

ANNUAL REPORT

LA Compost

2022

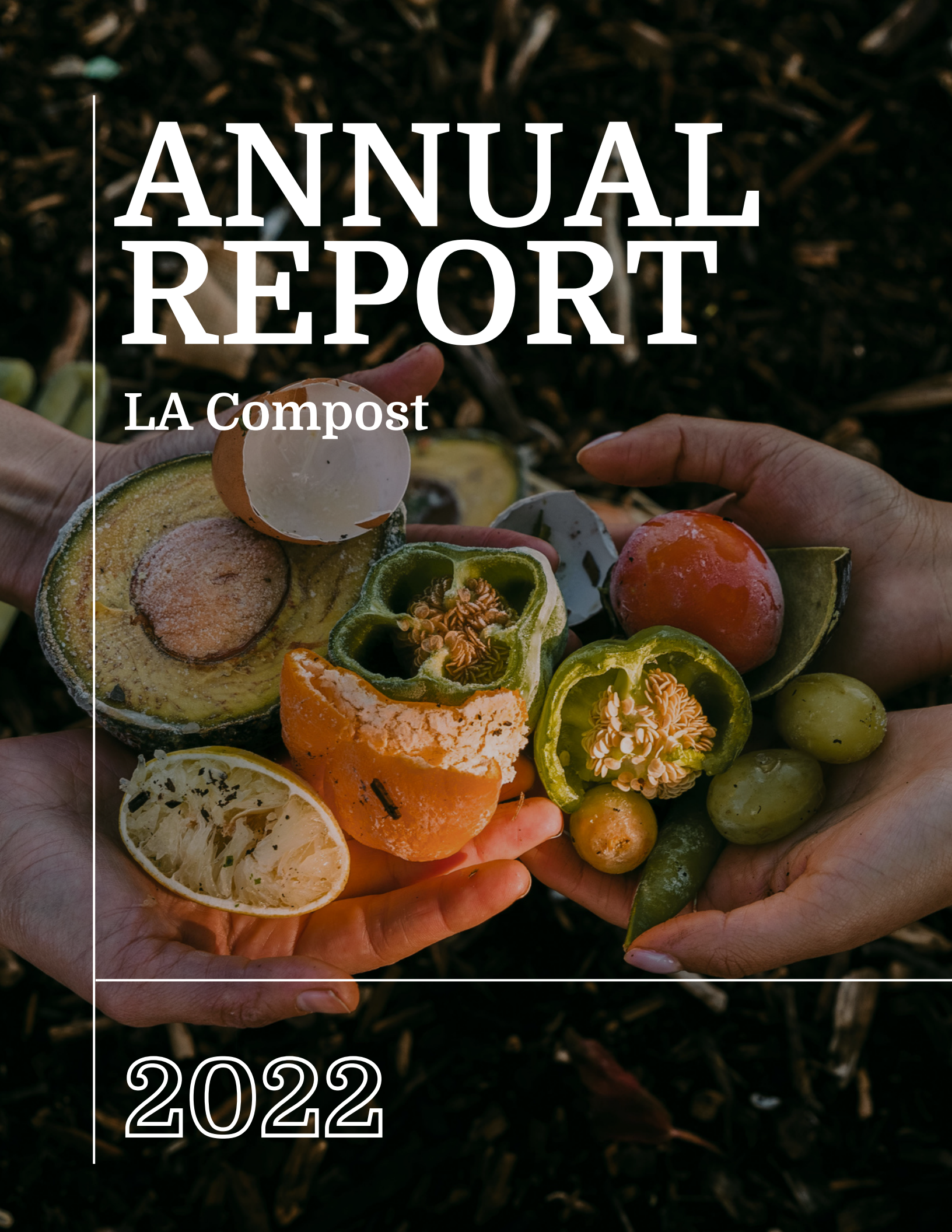


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FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FOUNDER:

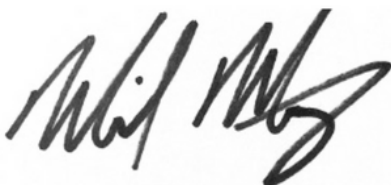
The strength of our collective “human network” was on full display in 2022. Across Los Angeles County, we witnessed the incredible growth of our program offerings, new staff and board members, and increased collaboration with many of our partners. The consistency of our volunteers showing up weekly at Compost Co-ops, Regional Hubs, and Farmers' Markets, to LA Compost staff taking on several new projects continue to highlight the ways in which this work is truly powered by committed individuals.

As the rollout for SB 1383 continues to move forward across the state of California, we will continue to work alongside our local “human network” to continue to empower and build community-based systems and structures that will foster the restoration of our soils.

This upcoming year of 2023 serves as a significant milestone for LA Compost, as it marks ten years since we started community composting in LA. What started as a group of friends and family members collecting food scraps on bikes, has now transformed into a decentralized movement that is prioritizing the health of the soil and one another.

Thank you for another incredible year of support, may you continue to thrive in your compost and soil-building efforts in 2023.

Moving forward,



Michael Martinez
Executive Director & Founder



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT:

In 2022 LA Compost, with support from LA Sanitation and Environment (LASAN), engaged Angelenos through its Farmers' Market Drop-off Program, which provides access for individuals to bring their household food scrap organics to City farmers' markets for processing into locally created compost.

At our farmers' market locations, we foster new and ongoing community relationships, provide free community composting education, access to volunteer opportunities and events, and discuss the benefits of investing in localized organics recycling. In addition, LA Compost engages with Empower LA Neighborhood Councils and other community-based groups to collaborate on outreach and education initiatives that further engage our communities around composting.

In 2022, LA Compost launched 7 new Farmers' Markets and increased engagement at all nine Farmers' Market Drop-off Program locations, spread across various Los Angeles City regions and City Council Districts (CD):

- LA River Farmers' Market, CD 1
- Crenshaw Farmers' Market, CD 8
- Central Ave Farmers' Market, CD 9
- Wellington Farmers' Market, CD 10
- Playa Vista Farmers' Market, CD 11
- Atwater Village Farmers' Market, CD 13
- Elysian Valley Food Scrap Collection, CD 13
- Silver Lake Farmers' Market, CD 13
- Historic Highland Park Farmers' Market, CD 14

In total, we supported Angelenos across our Farmers' Market Drop-off locations to participate in 20,558 individual drop-off actions and divert 243,857 pounds of food scrap organics away from landfill and into compost production efforts at one of LA Compost's five Regional Compost Hub locations. LA Compost shared some of this material at two compost giveaways events across all Farmers' Markets and with our other compost partners throughout the City.

FARMERS' MARKET FOOD SCRAPS COLLECTION



METRICS

7

new farmers' market
locations established
in 2022

20,558

unique recorded drop offs
**not all drop offs are recorded*

243,857

lbs of organics
collected from
Farmers' Markets

40%

increase in lbs
collected since 2021

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT:

The state of our waste systems, but also our soil and food systems present an immense need and opportunity for bringing accessible food waste reduction and composting education to Los Angeles. Together with our community partners, our educational offerings and knowledge-sharing spaces shift mindsets and encourage habits towards a more resilient climate future.

EDUCATION & RESOURCES

In 2022, LA Compost provided over 130 free learning opportunities for Angelenos through our composting workshops, compost hub tours, Compost Coaching technical assistance offerings, and Microscopy Sessions. LA Compost proudly offers a wide variety of entry ways for education, acknowledging that individuals are at different stages in their composting journey.

What is the Compost Coaching Program?

Our Compost Coaching Program serves individuals and groups who are looking to start or scale up their community composting efforts. This program provides composting guidance in the form of an online printable toolkit, coaching calls and site visits to various groups including schools, neighborhood groups, and businesses. In 2022, LA Compost provided Compost Coaching Program technical assistance to 62 groups and individuals in Los Angeles.

What are Soil Sessions?

Soil Sessions offer a chance for community members to learn about the microbial life in their soil and compost. Individuals and groups interested in learning more about the quality of soils and compost from their residence or community space can schedule group workshops or 1:1 consultation sessions with Lynn Fang LA Compost's Soil & Compost specialist to examine their personal soil samples under the microscope. In 2022, LA Compost facilitated 18 Soil Microscopy Sessions with communities in Los Angeles.



Photo credit: Kevin Liu

METRICS

62

Compost Coaching
calls

50

educational workshops

790

engaged workshop
participants

18

Soil Sessions

2022 METRICS

OVERALL:



3,990,587 lbs
of organics diverted from landfill



399,058 lbs
of compost created for LA communities



396%
increase in organics diverted from landfill from 2021*
Percentage increase is attributed to site growth and additional site locations launched.

COMPOST HUBS:

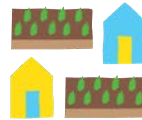
43



total compost hubs active in 2022, established through co-creation and partnerships



9
new compost hubs established with the capacity to serve 505 households



898

Compost Co-op households served by all co-ops

PEOPLE:



617
volunteers engaged completing over 3,381.05 hours of support



7
new members of the LA Compost team

CLIMATE:



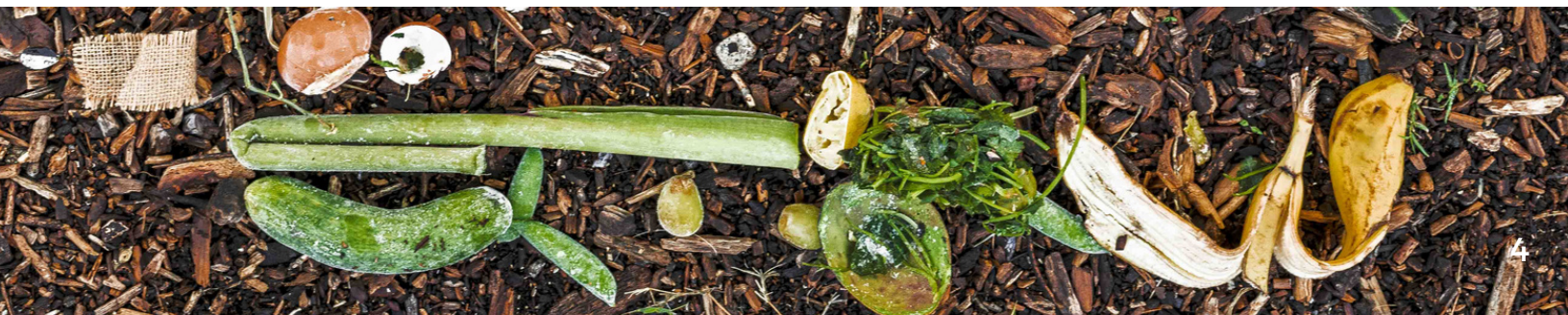
3,750.59

metric tons of CO₂e diverted from the atmosphere by our composting efforts



805

passenger vehicles taken off the road for one year*
Another way to quantify the amount of CO₂e we diverted in 2022





LA COMPOST Hubs & Partners

-  Farmers Market
-  Community Compost Hub
-  Regional Compost Hub
-  Organization
-  Public Agency



REGIONS AT A GLANCE:

LA Compost operates across five diverse regions across Los Angeles County. The overview below captures some demographic information on the population in these regions including "socioeconomic average" which represents community characteristics that can result in increased vulnerability to pollution and "pollution burden" which represents the extent to which an area is exposed to the adverse environmental conditions caused by pollution. More information on these screening tools can be found at oehha.ca.gov

North East LA

Compost Hubs: 12 **Socioeconomic average:** 65.41%
Farmers' Markets: 4 **Pollution burden average:** 81.56%

"Composting in the Northeast LA region is unique because it is where LA Compost got our start, so we have a history with many of our partner sites. It is amazing to see these sites grow and transform over time and compost is a great way to bring people together to do that with their community."

-Maggie, NELA Compost Manager



San Gabriel Valley

Compost Hubs: 5 **Socioeconomic average:** 49.29%
Farmers' Markets: 0 **Pollution burden average:** 83.29%

"It has been beautiful to see that families, gardeners and land caretakers have created their own compost systems that work for them. I look forward to continue supporting these communities as well as collaborating and expanding our efforts to create soil for the people by the people."

-Noemi, SGV Compost Manager

San Fernando Valley

Compost Hubs: 7 **Socioeconomic average:** 48.16%
Farmers' Markets: 0 **Pollution burden average:** 66.83%

"It's hot out here in the summer and volunteers still show up to help care for the windrows. They're ahhmaazing! The region has grown a lot this year and will continue to grow with everyone's support. We're excited to provide more access to locally made compost"

-Andrea, SFV Compost Manager



South LA

Compost Hubs: 14 **Socioeconomic average:** 83.29%
Farmers' Markets: 3 **Pollution burden average:** 84.73%

"Many members in our community have brought over their own composting practices from their homelands, knowledge that has been passed down to them. South LA is now home to them so to still utilize these practices in their backyard just goes to show that the people in our community have always cared about the well-being of our Earth"

-Erica, South LA Compost Manager

West LA

Compost Hubs: 5 **Socioeconomic average:** 26.67%
Farmers' Markets: 1 **Pollution burden average:** 61.67%

"The westside hubs have really embraced their end of the partnerships we've established, and are producing a consistent product of beautiful compost, all unique to their individual sites."

-Kenny, West LA Compost Manager



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHTS

LA Compost programs are powered by the support of dedicated and generous volunteers. Over 600 individuals donated close to 4,000 hours of support in 2022. The three individuals shown below stood out this year as volunteer leaders, and we are immensely grateful for their efforts.



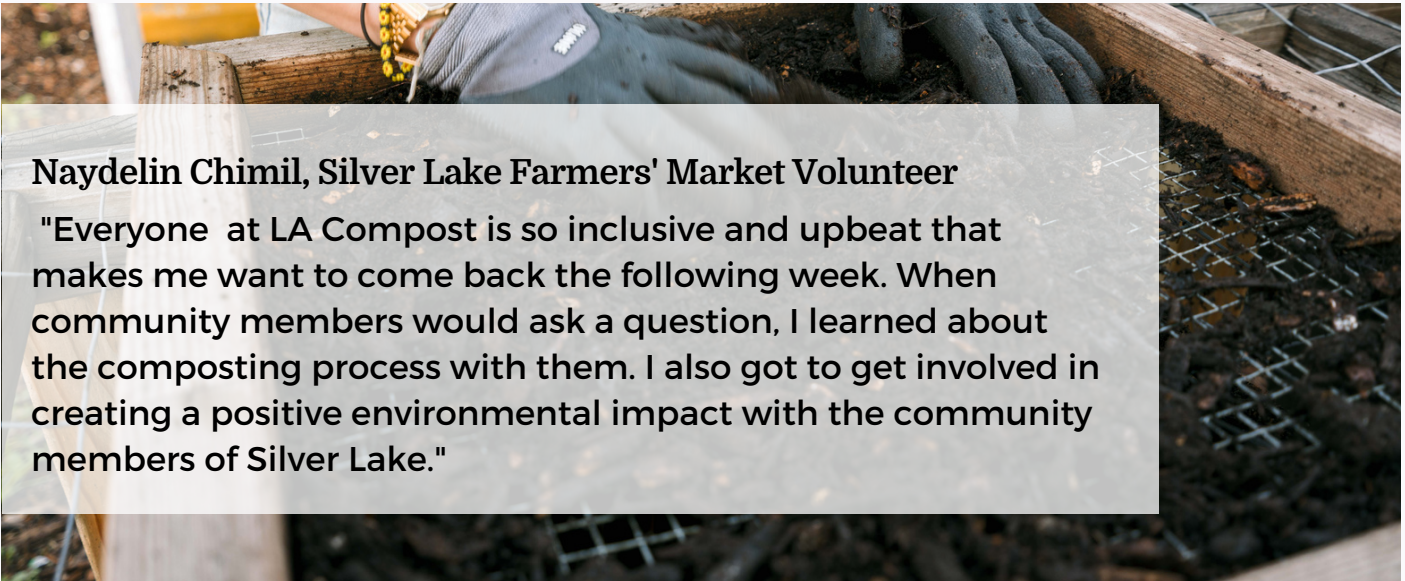
Vanessa Meyers, North East LA Compost Hub Volunteer

"I started volunteering at LA Compost because I wanted to take immediate action to fight climate change within my community and LA Compost provides the perfect platform to do this. I enjoy meeting and learning from like-minded humans who are just as passionate as me about using regenerative practices to help restore ecosystem. "



Terry Taylor, Wellington Square Farmers' Market Volunteer

"I enjoy seeing the people come to empty their scraps into the bins and that they are grateful for LA Compost and being there for them to make a difference. I also like knowing that what's being received (food scraps) can be put to such a good use and listening to people's stories about their experience in composting as they drop off scraps and being thankful. "



Naydelin Chimil, Silver Lake Farmers' Market Volunteer

"Everyone at LA Compost is so inclusive and upbeat that makes me want to come back the following week. When community members would ask a question, I learned about the composting process with them. I also got to get involved in creating a positive environmental impact with the community members of Silver Lake."

About Charlie Southward:

Q: Hi Charlie! It's good to speak to you. Let's start off by you introducing yourself in your own words.

My name is Charlie Southward, I am from Riverside, California. I'm also a US Air Force veteran and formerly homeless. I own and operate IGH garden, we produce organic produce for homeless communities of LA County and Long Beach.

Q: What is In God's Hands Garden? How did it start and what's your mission?

I established In God's Hands Garden or IGH as it's often called, in 2014 at the Bell shelter, when I was a client. I was living there in the modules for veterans. The shelter had a garden there, and I wanted to be an active part of it. I started off volunteering at the garden and eventually was able to have my own part of the land to grow organic produce. I grew produce there to give to the shelter for eight years. We're now at a new location in Long Beach where we're going to continue serving the homeless community and the public with seasonal fruits and vegetables. I'm focusing on women's and children's shelters, serving a large population of women and children. I'm going to be gearing up to serve them more of their dietary needs and cultural foods, to give them more of what they eat on the regular. My goal is to have an impact on ending homelessness and hunger.

Q: How did your past life experience lead you to start In God's Hands Garden?

I started gardening when I was 5 years old, it's always been something that I've done as a pastime. When I got to the shelter there was a great need for it. I wanted to grow food since I'm good at it as a way to give back. The shelter was good to me, I've lived a good life, so this is my way of giving back.

Q: You've been a friend and partner of LA Compost for some time now. How do you hope to continue supporting the work of LA Compost as a Board Member?

I have my knowledge of growing to share. I am excited to share my ideas and passion for soils and how plants respond to different soil conditions.

Q: What's exciting you about 2023?

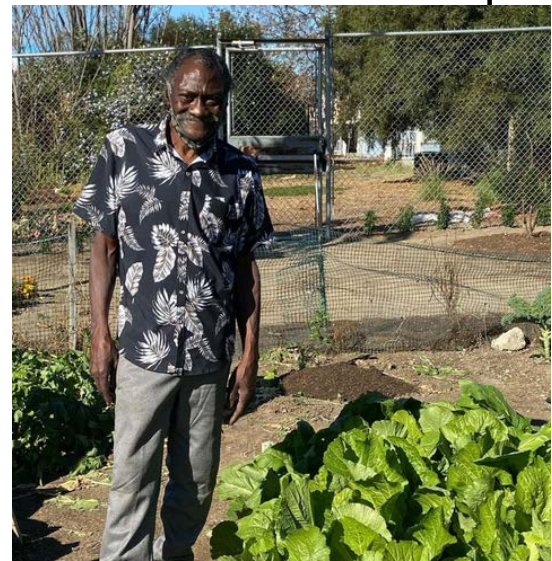
I can't wait to share my new location at the Growing Experience in Long Beach. Because it's near the ocean the soil that I'm on is the most incredible thing I've seen. It seems like a compost factory that's been abandoned, or like fresh compost that you just sifted. It's really incredible. The plants have been in for two weeks, and I'm waiting for them to take off.

Q: What advice do you have for someone who wants to start gardening but doesn't know where to start?

My advice would be to just take your start, stick a seed in a watch it grow. I started when I was five years old by planting a potato seed and watching it grow and then eventually cooking it and eating it with my mother. If you're just doing it on your own, take the initiative! Take a seed and watch it grow and see what you can learn.

You can learn more about Charlie, and In God's Hands Garden on Instagram at [@ighgardens](#).

MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER



FUNDRAISING UPDATE:

2022 OVERVIEW

LA Compost's multiple solidified and long-term partnerships are a beacon of success and sustainability for the organization, and define a path for future funding support. Since 2013, LA Compost's annual operating budget has increased with each passing year to match our organization's growing program and service offerings throughout Los Angeles.

Since 2020, our growing partnerships have supported the diversification of our funding sources to include contracted partnerships with city, municipal, commercial and state level entities, individual donations, fee-for-service offerings, and technical assistance coaching and small scale compost sales.

2022 OUTCOMES

In 2022, LA Compost was honored to receive funding support from nine renewed foundation partners, three new foundation partners (11th Hour Foundation, Cygnet Foundation, Anonymous Foundation), two municipal partners (SoCalGas, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)), and six government jurisdictions (California Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), City of Los Angeles, EmpowerLA Neighborhood Councils).

Additionally, the LA Compost team successfully diversified its funding streams by increasing its revenue through non-grant sources and activities, including individual donations, fee-for-service activities, and event sponsorships. This year, the organization formed financial partnerships with 17 local businesses and corporate groups, six non-profit entities, and 12 large and major donors through Donor Advised Fund individual giving accounts.

In 2022, LA Compost's fundraising efforts resulted in the following breakdown:

85% achieved through **Grant awards** including government contracts, private foundations, and event fiscal sponsorships.

12% achieved through **Individual Giving** opportunities including general and Donor Advised Fund (DAF) giving.

3% achieved through **Earned Income** services including compost and merchandise sales, organics processing and bulk material pick-up services, workshops and speaking engagements.



2022 FUNDER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

LA Compost is filled with gratitude for the support and encouragement generously provided by its 2022 donor and funder networks, listed by name below:

Foundation Partners

Anonymous
Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles (ARLA)
Ahmanson Foundation
Angell Foundation
Benenson Foundation
Clif Family Foundation
Cygnet Foundation
Durfee Foundation
Flora Family Foundation
Go2Zero
Kalliopeia Foundation
Stranahan Foundation
The Hum Sum / Matter of Trust
Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation
11th Hour Foundation

Individual Major Donors

Dave Burd aka Lil Dicky
Melissa Jones

LA Compost would like to thank our monthly Sustaining Donors, General Supporters, and all donors who wish to remain anonymous.

Corporate Partners

Aspiration Inc.
Athens Services
Beneficial State Bank
Solectrac

Government Partners

California State Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
City of Burbank
CANNDU Neighborhood Council
Elysian Valley Riverside Neighborhood Council
Silverlake Neighborhood Council
Los Angeles City Mayors' Office of Sustainability
Zapata-King Neighborhood Council

Municipal Partners

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)
Los Angeles City Department of Sanitation and Environment (LASAN)
SoCalGas



GOALS FOR 2023:

As LA Compost enters its tenth year as an organization, there is a lot we want to accomplish and provide for Angelenos. In addition to the goals shown below, LA Compost is also working towards diversifying its funding sources through enhancing the organization's avenues and opportunities for individual giving and earned income services.

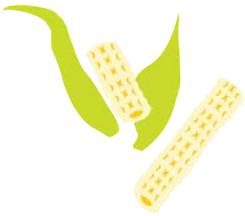
INDIVIDUAL LEVEL:

- Continue to provide diversified educational tools and resources around composting and food recovery.
- Launch six new Farmers' Markets across various regions of LA with the ability to serve 200+ households per week.



COMMUNITY LEVEL:

- Continue to solidify best practices and procedures for Community Compost Hubs.
- Host regular workshops and compost distribution events at Compost Hubs to provide community members with education and resources.



REGIONAL LEVEL:

- Launch three new Regional Hubs to process organics collected at Farmers' Markets and beyond.
- Continue to solidify park composting model with LA Recreation & Parks to serve as an example for other cities in California.
- Continue and increase contract agreements that support statewide SB 1383 policy initiatives across multiple government and municipal jurisdictions.



Photo credit: Kevin Liu

FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR:

2023 marks a decade of progress for LA Compost. Things look very different from 2013 when a fledgling team collected food scraps on bicycles, but we remain true to the core mission: turning food scraps into soil for the good of the community and the planet.

This year is about growing the movement. Cities across the State are slowly beginning to collect food scraps curbside, and we are working together to build a comprehensive collection network. Our village has grown from environmental advocates and community gardeners to political leaders and major institutions.

Special thanks are in order for the government partners that know the impact of our model: The United States Department of Agriculture, the California Office of Volunteers, Los Angeles County, the City of Los Angeles and many others. Thanks also to the LA Compost family of staff, volunteers and participants who show our government partners what climate action looks like. People are paying attention, and they're following our lead.

Our reach now extends across the San Fernando Valley, San Gabriel Valley, West LA, South LA and everywhere in between. Let's embrace this growing network and deepen the connection between our food systems, our soil, and our community. This is what LA Compost has always been about. Composting at the community scale allows us to learn from each other and engage in the process first-hand, so please come see the magic in action at one of our community gardens, schools, churches or parks.

We appreciate your support as we embark on another transformative year.



Ryan Jackson
LA Compost Board Chair



STAFF & BOARD MEMBERS

Alex Plaza

Compost Manager, San Fernando Valley

Ana Cobarrubias

California Climate Action Corps Fellow, South LA

Andrea Torres

Compost Manager, San Fernando Valley

Caroline Snyder

Board Member, Treasurer

Charles Southward

Board Member

Elena Lopez

Outreach & Communications Manager

Elinor Crescenzi

Policy Manager

Enjoli Ferrari

Compost Hub Program Manager

Erica Montelongo

Compost Manager, South LA

Gina Vollono

Projects & Operations Manager

Jonathan Galindez

Regional Coordinator, South LA

Jose Ramirez

Board Member

Kenny Derieg

Compost Manager, West LA

Kyle Cavazos

California Climate Action Corps Fellow,
North East LA

Louis Easton

Farmers' Market Assistant

Lynn Fang

Soil & Compost Specialist

Maggie Smart-McCabe

Regional Coordinator, North East LA

Mark Pranger

Farmers' Market & Operations Manager

Megan Laird

Development Manager

Michael Martinez

Executive Director & Founder

Michelle Cutler

Farmers' Market Assistant

Michiko Lynch

Programs Assistant

Moses Massenburg

Compost Manager & Community Liaison,
South LA/Watts

Noemi Gomez

Compost Manager, San Gabriel Valley

Paola Reyes

Community Engagement Coordinator

Robbie Martin

Board Member

Ryan Jackson

Board Member, Chair

Sam Huntington

Operations Coordinator

Shannon Wright

Board Member, Secretary

Stephanie Gomez

Programs Assistant

Photo credit: Kevin Liu





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