

## **Planting Justice at the City Tree Nursery**

Planting Justice (PJ), Three Sisters Gardens, and Yisrael Family Farm have partnered with the City of Sacramento to transform the former City Tree Nursery into what will become a nationally significant center for urban agriculture and social entrepreneurship, youth mentorship, and farmer training. The City-owned 5 acre site will become a vegetable/herb/flower farm led by Three Sisters Gardens, culinary/farm mentorship opportunity for youth led by Yisrael Family Farm, and a production nursery expanding Planting Justice's existing organic plant nursery, which includes one of the largest collections of certified organic fruit trees in North America (1,200 varieties). Together, this coalition will create living-wage green jobs, youth employment opportunities, a variety of educational opportunities on sustainability and health, and healthy food access for years to come.

Planting Justice is the project lead. In July 2020, the City of Sacramento and Planting Justice executed an initial lease for three acres of the site. Preliminary site activities will begin in mid-to late-2020, with a goal for construction and crop plantings in 2021. As fundraising progresses, the lease will be amended to provide access to the full five-acre site.

### **Primary Goals and Objectives for full Site Activation:**

#### **1) Production and Retail Nursery**

Planting Justice will create a production and retail nursery that provides living-wage jobs for the community, generates revenue needed to support itself long-term, and creates community access to nutrient-dense and climate-resilient trees, shrubs, vegetables, herbs, flowers, and native plants. At full buildout, the Nursery would include roughly 1.2 acres of outdoor field production 7,000 sq. ft. of indoor greenhouse production, and more than ¼ acre of on-site retail. Ultimately, the site could become a small-scale retail outlet for local crafts-makers and artisans utilizing natural and nontoxic materials, such as Sacramento-made soaps, essential oils, jam, honey, and other value-added products. The site also has potential to provide shared infrastructure available for the local urban ag community, with amenities such as shared cold storage space or food distribution facilities.

#### **2) Medicinal Vegetables/Herbs and Natives**

Three Sisters Gardens will utilize one acre of the site to grow nutrient dense, medicinal vegetables and herbs, including native foods, that will be distributed not only to restaurants and community-supported agriculture (CSA) members paying full price, but also to low-income elders, adults, and youth for free or on a sliding scale. The local community will also have access to fresh produce through an on-site farm stand at least once or twice a week.

#### **3) Life-Enriching Educational Programming**

The three organizational partners will offer regular educational programming that gives participants life-long skill sets for growing, sourcing, cooking, and sharing good food, including employment and life-skills related to ecological design, farming, landscaping, plant propagation and horticulture, backyard kitchen gardens, irrigation, water harvesting, shipping and retail, customer service, nutrition, culinary arts, and more. The facilities are envisioned to be made available to other local organizations for similar educational opportunities.