

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

August 26, 2016

Inglewood & Lennox Greening Plan

ASLA Southern California Awards 2016

THE INGLEWOOD & LENNOX GREENING PLAN is a bottom-up planning effort to improve the sustainability and livability of the City of Inglewood and the adjacent unincorporated community of Lennox in Los Angeles, California. Through a community-centered process, local residents have taken the lead in the conception and development of the Greening Plan, with TreePeople, SJLI and EW Consulting as well as landscape architects SWA supporting them in articulating and achieving their goals. The Greening Plan provides strategies, tools and resources that are locally applicable and easily accessible to various stakeholders, interest groups, businesses and individuals in the community, and allow them to participate in the greening of their environments at multiple scales.

As part of the project leadership group, the landscape architect collaborated with local non-profit organizations on a pro bono basis to facilitate the Greening Plan development process and provide particular expertise on areas related to the planning, use, and improvement of infrastructure and landscape. The landscape architect specifically provided services to identify, analyze and present greening opportunities in Inglewood and Lennox, as well as propose practical approaches and solutions to implement greening strategies within the communities. Mapping exercises and data were synthesized and compiled into composite maps and visual displays, both as part of community workshop processes and ultimately in the layout and graphic treatment of the final Greening Plan document.

The development of the Greening Plan has provided a platform for community members and stakeholders to come together and discuss the current and future environment of Inglewood and Lennox, and fused local knowledge and desires with the expertise of those in the design and planning profession. This integrated process represents an effort to educate and empower the community to take action and transform their environments at a number of scales, by offering tools and resources to follow through with ideas and initiatives. While the project is anchored in the specific geographic and demographic context of Inglewood and Lennox, the visions, strategies and tools put forth in the Greening Plan can be applied and implemented elsewhere in the region and beyond.

The unconventional dedication to a bottom-up planning approach through all phases of the project sets the stage for continued involvement of the community and stakeholders beyond the finalization of the Greening Plan document, and towards implementation both by planning agencies, community organizations, and residents. In line with this grassroots approach, the pro bono outset of the landscape architect's contribution sets an example for our profession. By contributing our expertise towards betterment of the communities we serve and the education of their residents, we assume responsibility for our shared future beyond the limitations of commissioned work.