



CALIFORNIA GREENWORKS INC.

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023

# Introduction



Dear Supporters,

As we reflect on the challenges and triumphs of the past year, we are pleased to present California Greenworks' Year-End Report for 2023. Despite the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are proud to announce that our organization not only weathered the storm but also continued to thrive, making significant strides in our mission to create sustainable and equitable communities.

**1. Climate Equity:** Environmental issues disproportionately impact minority and low income communities. We continue our push to promote climate justice advocacy through ongoing awareness programs such as our Climate Equity series. Through strategic planning and the dedication of our team, our environmental initiatives directly positively impact underserved and neglected population.

**2. Expansion of Programs:** We are excited to share that in 2023, we expanded our programming to include new projects aimed at fostering environmental sustainability and community well-being. These initiatives align with our commitment to creating positive and lasting impacts on the environment and the lives of those we serve.

**3. New Partnership with Baldwin Hills and Urban Watershed Conservancy:** One of the highlights of the year was the signing of a new contract with the Baldwin Hills and Urban Watershed Conservancy. This partnership marks a significant step forward as we collaborate to develop a greenbelt along the Ballona Creek in Council District 10. The project aims to enhance the local environment, promote biodiversity, and create a sustainable green space for the community.

**4. Progress in Blackwelder Community Greenbelt Project:** We are thrilled to share that our Blackwelder Community Greenbelt project has received approval from the county Department of Public Works and the SCWP to move into the TRP (Technical Review Panel) phase. This crucial planning stage brings us closer to implementing a project that will not only improve water quality and supply but also provide much-needed green space in urban, low-income communities.

**5. Tree Planting in the City of Inglewood:** As part of our ongoing commitment to urban forestry, we planted 22 new trees in the City of Inglewood. This initiative contributes to the enhancement of the local environment, promotes clean air, and fosters a sense of community pride.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the steadfast support of individuals like you. Your commitment to our mission enables us to continue making a positive impact on the environment and the communities we serve.

As we look ahead to 2024, we are excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. With your continued support, we are confident that we can build a more sustainable and resilient future for all.

Thank you for being a vital part of the California Greenworks community. Together, we can create lasting change.

Warmest Regards,



**Mike Meador, MBA, CPM**  
*CEO + Founder*

# Our story

## Our Mission

At California Greenworks (CGW), our mission is to improve the quality of life in urban communities in Southern California through environmental education, urban revitalization, and green economics advocacy. Our projects focus on:

- Environmental justice and climate equity.
- Sustainable, community-based restoration to eliminate urban blight and promote green space development.
- Innovative, modern and actionable green education and curriculum.
- Advocacy for green job creation and economic development.

We increase public awareness and participation in finding short and long-term solutions to these environmental, social and economic problems and public health challenges. To effectively achieve our goal and ensure authentic community participation, we work in partnership with community-based, civic and nonprofit organizations.

Through collaborative efforts, we cultivate environmental stewardship and leadership amongst community members, thus building community capacity.

## Our Focus

### ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY

We approach all our programs through the lens of **Environmental Equity**, a strong emphasis on justice for underserved and minority populations disproportionately affected by climate issues.

### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Providing curriculum, resources and tools to instruct youth and adults on environmental best practices, innovations and other important topics.

### URBAN REVITALIZATION

Planting trees, developing green space, adding parks and implementing projects to protect the environment in underserved, ignored areas.

### GREEN ECONOMICS ADVOCACY

We promote youth to explore careers in the green economy, providing tools to enter the workforce. We also engage adults and provide opportunities for furthering education in the green industry.



# 2023 Programming

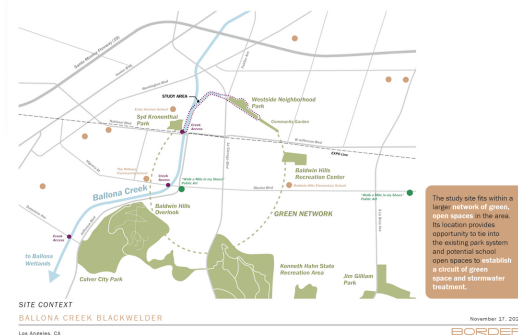
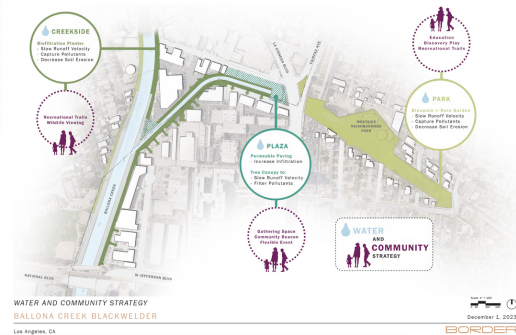
## Blackwelder Greenbelt Community Project

The proposed Blackwelder Greenbelt Community Project is in Los Angeles, at the Blackwelder tract, where La Cienega and Fairfax merge. In 2023, we received funding to move forward on planning phases as part of a partnership with Baldwin Hills and Urban Watershed Conservancy. Our goal is to create habitat connectivity and increase community wide access to healthy green spaces among numerous other environmental benefits to our community. We look forward to additional feasibility studies and project planning during 2024.



## OUR BLACKWELDER COMMUNITY GREENBELT SOLVES A MYRIAD OF ISSUES:

- improves flood management, flood conveyance and flood risk mitigation
  - creates, enhances new green and park space
    - improves public access to waterways
    - creates new recreational opportunities
  - reduces heat local island effect and increases shade
  - increases tree canopy and carbon sequestering



# 2023 Programming



## Tree Plantings

At the core of California Greenworks is the mission to improve the quality of life in urban communities in Southern California through environmental education, urban revitalization, and green economics advocacy. One of the ways we work towards this mission is through sustainable, community-based restoration to eliminate urban blight and promote green space development.



**20**

trees planted in  
Inglewood (Edward  
Vincent Park)

**15**

trees planted at  
HACLA sites



# 2023 Programming



## Community Events

In 2023, we hosted and participated in a number of events to help our organization get to know our community better and to build a stronger community for climate equity.

- **MLK Day of Service** on January 14 at Hyde Park Community Cleanup (partnered with LADWP volunteers)
- **Climate Equity Series** on October 28 at Stoneview Nature Center (featuring guest US Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove, 75+ tickets with nationwide audience)
- **Sustainable Holiday Boutique and Sustainable Holiday Crafting** on December 9 at Stoneview Nature Center, Culver City

*Sustainable Holiday Market participants*



## Other

Two members of the California Greenworks team spent time over the summer on environmental projects in Kenya.





# 2023 Programming

## Education Program

We provide curriculum, resources and tools to instruct youth and adults on environmental best practices, innovations and other important topics. The following include our programs available and/or developed during 2023.



- Intro to Green Jobs (High School)
  - Resume building
  - Interview best practices
  - Cover letter
- Green Art: Sustainable and Upcycled art projects (k-12)
  - Setup of recycling containers
  - Learn about recycling process
  - Individuals will get to create art pieces
  - School/site can commission one as well
- Greening School/Site (6-12)
  - Students will learn how to make their school more “green” (efficiency with resources like water and energy, greening opportunities, climate resiliency)
  - Research project, students will learn how to conduct large project research, how to analyze data
  - At the end of which students will present their findings to school/site administrators
- Environmental Literacy/ Green Book Club (9-12) 1
  - Students will choose from a selection of books (depending on length of program will determine number of books)
  - Students will meet and discuss themes and concepts of the books
  - At the termination of each book, a “field trip” will take place that will reinforce/emphasize concepts learned
- Ocean Explorers (6-12)
  - Students will learn about marine science, environmental science and conservation principles.
  - Science experiments and programs will be offered
  - Trip to the ocean and marine center



# 2023 Programming

## CELA 2023

As our biggest fundraiser and event of the year, the program honors the legacy of Dr. George Washington Carver and his well-documented past, as an inventor, educator, scientist, painter, botanist and conservationist. The evening hosted some amazing guest speakers including:

- Los Angeles City Council member Curren Price
- California Senator Sydney Kamlager-Dove
- Comedian and Actor/ Comedian Kente Scott (Master of Ceremonies)

As part of the event, we honor the accomplishments of members in the community who have made extraordinary accomplishments within the environmental movement. This year's confirmed honorees include:

- First African American Astronaut Candidate Ed Dwight renowned Sculpture
- Director of STEM Education Synergy Academies: Barbara Shannon, EdD
- Executive Director of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy David McNeil
- Nancy Sutley, Chief Sustainability and Economic Development Officer, LADWP





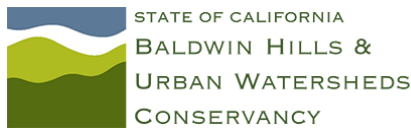
# Impact Report





# Thank you!

## Our Partners



## 2023 CELA Sponsors



## Our Grant Funders



# Looking to the future

## Our 2024 goals:

### 1. **Blackwelder**

- a. In 2024, we are looking forward to conducting additional feasibility studies which will drive our continued project planning in 2024.

### 2. **More curriculum development**

- a. Specifically developing more local stories that highlight culture and development in an effort to engage more students.

### 3. **Climate Justice Conference**

- a. Host a successful Climate Justice Conference by engaging more individuals in our work to achieve environmental justice and climate equity.

### 4. **Research**

- a. We plan to conduct more research studies on our stakeholders in order to learn more about the connection between mental health and green spaces.

### 5. **Tree Plantings**

- a. Plant more trees and in new communities of the Los Angeles area.

### 6. **Community Cleanups**

- a. Host at least four community cleanup events.

### 7. **Increase engagement**

- a. Our team is working hard to reach more individuals, engage new stakeholders, and re engage our existing supporters.

### 8. **Expand our team**

- a. We plan to hire two more staff members by the end of 2024.





California  
**Greenworks**, Inc.