

2022 Annual Report





Mission

ARLINGTON GARDEN IS A CLIMATE-APPROPRIATE, HABITAT GARDEN OFFERING LEARNING, INSPIRATION, AND ENJOYMENT FOR ALL.

Vision

A TRANSFORMED URBAN LANDSCAPE WHERE HEALTHY GARDENS CONNECT PEOPLE AND COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE.

Arlington Garden is located on a layered landscape. We stand on the lands of the Gabrieleño Kizh Band of Mission Indians/Gabrielino Tongva, on what would have been a freeway, and on a community refuge for people, plants, and fauna. We invite you to care for this land and its history.

Cover photo by J. Olympia

Executive Director's Message

Last summer, I had the opportunity to attend the American Public Gardens Conference in Portland Oregon. It was thrilling to be around so many garden professionals and others who understood the importance of public gardens.

At the conference, there was clearly an emerging consensus that public gardens *must help their communities respond to climate change*. They can do this by supporting cities and neighborhoods at the local level, providing inspiration and refuge to temper climate despair and stress, and offering opportunities for community building and workforce development.

Public gardens can be places of connection and transformation. They can help us understand the larger environmental systems of which we are a part, and they can provide an emotional connection to the land, building personal investment in our native ecosystems.

I am proud to say that we are doing all of that at Arlington Garden. In fact, I believe *we are local leaders in this regard*. One way we are doing this is by helping to reconceive beauty as something that grows, changes, and *most of all lives* — a values redesign that our unsettled future needs.

At Arlington, we think of beauty as partly the outcome of an authentic connection to place. In practice, what it means is that we curate the garden with climate appropriate plants, harmonizing with our local ecology and geography. We use gardening practices that

regenerate relationships with native fungi, bacteria, and animals, growing denser, healthier habitat. And the resulting living beauty serves as garden refuge for our culturally diverse community.

Arlington Garden was an empty lot for over 40 years, slated to be a staging ground for the construction of the 710 freeway. Instead of a freeway, we built an urban forest. We are a place of beauty, respite, and inclusivity. We are a successful demonstration of the power of people working together.

In 2022, we weathered drought and extreme heat, but continued to grow our community, education and volunteer programs, and built capacity. We welcomed new staff and received a transformational unrestricted educational grant from the Harold and Colene Brown Family foundation, which began bringing Pasadena Unified Students to the garden in 2023.

Thank you for weathering the difficult times with us and your enduring commitment to our mission and vision. We are grateful for your support and hope you enjoy reading more about our growth in 2022.

Michelle Matthews
Executive Director, McKenney Family
Arlington Garden in Pasadena

A CLIMATE- APPROPRIATE HABITAT GARDEN

Ecosystems, watershed,
regenerative habitat gardening

6

OFFERING LEARNING, INSPIRATION, AND ENJOYMENT

People, public programs,
volunteering

22

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOR ALL

Community partners,
schools, events

44

MADE POSSIBLE BY

Giving, governance, staff

60

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

25,000

VISITORS (EST)

280

PHOTO PERMITS

302

ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

1,599

MARMALADE JARS SOLD

1,973

VOLUNTEER
HOURS

400

TOTAL PUBLIC WORKSHOP
PARTICIPANTS (EST)

8.71 tons

CO₂ CARBON SEQUESTERED
(BY TREES ALONE)

34

PUBLIC PROGRAMS
AND EVENTS

289

DONORS

12,000 lbs

COMPOST PRODUCED (EST)

A CLIMATE- APPROPRIATE HABITAT GARDEN

Arlington Garden is a
climate-appropriate,
habitat garden
offering learning,
inspiration, and
enjoyment for all.

Coast live oak. This keystone
species supports thousands of
animal species and sequesters
significant amounts of
atmospheric carbon.





What Is a Climate-Appropriate Garden?

A garden that strengthens and protects our shared landscapes from climate change.

How Is Climate Change Impacting LA County?

- Increasing temperatures
- Long term aridification (less moisture in the soil and snowpack)
- Fewer and heavier precipitation events
- Damaging native ecosystems
- Increasing air pollution

How Are We Responding?

Arlington is a local leader in climate change gardening

- Our tree canopy and climate appropriate understory plantings reduce urban heat and street-level air pollution.
- We support native ecosystems by growing native habitat plants.
- We continue to adapt to long-term aridification with new rainfall capture infrastructure and climate appropriate plantings.
- We work with our volunteer community to sequester carbon and thereby help *beat the heat* with regenerative habitat gardening!

Climate Appropriate Gardening Is Regenerative Habitat Gardening

**A healthy habitat
garden needs
healthy soil.**

Regenerative gardening at Arlington means not using pesticides, herbicides, and chemical fertilizers; avoiding digging or tilling; reusing plant material on site; mulching with wood waste; and growing perennials. These techniques create a rich soil biome and are required for a healthy habitat garden.



Habitat Gardening

WATERSHED



In 2022, we rebuilt sections of the desert garden trail to decrease the speed stormwater travels down the slope and thereby increase groundwater infiltration.





Photo: Levi Brewster

A NEW RAIN GARDEN, CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE EAVES OF OUR EXPANDED GARDEN SHED, DEMONSTRATES HOW TO EFFECTIVELY SINK STORMWATER RUNOFF FROM GUTTERS INTO THE GROUND.

ARLINGTON'S VIBRANT URBAN FOREST USES ONLY 47% OF THE WATER OF THE AVERAGE NEARBY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES.

A photograph of a garden path. On the left, a large tree with a thick, light-colored trunk stands prominently. The path is made of dirt and small stones, leading into a dense thicket of green plants and trees. Sunlight filters through the leaves, creating dappled shadows on the path. The overall scene is lush and natural.

PLANTS

A generous donation of native plants from Theodore Payne Foundation launched a multi-year replanting of our meadow area and wildflower walk, a project which continued throughout the winter and spring of 2023.

Many of our visitors do not have yards, so this year we added new demonstration plantings appropriate for balconies or front porches.

The orange grove revitalization project continued to improve the health of our citrus under the guidance of gardener capri kasai.

The garden's tree canopy sequesters 8.71 gross tons of CO₂ annually—nearly 3 times as much as a mid-range lawn of the same size.

Photo: Scott Oshima

ANIMALS



Photo: William Hallstrom



Photo: William Hallstrom

39 BIRD SPECIES OBSERVED IN 2022
(EBIRD.ORG) (114 TOTAL)

81 ANIMAL SPECIES OBSERVED ON
INATURALIST IN 2022 INCLUDING 54 INSECT
SPECIES (165 TOTAL, A SMALL PORTION OF
WHAT LIVES IN THE GARDEN)

A NEW MONARCH BUTTERFLY WAYSTATION
WAS CONCEIVED AND INSTALLED BY GIRL
SCOUT CARMEL RANDOLPH AS A GOLD
AWARD PROJECT.

PASADENA HUMANE RELEASED URBAN
WILDLIFE AT ARLINGTON, CONTINUING A
MULTI-YEAR PARTNERSHIP.

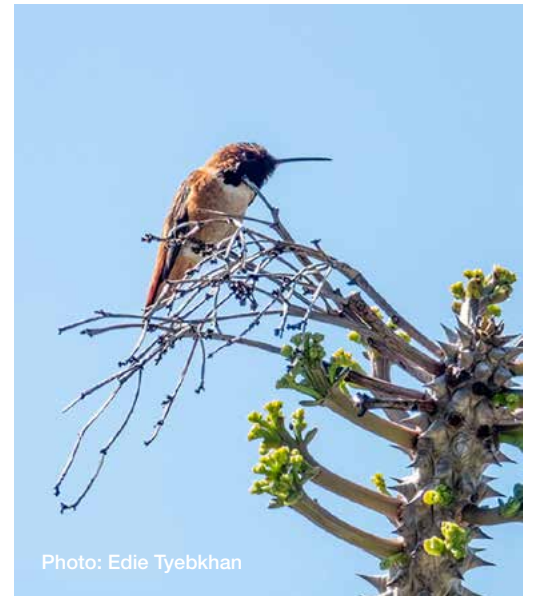
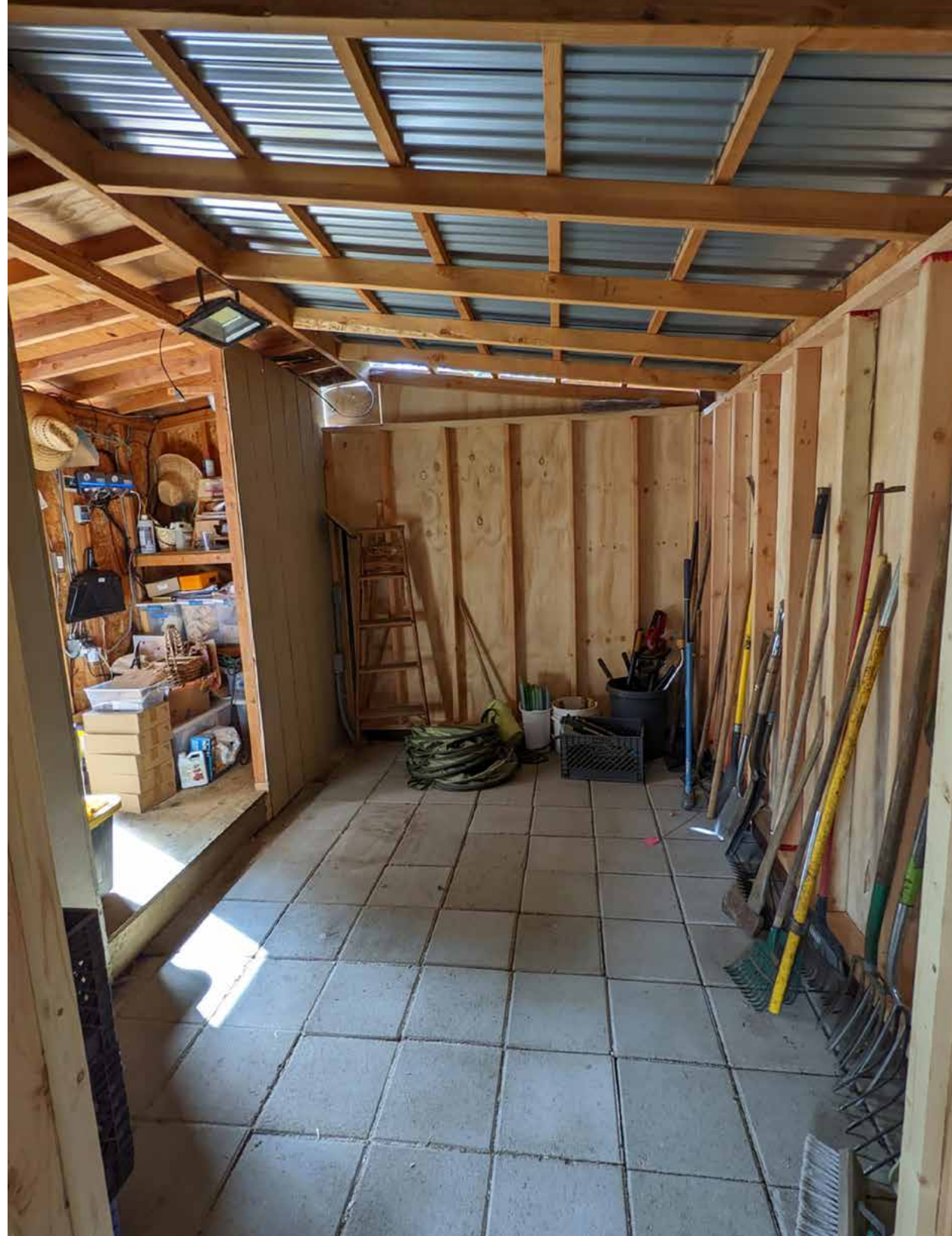


Photo: Edie Tyebkhan



INFRA- STRUC- TURE

None of our work supporting native ecosystems as a climate appropriate habitat garden would be possible without the right physical infrastructure. This past year, due to the Herculean efforts of volunteers and our Community Builder, Levi Brewster, we expanded what is possible:

Levi Brester worked with Outward Bound Adventures to remodel and expand the shed and attached staging area

The shed has a new water bottle refill station available to the volunteers, staff, and visitors. Until this year, there was no potable water available on site.

OFFERING LEARNING, INSPIRATION, AND ENJOYMENT

Why Do Ordinary People Do Extraordinary Things?

Inspiration comes from understanding and doing. Arlington Garden inspires future environmentalists and with our hands-on programming and volunteering. Participants learn about climate change gardening by doing it themselves.



Our weekly Volunteer Tuesday volunteers keep the garden beautiful through regenerative gardening. Photo: Shirley Huang

DROUGHT

Southern California's unique ecosystems and cities are under severe threat from climate change. 2022 marked another dry year in a two-decade drought that was *the most arid period in the last 1,200 years*.

Although these dry conditions were interrupted by a wet winter, the last two decades of drought are part of a larger trend of aridification across Southern California. Precipitation events are predicted to become more sporadic, with fewer and larger storms, and warmer temperatures are expected to dry out the environment. Even in average precipitation years, Southern California is forecast to be drier due to evaporation and decreased snowpack.

How do we build innovative landscapes for aridification?

Arlington offers workshops and tutorials on how to creatively respond to our drier future.

In 2022, Pasadena Water and Power teamed up with Arlington for a regenerative landscaping fair with over 75 attendees. The event featured information stations scattered around the garden on PWP rebates, low-water irrigation, regenerative habitat gardening, and native landscaping.

Weekend Projects held hands-on irrigation workshops to assess and repair Arlington's irrigation and rainwater capture systems.

Partnering with Southern California Horticultural Society, we held a special xeriscaping workshop "Water Wisdom" with Debbie Dunn (Figoni), Water Conservation Administrator for the City of Beverly Hills.

The Colorado River (pictured) provides roughly 25% of the water humans use in Southern California, but it is rapidly drying. According to the journal *Nature*, the years from 2000 to 2021 were the driest period in the Southwest in the last 1,200 years.



Pasadena Water and Power at Arlington's regenerative landscaping fair.

VOLUNTEERING



Our volunteer program continued to grow with an extraordinary increase in the number of volunteers, which nearly doubled from 2021!

This page: Outward Bound Adventures crew working in the orange grove.

Opposite page: Volunteer committee members at a summer meeting.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

The Garden created a new volunteer-led committee in 2022 to give additional creative and decision-making power to volunteers. The committee works to support the garden in areas outside of gardening including the volunteer program itself.



Weekend Projects

20 events with hands-on learning about regenerative gardening, stormwater capture, and climate appropriate landscaping.

Compost tea

Volunteers learned how to build and use a compost tea brewer and apply compost tea in the orchard.

Desert garden revitalization

We cleared the desert garden of pest-harboring exotic agave species and removed rocks and landscape fabric. Volunteers redirected the trail to slow and sink water down the slope.

Three Sisters planting

Levi Brewster led volunteers in learning about mutually beneficial plant relationships in edible gardens.

Irrigation assessment and improvement

Participants learned how to assess an irrigation system to save water and made additional improvements.

Replanting the native meadow

Carbon sequestering grasses returned to the native meadow after a rebuild and clearing of this area in 2021.

Summer care in a climate appropriate garden

Volunteers learned what plants to prune and how to water in a summer dormant, climate-appropriate landscape.



Photo: Fiona Chang



Photo: Shirley Huang

Volunteer Tuesday

101 volunteers met on Tuesdays to care for the garden utilizing regenerative techniques.

Student Volunteers

67 students from UCLA and USC volunteered in the garden as part of One Bus, One Cause and Service Day LA. Thank you to UCLA Volunteer Center for their support!

Outward Bound Adventures

To complete many of the capital projects in the garden, we partnered with the Wilderness Restoration Academy program at Outward Bound Adventures. The WRA is an apprenticeship program that provides training and work experience to members of groups who have been historically excluded from outdoor education and conservation employment.

A special thank you to the WRA crew who volunteered for **358 hours** in 2022: Wesley Butler, Christopher Finney, Wayne Nelson, Milton Martinez, Carlos Rodriguez, Ruben Felix, and Steven Williams!



Students fertilizing the orange grove with UCLA Volunteer Center's One Bus, One Cause

Volunteer Profile: Gwen Hourihan

When the pandemic hit, my work schedule became flexible. I had visited Arlington a few times over the years, [...] but with my new schedule I decided to investigate Arlington's volunteer opportunities. I wanted to give back to such a beautiful space and learn how it got that way, knowing I'd also be able to bring that knowledge back to my own garden.

It was very easy to sign up as a volunteer. Volunteer sessions started out with an expert gardener explaining what we would be doing that day and why [...] each is so knowledgeable and takes time to answer all of the volunteers' questions.

I had never heard of permaculture gardening and as I learned more and more it made so much sense - native plants, regenerative practices, capturing water, and making space for bugs and birds and creatures.

I was able to start applying everything I learned to my own garden (with whatever energy I had left). Joining the Volunteer Committee when I could no longer attend on Tuesday mornings gave me a sense of community with a lovely group of people. We had our first event last December with craft tables for visitors to make items from recycled and plant materials - it was my favorite day of the year.

Gwen moved to Pasadena in 2001 with her family and doesn't see any reason to ever leave. She and her husband have raised two daughters here (and currently have three dogs). Taking her daughters to and from school every day Gwen was stunned by the beauty of San Gabriel Valley, its flora, fauna, and mountains. She has worked at ArtCenter College of Design since 2004 with a stint at Union Station Homeless Services (in Pasadena). Some of her passions are gardening, bookbinding, and collaging.



PUBLIC PROGRAMS

**Our mission-
focused public
workshops combine
hands-on learning
with more traditional
discussion and
lecture formats.**



Roots and Regeneration

Our free or low-cost Roots and Regeneration workshops teach urban ecology, environmental justice, and regenerative gardening.

URBAN CONSERVATION
BIRD WALK (EMILY COBAR)

BOKASHI WORKSHOP (AMY
HONJIYO/SUSTAINABLE
LITTLE TOKYO)

COMMUNITY SCIENCE AS
LIBERATION (SAM TAYAG)

WATER WISE GARDENING
TECHNIQUES (DEBBY
DUNN [FIGONI])

Traditional Classes

FINDING OUR WAY HOME
W/ FUNGI (AARON TUPAC)

WATER WISDOM (DEBBY
DUNN [FIGONI])

UNDERWORLD ECOLOGIES
(EXPLORING THE
MYCOVERSE/LA COMPOST)

WINTER ECO-CRAFT
LABORATORY (ARLINGTON
VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE)

Tutorials

THE ART OF CITRUS
CARE AND PRUNING
(CAPRI KASAI)

MAKING MISO
(SONOKO SAKAI)

MAKING MARMALADE
(FUYUKO KONDO)

Left: Fuyuko Kondo led a sold-out tutorial on making marmalade.

Right: Artist Fiona Chang taught ornament making using natural and recycled materials during the Winter Eco-Craft Laboratory produced by the Arlington Volunteer Committee.



LANGUAGE

Our newsletter, social media, website, and physical signage (with a combined audience of over 35,000 people) educate and inspire.

We installed new educational signage about Mediterranean plant communities and regenerative gardening.





Mari Taylor of Deerbrush Design created beautiful chalk panels for our new community kiosk.

Illustration of California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) by Emma Rose Fryer.

LETTERS FROM THE GARDEN

11 fascinating articles and interviews included in our newsletter:

INTERVIEWS

Aaron Tupac, capri kasai, Brian Schopfel, Joanna Glovinsky, and Mary Angel (on the poet Ralph Angel).

GUEST LETTERS

“Non-Native Birds at Arlington” by Bob Gorcik
“Health Benefits of the Urban Tree Canopy” by Paloma Avila
“Chitral in the Monsoons” by Tahereh Sheerazie

ARLINGTON, OVERWORLD

Our new column on plants in the garden. This year we discussed the horticultural history of coast live oak, western sycamore, and the fruitless olive funded in part by a grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust.

PUBLICATIONS

Field Guide

Our field guide, written and illustrated by Margaret Gallagher, was distributed to over 1,300 Pasadena Unified School District 5th grade students.

Horticultural Guide

Production began on a new horticultural guide made possible by grants from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust and LA Breakfast Club. The guide was released in April 2023 with illustrations by Emma Rose Fryer and text by AJ Jewell.

SIGNAGE

We installed new interpretative signage, realizing a complex multi-year process that combined volunteer and staff expertise.

COMMUNITY KIOSK

To help bridge the digital divide, we added a community kiosk to the garden with community bulletin boards and space for sharing garden programming. Thank you to the Pasadena Community Foundation for funding this project!





Selection Aaron Tupac Interview

AJ: What was it about mycology and fungi that initially captured your interest?

AT: It was my interest in the climate crisis that led me down the proverbial Alice-in-Wonderland rabbit hole into fungi. Given my science communication and arts background, I found the climate crisis to be an extremely important issue to me. But it took me years of soul searching to figure out *how* to approach the massive existential issues of the climate crisis. Learning the stories of symbiosis, like the ones of lichens and mycorrhizal fungi, have given me hope that we can learn to live together, even across species boundaries.

If two completely different kingdoms of life can figure out how to work together, like fungi and plants have for millions of years, then I think we can learn how to live together with our more-than-human neighbors.

AJ: When I was a young child, I was terrified of the mushrooms that I found in my family's lawn because I thought that they were poisonous. I think many gardeners in the US have similarly negative views of mushrooms, because they are seen as harbingers of death and decay. Mushrooms or molds growing in the yard are usually removed and not celebrated! Is this negative perception of fungus something that you have encountered? I gather that this perception is unwarranted – but what is a better view for a gardener to have?

AT: I was led to believe the same! I was told to pick them in our yard to get rid of them! Now I've learned picking them ironically helps spread their spores. Fungi are quite the resilient stubborn type.

"Dear Gardeners – Mushrooms are a sign of an ecosystem completing its life cycle. Fungi are foundational to healthy soil, as many farmers are learning today to use compost, to plant cover crops, and to stop using fungicides/herbicides/insecticides. Fungi were here long before us and will outlive us. So it's best if we learn to have a healthy relationship with them."

AJ: Apparently (but not really) at odds with what I just said, there also seems to be a surge of positive interest in fungi in popular culture (a fungal counter-culture). Do you think that is correct? From your experience with Exploring the Mycoverse and Los Angeles Mycological Society, what do you think is driving this interest?

AT: Fungi are indeed experiencing a resurgence of interest, and for good reason. I think this is happening due to a longing our society is experiencing related to feeling disconnected and alienated. Alienated from each other. Alienated from the living world. It is as if we are all waking from a bad dream, collectively questioning, "wait, how do we live together again?"

Aaron Tupac
with a subalpine
waxycap.

IN THE NEWS 2022

Articles about or mentioning Arlington Garden from 2022

Los Angeles Times

FOUR THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

By Matt Pawlik

PRACTICE REGENERATIVE GARDENING at Arlington Garden in Pasadena. As part of its Weekend Projects series, the “climate-appropriate habitat garden” hosts biweekly volunteer programs focused on connecting with nature and learning natural processes to care for garden landscapes. On Sunday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., get educated on how to update irrigation systems to save water while helping maintain this beautiful three-acre gem.

<https://www.latimes.com/travel/newsletter/2022-08-11/the-wild-perseids-meteors-sturgeon-moon-supermoon-the-wild>

Los Angeles Times

25 SHADY L.A.-AREA SPOTS TO BEAT THE HEAT RIGHT NOW: ARLINGTON GARDEN

By Jeanette Marantos

ONCE UPON A TIME, ARLINGTON GARDEN was the site of a grand 50-room mansion known as Durand House, which was demolished after 1964 so the California Department of Transportation could extend the 710 Freeway. When community

opposition halted that project, the 3-acre lot of compacted dirt stood vacant until 2005. That’s when the garden’s founders, Betty and Charles McKenney, worked with Pasadena officials to create a public, water-wise Mediterranean-style garden. Its designers used organic and regenerative growing techniques such as leaving leaf litter on the ground to help build up the depleted soil. They also packed in nearly as many garden “spaces” as there were rooms in the old mansion, with lots of quiet shady spots for reading, trails and a labyrinth to stroll, a citrus grove, an oak grove, a vegetable patch, a pond, a cactus garden, a pine forest and a French-feeling allée lined with silvery olive trees and furniture you can move about for personalized seating. And, of course, the garden is laced with lots of habitat-creating native plants, as is obvious from the birdsong and pollinators flitting throughout.

This is a garden where you can bring a book or a picnic, let children safely run free or find a sheltered corner for coffee and intense conversation. During a visit late on a fall Friday afternoon, one young woman sat in a corner of the allée with her sketch pad; a slender walker gaped at the white barrel-shaped blooms oozing with bees on a tall San Pedro cactus (*Echinopsis pachanoi*); and a toddler wheeled and shrieked with excitement at finding a pumpkin in the vegetable patch. Use this garden as you would a pair of comfortable shoes — as often as you can, with gratitude and love.

Admission is free and it’s open daily from sunrise to sunset. Dogs are permitted if leashed.

<https://www.latimes.com/lifestyle/list/20-shady-shade-la-los-angeles-spots-beat-heat-right-now>

THE PASADENA NOW WEEKENDR

OVER \$30,000 RAISED AT ARLINGTON GARDEN’S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

ON A BEAUTIFUL FALL AFTERNOON in the olive allee, around 175 people gathered for Arlington Garden’s annual fundraiser on Sunday, Sept. 25. The event, billed ‘Autumn in the Garden,’ celebrated the garden’s 17th anniversary.

“We raised \$32,000 this year,” Arlington Garden Executive Director Michelle Mathews said.

Funds raised during the event will help keep the garden free and open to the public. They will also help enable the garden to expand its programming and engagement with the community through innovative platforms, including new online activities for visiting families, and virtual guided tours for those unable to drop by in person.

From time to time, Arlington Garden also sponsors public information shows on TV, such as a monthly “Earth Share” show on IGTV; the program showcased the Garden’s horticultural experts as they shared their personal journeys and gardening tips.

The annual fundraiser started with a special VIP reception to honor Pasadena City Councilmember Steve Madison, businessman and philanthropist Bob Bozzani, and garden designer Mayita Dinos.

“Steve Madison was involved in the founding of the garden,” Mathews said. “He worked very closely with Betty and Charles McKenney to help secure the land from Caltrans back in 2005 when the garden was founded. And then Mayita Dinos was the garden

designer. She was an early adopter of sustainable gardening practices. And then Bob Bozzani has been a supporter of the garden.”

Those in attendance were treated to musical performances by Photay, Carlos Niño & Diego Gaeta, Barbarelle, and Frosty curated by Floating and dublab.

Other special guests included State Senator Anthony Portantino, Assemblymember Chris Holden, City Manager Miguel Márquez, Assistant City Manager David Reyes, City Councilmembers Felicia Williams, Andy Wilson, the late John Kennedy’s representative Susana Porras, and Claire and Bill Bogaard.

PUSD Board of Education member Elizabeth Pomeroy also was in attendance, as was Leah Thomas, author of “The Intersectional Environmentalist.”

Mathews said some of the donations were provided by Amara Cafe, Agnes Cheesery, the Arlington Board of Directors, Bev Wine, Craftsman Beer, Solminer, Wenzlau, James Naish, Homage, Goldbug, Pasadena Symphony, and Patagonia Pasadena.

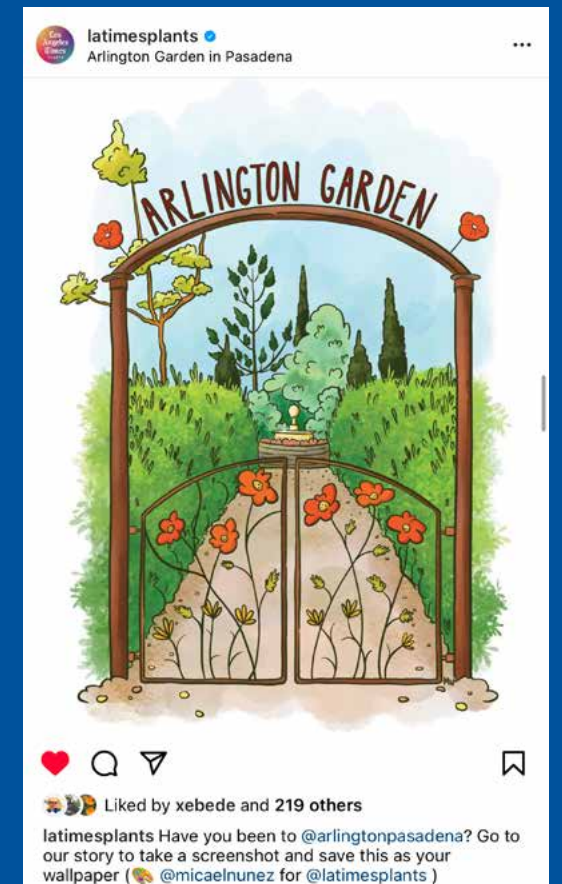
“Inspired by Jan Smithen’s book Sun-Drenched Gardens: The Mediterranean Style, Betty and Charles worked with designer Mayita Dinos to create a garden celebrating Southern California’s unique climate. The garden has since evolved to become a regenerative habitat garden, demonstrating how a landscape can be beautiful while increasing resilience to climate change.”

This month, on October 8, Arlington Garden plans to host a networking event organized by Innovate Pasadena on the topic, “Transformation of Place: Arlington Garden in Pasadena.”

To learn more about Arlington Garden, visit www.arlingtongardenpasadena.org.

<https://www.pasadenanow.com/weekendr/over-30000-raised-at-arlington-gardens-annual-fundraiser/>

Los Angeles Times



FOR ALL

The natural world is part of our shared human heritage and leisure time spent in nature is part of human flourishing. It is part of our mission to ensure that this heritage is accessible to everyone and welcoming to all.

As part of making sure Arlington lives up to our mission, we reach diverse constituencies through partnerships with other nonprofits, businesses, and municipal departments.



Exploring the Mycoverse (see next page) meets regularly in the garden. Photo: Aaron Tupac.



Eagle Scout Nathan Chiu and Troop 7 installing a Little Free Library.

Environment and Education Partners

Exploring the Mycoverse

is a fungi-focused community education group and Los Angeles Mycological Society affiliate exploring what fungi can teach us about the interconnectedness of all life. The group meets regularly at Arlington Garden to discuss fungi media such as books, articles, films, and podcasts. Organized by Aaron Tupac.

Other Community Partners

PASADENA AUDUBON SOCIETY
Regenerative Gardening Fair

PASADENA HUMANE SOCIETY
Animal Rescue and Release

PASADENA WATER & POWER
Regenerative Gardening Fair

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Water Wisdom Workshop

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION
Native Plant Garden Tour

Schools

POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL

WESTRIDGE SCHOOL

Girls Scouts of the USA & Boy Scouts of America

Girl Scout Carmel Randolph worked with our volunteers to install a new Monarch Butterfly Waystation including new educational signage. Eagle Scout Nathan Chiu built and installed a new Little Free Library.





Art and Health Partners

FLOATING
Meditation and sound experiences

LAS FOTOS PROJECT
Student run photo portraits by a local education and creative workforce development non-profit

ALTADENA LIBRARY
Free community storytime

Above: Attendees at a Floating event sitting near the bee hive.

Right: Altadena Public Libraries led outdoor storytime in the garden



CELEBRATION



AUTUMN IN THE GARDEN



On September 25th, following the Autumnal Equinox, Arlington Garden hosted our annual fundraiser and celebration Autumn in the Garden. The event began with a VIP reception honoring three community members with awards crafted by James Naish.

Recipients of the honors were Mayita Dinos, the garden's designer, Pasadena Councilmember Steven Madison, whose original idea and outreach grew into Arlington Garden, and businessman and philanthropist Bob Bozzani, a friend of Arlington and capital projects supporter. Accolades to the awardees were given by State Senator Anthony Portantino, Assemblymember Chris Holden, and Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo.

Local sound experiences producer Floating, one of our partners, presented musicians Photay w/ Carlos Niño, Diego Gaeta, and SK Kakraba. Local nonprofit dublab produced DJ sets by Barbarelle and Frosty.

A very special thank you to all of our event sponsors, who helped us raise approximately \$38,000 (gross) to support the garden!



Event Sponsors

Champion Sycamore Sponsor

Ellen Merewether Brown

Platinum Oak Sponsors

Cheryl Bode

Gold Poppy Sponsors

Los Angeles County Supervisor
Kathryn Barger
Don and Nancy McIntyre
Jason Storbeck

Silver Sage Sponsors

Claire and Bill Bogaard
Robert Gillespie
Sybil Grant
City of Pasadena
Melissa Weinberger

VIP Wine Sponsor

Wenzlau Vineyard

In-kind Supporters

Agnes Cheesery
Amara Cafe
Bev Wine
Floating
Gold Bug
Hömage Pasadena
James Naish
Solminer Wine

Opposite page (L–R):
Businessman Bob
Bozzani, Executive
Director of Arlington
Garden Michelle
Matthews, Garden
Designer Mayita Dinos,
Pasadena City
Councilmember Steve
Madison.

Right: California State
Assemblymember Chris
Holden





Cheryl Bode



DJ Frosty



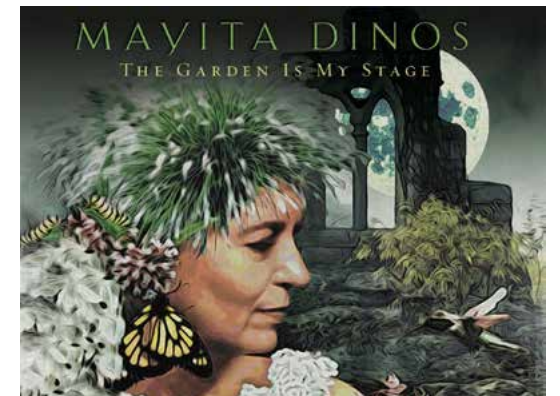
Arlington's Head Gardener, Tahereh Sheerazie



Event Sponsor Ellen Brown



Mayita Dinos, designer of Arlington and a jazz singer, held a successful fundraiser for the garden in April for the release of her album *The Garden is My Stage*.





MADE POSSIBLE BY

**Our success
as a small
organization
depends on
our talented,
dedicated
volunteers and
our mostly
part-time staff
who support
them!**

2022 Board & Staff

**This year we said farewell to three beloved staff members,
and we welcomed four new people to the team.**

President

Kimberly Jacobsen

Chief Financial Officer

Joni Topper

Secretary

Sara Gillissie

Directors

George Brumder
John DeWitt
Sybil Grant
Nancy McIntyre
Palin Ngaotheppitak
Shannon Porter
Iesha Siler
Jason Storbeck
Melissa Weinberger
Daniel Wier

Executive Director

Michelle Matthews

Community Builder

Levi Brewster

Garden Ambassador

William Hallstrom

Communications and Volunteer Manager

Andrew Jewell

Gardener

capri kasai

Head Gardener

Tahereh Sheerazie

Garden Ambassador

Heather Wu

Our deepest gratitude to the staff members who left this year

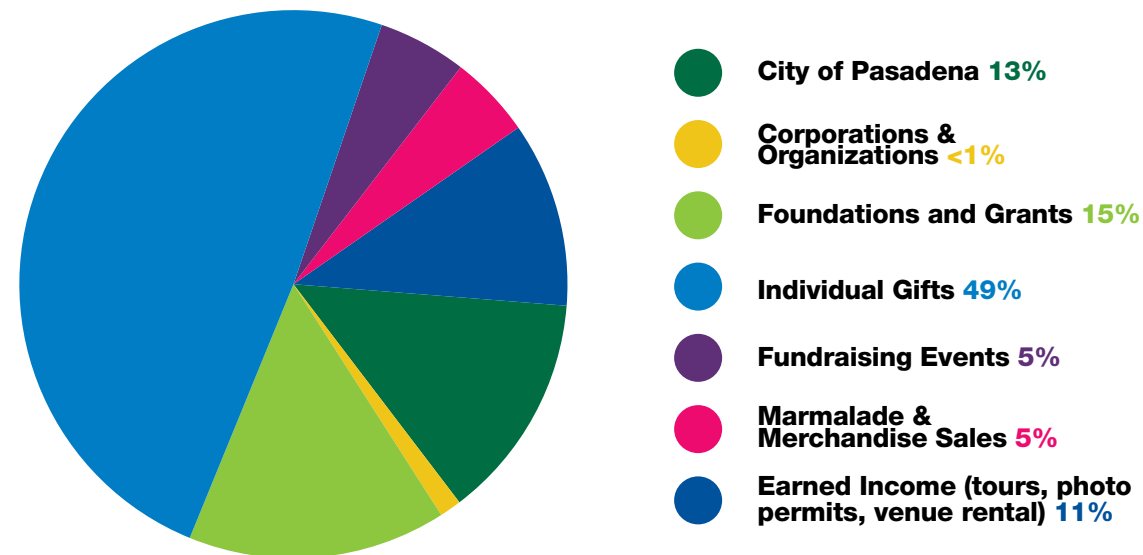
Paloma Avila, Program and
Development Manager,
Maggie Smart-McCabe,
Community Engagement and
Volunteer Coordinator
Leigh Talmo, Director of
Horticulture

Professional Development

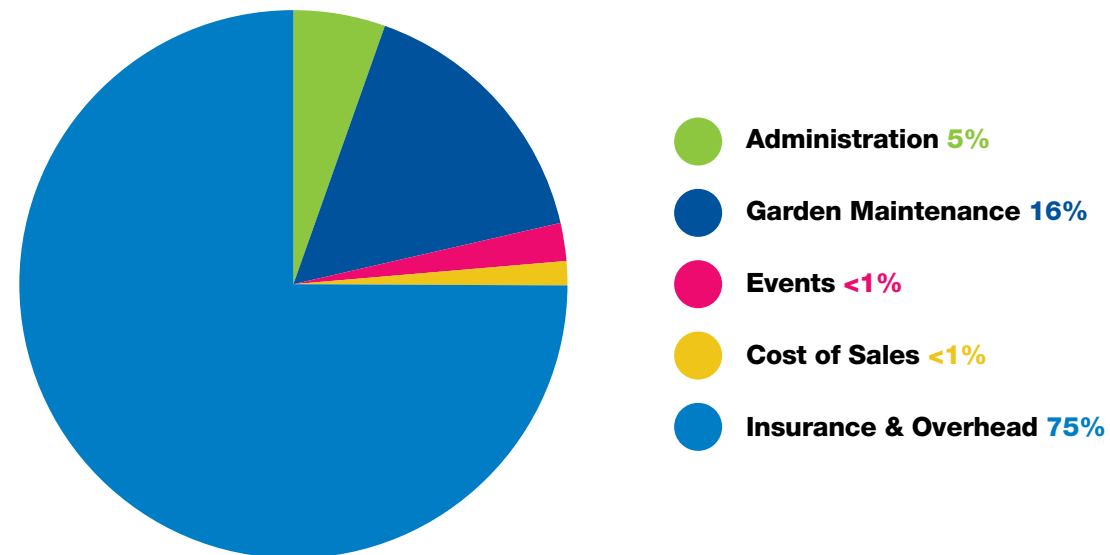
Executive Service Corps: Social Justice Scholarship Fund

Financials

Income: \$337,932



Expenses: \$267,984





GRANTS AND FOUNDATION SUPPORT

HAROLD AND COLENE BROWN
FAMILY FOUNDATION
ANNENBERG ALCHEMY

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS

Thanks to a generous grant from the Harold and Colene Brown Family Foundation and the support of many individual donors who want to ensure that *everyone* has access to healthy, climate appropriate green spaces in Pasadena **we set an annual fundraising record for our organization!**

Arlington Beats the Heat Campaign

FACED WITH A DEVASTATING DROUGHT AND A MORE ARID FUTURE, OUR CLIMATE-CONSCIOUS COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTED \$26,864 DURING OUR SUCCESSFUL EDUCATION-THEMED SUMMER CAMPAIGN!

Annual Appeal

AN OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT AT THE END OF THE YEAR GENERATED AN ASTOUNDING \$75,776 FROM 106 FAR-SIGHTED SUPPORTERS, OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL APPEAL TO DATE!

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61 anonymous donors

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Linda Zinn

Volunteers

Thank you to our rad volunteers!

Outward Bound
Adventures, students from
UCLA Volunteer Center and
USC, California Conservation
Corps, Echo Factory, and ...

Brigette Aguilar
Noah Aguilar
Efe Akpullukcu
Steve Alexander
Alex Aponte
Alvaro Armenta

Matthew Baird
Abby Belduc
Mary Belles
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Jolee Blankenship
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Kevin Boesky
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Sarah Carbonel
Troy Carey
Mary Carlson
Anna Carlson-Ziegler
Kyle Cavazos
Sharon Cech
Fiona Chang
Katie Chang

Tuni Chatterji
Vincent Chow
Katie Clark
Josh Cohenna
Joshua Cohenna
Jonathan Cohn
Mildred Correa
Isaac Cruz

Angela D
Ben Dalayoan
Caroline Davis
Francesca Del Gabbo
Carlos Delgado
Bella Disalvo
An Do
Wangqing Dong
Elodi Donnadiou
Delphi Drake-Mudede

Alicia Echevarria
Aubrey Egerter
Vega Eleanore
Rebecca Enayati
Joy Ephraim
Leone Ermer
Miranda Escalante
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Stephanie Espinoza
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Janet Guthrie
Andrea Guzman

Stephanie Habana
Noah Haile
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Pam Hammer
Robert Hampton Jr.
Jean Hays
Lindsay Hernandez
Blake Hice
Jennifer Ho
Trang Hoang
Gwen Hollingsworth
Sylvia and Patrick Holmes
Gwen Hourihan
Eddie Hsiung
Remi Hsiung

Samantha Huang
Isabella Hughes
Madeline Hutson
Jeffrey Hwang

Fuyuk Iwata

Jason Jaworski
Kamila Jeevanjee
Emane Jenson
Ansu John
Harper Johnston
Andrea Jones
Pamela Jorden

MJ Kinney
Mary Knauf
Christine Knoll
Erik Knutson
Andrea Kraybill
Andre Kraybill
Jack Kuo

Christine Lai
Kegan Lambert
Devean Larez
Claribel Le
Alisha Lee
Hannah Leehkin
Lara Lightbody
Jamie Lin





Tiffany Lin
Cerine Lo
Mick Lorasso
Charles Lucas
Lynn

Amy Ma
Rachel Macabangun
Sharon Macgregor-Scott

Matt Mandarino
Eleanor Marks
Jose Martinez
Irene Mashan
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Karen Miranda
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Kamran Muthleb
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Paulina Ospina

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Austin Patrick
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David Perez
Peter Peter
Kristy Phan
Antonio Pierola
Taylor Poles
John Porter
Lynn Porter
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Talula Porter
Bianca Pulitzer

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Victoria Ramirez
Sravanthi Reddy
Elva Reyes
Morgan Ricketts
Audrey Rivers
Esko Robinson
Jessica Ronson
Evellyn Rosas
Rona Roth
Allison Ruek

Daz S
Nina Saeang
Mayra Sanchez
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Melissa Schaffer
Sam Schongalla
Sarah Sepideh
Alex Shapovalova
Tahereh Sheerazie
Larissa Shen
Maggie Smart-McCabe
Amanda Smith
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Bryan Yi
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Li Zeng
Isabelle Zhong





VOLUNTEER PROFILE: Fiona Yun-Jui Chang 張昀叡

“When my daughter attended Levi Brewster’s weekend volunteer project in 2021, I remember seeing the spark in her eyes when she came home and shared her newfound joy in learning about plants, water, soil and the city. After that she would bring me to the garden, and we enjoyed every moment of working together with friends and neighbors we might not have had a chance to know otherwise.

When I think of volunteer work at Arlington Garden, I think about what philosopher Byung-Chul Han says: “Everything that stabilizes human life is time-consuming.” Gardening is a time-consuming practice. I like to learn how to collaborate with the community to listen to the garden, to care for the land. That grounds me as a human.”

—Fiona Yun-Jui Chang 張昀叡

Fiona Yun-Jui Chang 張昀叡 was raised in a Hakka family in Taiwan, an island in the north eastern Pacific Ocean with many names and an unsettled history. Fiona works in photography, text, installation and art making workshops to examine human relations. Inspired by cross-cultural connections, she uses art as a vehicle to foster a collective (un)learning community. Her most recent work investigates ritual and handmade objects that once embodied human experience, but have been displaced in digitalized society. Fiona lives in Los Angeles and often collaborates with cultural workers from Taiwan, the U.S and Europe.

