for the climate resilient economy.”

With a final project budget of nearly \$60 million, the South LA Eco-Lab will invest in infrastructure projects such as LADOT Stress Free connections and EV Car Share, StreetsLA Cool Pavement projects, home solar installation through [GRID Alternatives](#), [street trees](#), and school greening providing open space and stormwater capture benefits. The South LA Eco-Lab will do this while also focusing on robust community engagement, workforce development, and anti-displacement measures.

Funding for the project will begin in 2023, with a project completion date of 2028 when Los Angeles will host the 2028 Olympic Summer games just a few blocks from the outer boundaries of the project area. The South LA Eco-Lab will also leverage or connect to other climate related investments and programs within South Los Angeles and throughout the SLATE-Z area, including LADOT’s [Universal Basic Mobility Program](#), [Rail-to-Rail](#), LA Metro’s Rail-to-Rail, and expansion of the [Baldwin Hills Conservancy](#).

About LADOT

LADOT leads transportation planning, project delivery, and operations in the City of Los Angeles. We work together and collaborate to deliver a safe, livable, and well-run transportation system in the city and region. Our vision is for all people in Los Angeles to have access to safe and affordable transportation choices that treat everyone with dignity and support vibrant, inclusive communities.

About Slate-Z

Founded in 2014, the South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone (SLATE-Z) is a place-based, collective impact effort with around 100 cross-sector partners focused on innovation and developing solutions. In June 2016, President Barack Obama recognized SLATE-Z’s efforts and federally designated its area of South Los Angeles as a Promise Zone (i.e., the South Los Angeles Promise Zone). SLATE-Z serves as the backbone entity for the South Los Angeles Promise Zone and is 1 of 22 Promise Zones addressing high poverty in select urban, rural, and tribal communities across the nation. To reach its goals, SLATE-Z works at the intersection of economic revitalization and environmental sustainability through five levers of change.

About Strategic Growth Council

The mission of the Council is to coordinate and work collaboratively with public agencies, communities, and stakeholders to achieve sustainability, equity, economic prosperity, and quality of life for all Californians

About LA Metro

Metro is unique among the nation’s transportation agencies. We serve as transportation planner and coordinator, designer, builder, and operator for the country’s largest, most populous county. More than 10 million people – nearly one-fourth of California’s residents – live, work and play within our 1,433-square-mile service area.

About Streets LA

The Bureau of Street Services ("StreetsLA") is part of the Department of Public Works family responsible for preserving, protecting, maintaining, and renewing the City of Los Angeles' (City) street network and urban forest. This includes our streets' sidewalks, bikeways, trees, and medians. The men and women of StreetsLA are committed to providing high-quality, efficient, and equitable services across our great city and communities. We strive to build our services around integration, innovation, and inclusion.

About Los Angeles Clean Tech Incubator (LACI)

LACI is unlocking innovation through startups, transforming markets with partnerships, and enhancing community inside our campus and out in our neighborhoods.

About SCOPE

Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE) builds grassroots power to create social and economic justice for low-income, immigrant, woman, femme, black, and brown communities in Los Angeles. To do this, SCOPE organizes communities, develops leaders, collaborates through strategic alliances, builds capacity through training programs, and educates South L.A.’s residents to have an active role in shaping policies that affect the quality of life in our region. Justice, respect, responsibility, integrity, and voice: These are our core values.

About Tree People

Born in 1973 from the hopes and dreams of a teenager, TreePeople is now the largest environmental movement headquartered in Southern California. We have inspired, engaged, and supported more than 3 million people to take action for our environment by planting and caring for trees in forests, mountains, parks, and our neighborhoods. Our unique, engaging, and proven model empowers communities to plant a more resilient future and take personal responsibility for greening their neighborhoods. Through our on-the-ground research and educational programs, TreePeople shares knowledge with policymakers, students and educators, and communities around the world.



About Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

The Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust was founded in 2002 to address Los Angeles's park inequities. The LA Neighborhood Land Trust focuses exclusively in communities of color that have little to no access to green space.

About Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCD)

The Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCD) is a place-based community development corporation in South Los Angeles with a unique focus on young people ages 14–26. We are committed to partnering with residents, businesses, community-based organizations, civic leaders, and the local community college to improve the quality of life in South Central LA. Our comprehensive 360 spectrum of services supports the community in all aspects, from housing to education and workforce development to job placement. We support young people and adults experiencing homelessness by providing access to housing, options for education, and training that leads to family-sustaining wages. We actively seek out and work closely with community partners to ensure resources and referrals to other key services, such as mental health services, are readily available.

About GRID Alternatives Greater Los Angeles

The GRID Alternatives Greater Los Angeles (GLA) office opened in 2007 and serves Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura Counties. What we do is simple - using a volunteer model, we install solar electric systems for families in underserved communities at no-cost. Here in Los Angeles we work with a wide variety of partners to accomplish our unique triple bottom line of people, planet, employment. We partner with local municipalities, corporations and foundations to provide the systems; businesses and community and technical colleges to provide job training; and nonprofit organizations, affordable housing providers, and other community organizations to reach the families we serve. Since our opening, our friendly Greater Los Angeles team has installed more than 1,500 solar electric systems for low-income families with the assistance of volunteers and job trainees.

About Community Partners

Community Partners offers expert guidance, essential services, and a strong dose of passion to help foster, launch, and grow creative solutions to community challenges. For 30 years, hundreds of individuals, groups, foundations, and other institutions have worked with Community Partners to create new nonprofit projects, establish coalitions, and manage major philanthropic initiatives to benefit the region. Our mission is to accelerate ideas into action to advance the public good.

About CicLAvia

CicLAvia is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that catalyzes vibrant public spaces, active transportation, and good health through car-free streets. CicLAvia engages with people to transform our relationship with our communities and with each other. Inspired by Bogotá's weekly *ciclovia*, CicLAvia temporarily closes streets to car traffic and opens them to Angelenos to use as a public park. Free for all, CicLAvia connects communities to each other across an expansive city, creating a safe place to bike, walk, skate, roll, and dance through Los Angeles County.

About T.R.U.S.T. South LA

T.R.U.S.T. South LA (founded in 2005 under the name Figueroa Corridor Community Land Trust) is a community-based initiative to stabilize the neighborhoods south of downtown Los Angeles, where increased property values and rents have pushed out many long-term residents. Over the last decade, as government and corporate efforts have helped to establish Downtown Los Angeles as a 24/7 'Live-Work-Play' city, long-time residents that have actually lived, worked and played in downtown and in the surrounding areas for many decades are being forced out of their communities due to real estate pressures, which have minimally lessened even under the current economic recession. In response to these dual dynamics of displacement and disinvestment, T.R.U.S.T. South LA has sought to build community control over land, to preserve and promote opportunities for working-class people to remain in their community. The organization began recruiting a membership base and growing grassroots leadership capacity in 2007.

About Climate Resolve

Climate Resolve builds collaborations to champion equitable climate solutions. We connect communities, organizations and policymakers to address a global problem with local action. We inclusively develop practical initiatives that reduce climate pollution and prepare for climate impacts. Using our collective power to tackle climate change, we are creating a thriving California and inspiring others to act. Our purpose is a just and resilient future. Since its launch in 2010, Climate Resolve has prioritized working with communities that are most affected by climate change impacts. The residents of these communities are predominantly Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).

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