



**Urban Tilth**  
*Grow Your Own!*

Founded in 2005, Urban Tilth hires and trains local residents to help our community build a more sustainable, healthy, and just food system. We farm, feed, teach, train, build community, employ, and give back. We use our 5 school and community gardens, 2 small urban farms, weekly CSA serving over 200 families, and pop-up farm stands to teach and employ community members to create a more equitable and just food system within a healthier and more self-sufficient community.

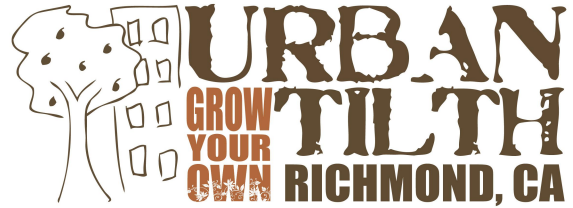
Based in Richmond, California, Urban Tilth's school and community garden and small farm programs serve primarily low income communities of color in Richmond and San Pablo, California. We particularly target the neighborhoods of North Richmond, the Iron Triangle, Beldingwoods, Santa Fe, and Coronado which are all primarily extremely low income communities of color and functional "food deserts". Our school based programs annually serve over 500 students from Title 1 West Contra Costa School District schools where 100% of student populations are eligible for FREE school food programs. Our community garden programs serve over 3,000 unique program participants and garden volunteers annually from these target communities.

Urban Tilth is a strong, diverse, locally rooted organization led and operated by local residents. Our staff, including our Executive Director, are primarily people of color who come from and currently live in the communities our programs serve. Our 9 member board is composed of a majority of women, people of color, and Richmond residents.

As a local organization truly rooted in Richmond, Urban Tilth is uniquely positioned to lead the way in Richmond and West Contra Costa County to change the food landscape for Richmond families and youth. There are presently too few options for residents to find fresh and affordable produce. Urban Tilth accomplishes its goals by training and employing local youth and adults with barriers to employment in the skills necessary to grow food and transform community and ourselves.

**COVID-19 Response**

During the past 8 weeks, Urban Tilth has used our established connections between those in need of access to healthy food and the farmers who grow it - to rapidly respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by

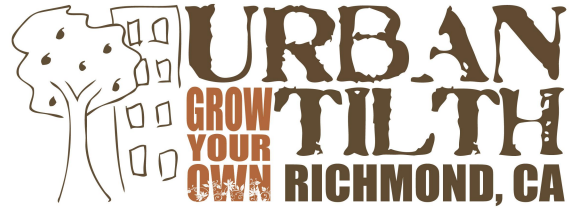


expanding our existing food distribution infrastructure, and increasing our weekly produce box distribution from 170 to 230 families.

With support from a USDA procurement contract we will be doubling the size of our CSA again with the aim of ending June 2020 with 500 members, 250 of whom will be explicitly families in need especially seniors, immuno-compromised, veterans, immigrants, formerly incarcerated, those living in public housing and those who are newly unemployed due to COVID-19. These 250 new members will be receiving FREE weekly fruit and vegetable boxes grown by local family farmers.

In anticipation of further increases in need, we need to double the size of our packing facility again and continue to upgrade our equipment to meet new COVID-19 sanitation standards as well as secure the final funds needed to purchase 2 new delivery vans so that we can deliver food to all the new families in need.

We already have a highly trained staff in place composed of 36+ Richmond and San Pablo residents who are themselves members of the communities we serve. They are ready and willing to rise and be of service to their community during this time. We want to put their passion to work feeding 200 more families in need. We also want to keep them employed in good, living wage jobs, throughout this crisis.



## Overview of Program Areas

Urban Tilth has 6 major program areas:

### 1. Education Programs

- a. Urban Agriculture Academy at Richmond High School
- b. Verde Elementary Partnership Garden
- c. Summer Youth Apprentice Program
- d. The Healing Movement, Richmond High Afterschool Health Club

### 2. Community Gardens and Farms Programs

- a. Greenway Community Gardens and Unity Park Project (Iron Triangle & Coronado)
  - GROW & THRIVE Richmond Greenway Initiative
- b. 1st Street Sol Garden (North Richmond)
- c. North Richmond Farm Capital Project(North Richmond)

### 3. Basins of Relations Watershed Stewardship Program

- a. Watershed Technician Training Program
- b. Community Engagement and Stewardship
- c. Visioning Wildcat Creek Trail Community-Driven Development Project
- d. Urban Naturalists High School Afterschool Club

### 4. Food Distribution & Social Entrepreneurial Ventures

- a. Farm to Table CSA (currently 250 families)
- b. Farmers to Families CSA (currently 200 families)
- c. FREE Farm Stands and Pop up Farm Stands
- d. *Coming in Spring 2022: UNITY PARK Farmer's Market*

### 5. Just Transition & Public Policy

- a. Community Organizing Initiatives
  - Food as Medicine Initiative
  - Frontline Richmond Standup
- b. Our Coalition Work
  - Our Power Richmond: Creating a Just Transition Plan for Richmond
  - Climate Justice Alliance:
    - Food Sovereignty Working Group
    - Reinvest in Our Power
  - The US Food Sovereignty Alliance

**Urban Tilth: An Overview**



**6. Fiscal Sponsorship**

- a. Cooperation Richmond
- b. Rich City Rides
- c. Richmond Our Power Coalition
- d. Moving Forward
- e. Richmond Grows Seed Library
- f. Richmond Tool Lending Library
- g. It Takes a Village



## Education and Training Programs

*Inspiring the next generation of farmers, gardeners and leaders in Richmond*



### Urban Agriculture Academy at Richmond High School

The Urban Agriculture Academy is a year-long accredited elective course at Richmond High School taught by Urban Tilth staff who are now accredited School District teachers due to a partnership with the district growing out of the success of this program. For the past 10 years, Urban Tilth has served 30 Richmond High students each year. The course uses our onsite garden, farm, and greenhouse as an outdoor classroom to dive into topics such as soil building, water conservation, healthy food choices, botany, agroecology, agricultural economic and agricultural history, urban and watershed ecology, climate change, and food and environmental justice. Students also complete one community engagement project each quarter including hosting pop-up salad bars where they grow and sell salad during lunch to their classmates and learn basic business skills in the process.

### Urban Tilth: An Overview





### **Verde Elementary Partnership Garden**

The oldest school garden in West Contra Costa County, for over 20 years the Verde Garden's ½ acre site has served every student in Verde Elementary through collaborative in-class and in-garden academics that includes science, math, human health subjects and daily organized recess activities, parent activities, English Language Learner projects for parents and students of the Family Literacy Center, afterschool programs for comprehensive leadership development, community events, and volunteer days. Verde is a hub of community organizing and activity in North Richmond. Verde Garden serves over 800 students, parents and community members each year, most of which are North Richmond residents.



### **Summer Youth Apprentice Program**

The Summer Apprentice Program is a rare opportunity for West County youth to join a dynamic and positive group of their peers for a life changing summer of intensive urban agriculture training, community engagement, mind-opening field trips and paid summer employment. During the course of this intensive 6-week program 40 youth are placed on small crews at 5 of our community and school gardens and urban farms where they learn to work together to grow fresh, healthy organic food for our community while developing meaningful skills.

### **Urban Tilth: An Overview**



Through field trips, training and hands-on learning activities, apprentices learn key concepts in Ecology, Botany, Agriculture, Nutrition, Holistic Health, Social Justice and Community Development. By the end of the summer, after using or encountering these basic concepts in real situations they will be able to share their knowledge with their communities.



#### **The Healing Movement, Richmond Afterschool Wellness Club**

In the Fall of 2019, Urban Tilth expanded our Urban Agriculture Academy to include a new afterschool student driven wellness club we are calling The Healing Movement at Richmond High School. Knowing that mental health disorders in teenagers are at an all-time high, and that many turn to substance abuse to deal with stress, depression, and anxiety, we want to support students in creating inner peace through working at the garden and finding ways to heal themselves through herbs.





## Community Programs

*Transforming blighted Public Lands, growing healthy soil , healthy food and healthier people through Community Gardens and Farms*

### Greenway Gardens and Unity Park Project

A transformed defunct Santa Fe railway line that now includes two large, open gleaning gardens spanning 4 city blocks. Our gardens include 26 raised beds and an 84 fruit tree Edible Forest. The sites are collectively managed by community members and Urban Tilth staff. Urban Tilth also plays a major role in Friends of the Richmond Greenway (FORG), a 17 member collaborative of organizations and residents that helps develop and steward the Richmond Greenway, as well as the transformative Unity Park project that employs community members to design and rebuild 14 blocks of the Greenway using a \$5million dollar state grant written by FORG for the City of Richmond. This is the first project we know of where 52 community members have been paid prevailing wage to draft the design (35% complete), implement all community outreach and selected construction tasks, which adds up to over \$600,000 of state funds allocated directly to local community members for their work. We host volunteer days and community workshops, gatherings and large community events in Greenway gardens engaging approximately 1,200 community members each year. (See Unity Park Project Plans attached)



#### 1. **GROW & THRIVE Richmond Greenway Initiative**

##### **1) Develop Infrastructure**

Develop new physical infrastructure at the Richmond Greenway Gardens, including repaired drip irrigation systems at both 6th and 16th street, build outdoor classrooms at 6th Street, permanent FREE farm Stand at 6th street, redesign and revitalize the Citrus Orchard at 4th street, install informative signage throughout all gardens that label plants, share information about plant, install FREE Fruit stand at the edible Forest to facilitate the harvesting and distribution of fruit to the community and uses and design, fund and build a new ADA accessible garden at 17th Street to both stop extensive illegal dumping at this location and to create a healthy beautiful space for seniors and disabled community members where they can enjoy, actively volunteer and grow with us in a garden on the Greenway, something they can not do today.





## **2) *Activate!***

Coordinate a full schedule of community engagement projects from the base of the Greenway Gardens including: quarterly Gardening Workshops, community education gatherings (climate, history of housing in Richmond, immigration and DACA, addiction and mental health services and gaps), community and political art workshops, lead 12 annual resident and volunteer driven beautification projects, design and launch the UNITY PARK Farmer's Market focusing on urban, local, minority and small family farmers and host 4 large annual community NO WORK PARTIES including Martin Luther King National Day of Service, Unity Bash, Summer Fest, Halloween Land where community members can spend time deepening relationships with each other and this communal space.

## **3) *Richmond Greenway Neighbors Rising Together***

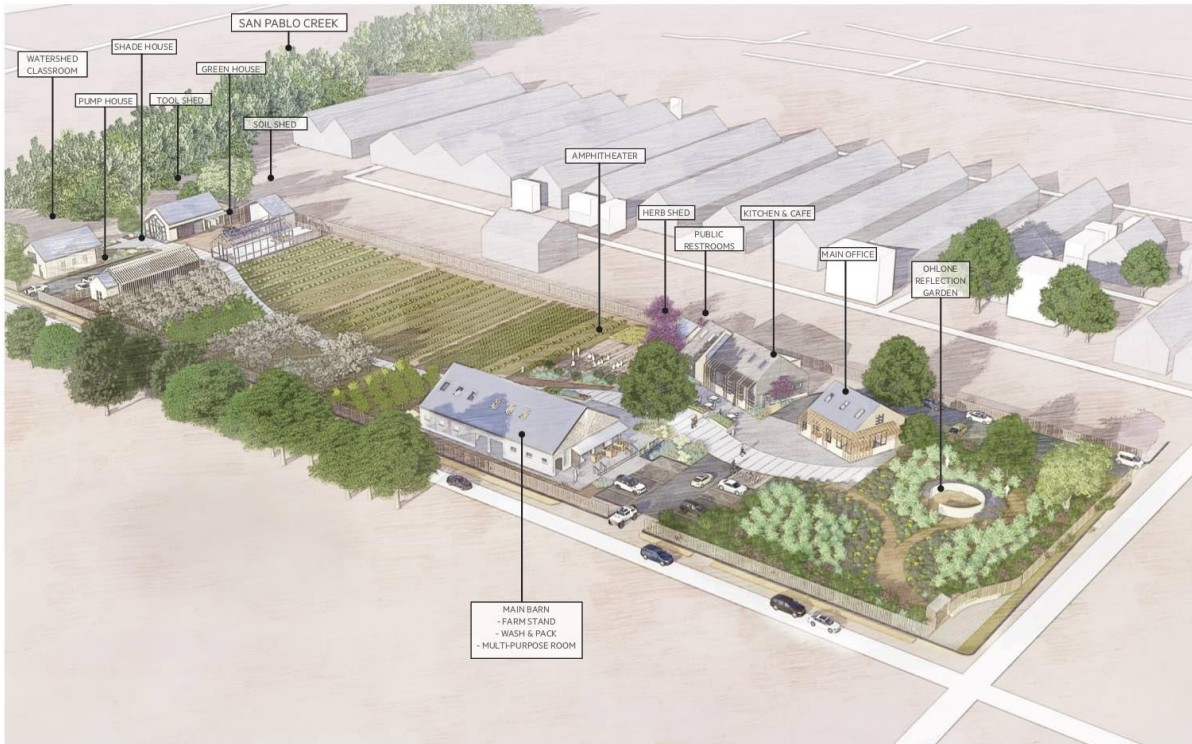
This new program area will support the employment of a team of community organizers who will work with the greenway Community to understand who lives in the neighborhoods surrounding the Western Section of the to fight illegal dumping, violence, and create real radically humane and effective solutions for houseless residents especially those gripped by addiction and mental illness while creating loving and living green spaces.



### **1st Street Sol Garden (North Richmond)**

The 1st Street Sol Garden is located at the dead-end street where Wildcat Creek meets 1st Street in North Richmond. This location has historically been plagued by chronic illegal dumping. Our garden project seeks to dissuade illegal dumping by creating and maintaining a beautiful community supported garden at this cul-de-sac, transferring a blighted area into a gathering space where healthy free food is grown collectively and dumping is stopped. Since Urban Tilth installed the garden in 2014, dumping, littering and other illicit activities have been consistently declining in and around the garden. The neighbors are proud of the garden and the larger community has embraced it. This garden now provides a safe, educational, and natural space that encourages

community engagement and renewal while providing ample yields of fresh fruits and vegetables.



### **North Richmond Farm Project**

A 3-acre working urban farm currently in use and being developed in North Richmond, CA. We currently grow crops, build the soil, pack our CSA boxes at this site, and host educational exchanges. Our development plans for the site include a demonstration for Net Zero architecture, water conservation, and alternative building techniques. The farm stand and cafe cooperative social ventures we will build will provide the only daily access point for fresh fruits and vegetables in North Richmond and the only restaurant or cafe in the area. This will also create an enormous opportunity for all of our youth to learn to be members of a food-based cooperative enterprise. Our plans for the North Richmond farm include a commercial kitchen and food related micro-enterprise incubator and a bike shop with Rich City Rides, all in collaboration with Contra Costa County and Supervisor John Gioia's office who have leased the land to us for 30 years and invested over \$1,100,000 in its development. We dream of using the farm as a gathering place to nurture the development of a strong, community based, locally, regional food system.



Since completing CEQA in early 2020, we are working steadily through the final phases of Design Development with our design team, and our fundraising team is working hard on our Capital Campaign so we can fill the funding gap on Phase I & II of this project. Our goals for 2021 - 2022 are to purchase the land where the North Richmond Farm is located today so that it can be owned by the community in perpetuity and used as an anchor to build community power and resilience. After securing the land, we will launch an effort to revise our organizational ByLaws to ensure equitable democratic community governance of this land. On the construction front, we will launch [Phase I of Construction](#) at the farm site which will result in the installation of all permanent farm utilities, and improve access to the North Richmond Farm for local residents by completing the Fred Jackson Way Project by the end of 2021. Finally, we aim to complete [Phase II of Construction](#) by building our permanent greenhouse, shadehouse, honey processing shed, tool and soil sheds, completing all crop rows and planting all remaining orchard trees as well as building the Watershed Learning Center which will be a permanent home for our Basins of Relation Watershed Restoration Training program and the 1st and only permitted public compost toilet in Contra Costa County as a demonstration of practical and sustainable infrastructure by the end of 2022.

*\*Please see the attached North Richmond Farm Project for more information.*

*New possibility begins with a seed.*

*The seeds we plant today will impact what grows for our communities for generations to come.*

## **Urban Tilth: An Overview**



## **Basins of Relations Watershed Stewardship Program**

*Reconnecting people to the watersheds in their own backyards*



## **Watershed Restoration Technician Training Program**

The Basins of Relations Watershed Restoration Technician Training Program trains young people from West Contra Costa County to become stewards of their watersheds, communities, and the creeks that run through them. Each year, this program employs and trains a Watershed Restoration Technician (WRT) team capable of contributing to restoration projects and leading watershed awareness programs in West Contra Costa County. The Watershed Technician Training Program engages a crew of 10 young adult ‘apprentices’ from West Contra Costa County and provides them with the background information and skills necessary to begin a career in environmental stewardship. Over the course of a summer training





program and a year-long apprenticeship, the WRT team develops a set of skills and expertise that will help them support their local watershed, their community, and their own career. Topics covered include riparian ecology, native flora and fauna identification, horticulture, hydrology, water quality testing, community engagement and leadership, stormwater management and creek restoration. This program is grounded in the belief that watershed health and community health are intimately connected: we cannot have one without the other. This program seeks to improve the health of all living beings in the watershed.



### **Community Engagement and Stewardship**

Community engagement and volunteer events allow us to spread an awareness of our watershed ecosystem – and the interconnectedness of creek and community health – throughout the West Contra Costa County community. Community engagement events revolve around enjoyment and appreciation of the outdoors and usually some sort of physical activity. The goal is to get outdoors and appreciate the ecosystems that sustain us!

Volunteer restoration events are where local residents get their hands dirty, helping us to clean-up a waterway somewhere in Richmond. While these events also prioritize appreciation of the

### **Urban Tilth: An Overview**



natural spaces in our community, we also make an impact on the ground -- removing invasive species, planting native species, and improving water quality throughout the Wildcat and San Pablo Creek Watersheds. Over the last three years, our 38 community events have engaged 778 unique West Contra Costa residents in watershed appreciation and stewardship.



### **Visioning Wildcat Creek Trail Community Driven Development Project**

This community visioning process will help improve Wildcat Creek and it's trail, benefiting the community and helping to provide safe connections to the Bay shoreline & Bay trail. The project goals are to gather community input on what would make Wildcat Creek Trail more inviting, improve community access to the SF Bay Shoreline and Bay Trails, and improve recreational opportunities for North Richmond residents. Here is a video produced by Urban Tilth about this project: **VISIONING WILDCAT CREEK:** <https://youtu.be/t-1-Fh7tHyM> (7 min)

### **Urban Naturalists High School Afterschool Club**

Through the Urban Naturalist Program, Richmond High School students will deepen their understanding of the natural world—and our place within it—while immersed in the complex, wild and enthralling ecological theater that is playing out right under our noses.

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This extra-curricular program provides a new year-long apprenticeship for high school students interested in learning about natural history and watershed ecology through hands-on activities, including field trips to local natural areas to support their learning and practice environmental stewardship. *This program launches in the Fall of 2019*

## Food Distribution & Social Entrepreneurial Ventures

*Creating a regionally local Food System that puts land, water and people first*



### Farm to Table CSA

A 250-member CSA supplied by Urban Tilth farms and local small and urban farmers. The CSA provides subsidized memberships for low income families, seniors, disabled people, artists, and those reentering the community from incarceration. We wish to use this project as an organizing strategy to begin forming a San Francisco Bay Area small farmers distribution cooperative. In 2020, we delivered **6478 produce boxes** to West County families.

### Farmers to Families FREE CSA

The [Farmers to Families Program](#) launched in May 2020 to specifically ensure that West Contra Costa Families in financial distress due to the COVID pandemic, or in general need of support have access to

### Urban Tilth: An Overview



FREE healthy whole foods.

\* In 2020, we delivered **4951 FREE produce boxes** to West County families in need.

### **FREE Farm Stands and Farm Stands**

We hold Pop-up Farmers' Market stands serving neighborhoods without access to fresh healthy produce, at school sites, parks and local cafes. We believe more big box, national chain grocery stores in low income communities is a false solution to the issue of healthy food access. Healthy food access at its core is an economic, national and to some extent state, agricultural policy issue. We believe that increasing the number of healthy food outlets, not the size, and increasing the number of people employed in distribution of healthy food will create the means and incentive for low income communities to demand more access to healthy food. By engaging fenceline community members directly in the industry through our pilot pop-up farm stands, they begin to imagine how they can become producers and directly participate in this new micro-economy. They also begin creating relationships with our farmers, sharing stories and building affinity.



### ***New in Spring 2022: UNITY Park Farmer's Market***

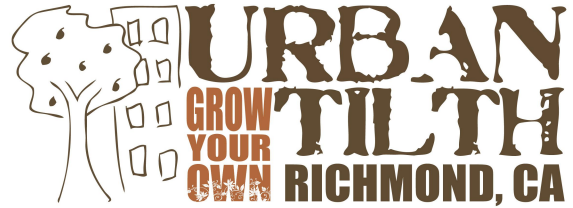
Unity Park on the Richmond Greenway is a result of collaboration between the community and 13 community organizations, including Urban Tilth, working together as Friends of the Richmond Greenway.

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The Unity Park project now includes playgrounds, basketball courts, shade structures, picnic areas, art installations, community vegetable gardens, fruit tree orchards, pollinator gardens, bioswales, rain gardens, and medicinal herb gardens for all to enjoy. Through the community design process, neighbors voiced they'd like to have a weekly Farmers' Market at the new Unity Park Plaza where they can get affordable, fresh fruits and vegetables and have a weekly family friendly community gathering complete with tastings, cooking classes, Zumba and music. We are pursuing financial support now so that we can secure permits, recruit farmers, purchase equipment and create a great outreach plan. We are planning for the Farmer's Market to open in the Summer of 2020. It will include local farmers from less than 100 miles from Richmond and also feature food grown in West Contra Costa County. One of our goals is to keep the produce affordable and to provide SNAP exchange so that economic access is not a barrier. We look forward to developing this new healthy food access point and culture center in Iron Triangle, Santa Fe, and Coronado neighborhoods in Richmond.



## **Just Transition & Public Policy**

*Just Transition national, translocal and local climate justice and food justice organizing*

### ***Food as Medicine Initiative***

This initiative will create a permanent source of funding to support access to whole, healthy foods for those suffering from chronic disease or those at risk of developing chronic disease. This program will be staffed by a team of two organizers who will work with local residents suffering from chronic disease and local health clinics to design and launch a campaign to make Veggie Rx programs accept expenditures of local public health insurance programs and possibly local health providers such as Kaiser Permanente. It will also support the development and launch of 3-4 pilot Veggie RX programs at partner Health Clinics, community organizations servicing specific impacted populations and local elementary schools

### **Our Power Richmond**

Currently Urban Tilth's work includes deep collaborations with APEN, Rich City Rides, Cooperation Richmond, Communities for a Better Environment, the Safe Return Project, Richmond Land, Richmond Progressive Alliance and Idle No More Bay Area through the vehicle of the Richmond Our Power Coalition to define and implement a Just Transition plan and platform for Richmond.

#### ***a. Frontline Richmond Standup***

Frontline Richmond Standup will be an initiative to explicitly engage and develop climate justice leadership in the neighborhoods that physically border the Chevron refinery: the Iron Triangle, North Richmond, Atchison Village, Sante Fe and Coronado to 1) share and spread knowledge about the impact of the Chevron Refinery locally and globally, 2) develop campaigns to resist any further expansions of the Chevron Refinery, 3) Learn about and connect California Cap and Trade initiatives to local and global impacts and develop local outreach and education programs to make sure those living in sacrifice zones understands what this means and what they can do to protect themselves, their families and the environment, 4) conduct in depth Climate Change education initiatives, 5) participate in the development of a Just Transition plan for Richmond's frontline communities that includes a proactive plan to decommission the Chevron Refinery as well as plans for community led and owed renewable energy, green infrastructure, clean water, clean air, local food systems and just transportation initiatives.

### **Richmond Just Transition Plan**

Support the development of a Just Transition Plan for Richmond through our participation and leadership in the Richmond Our Power Coalition and Climate Justice Alliance.



\* Watch A Just Transition in Richmond: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/8mAQ0ZGzVuQ>

### **Climate Justice Alliance**

Urban Tilth has been devoted to cultivating new environmental and social justice leaders while growing a sustainable and just food system in Richmond and we also know that this moment calls for a broader, more coordinated translocal vision for a Just Transition of the agriculture sector, away from dependence on fossil fuels and profit-driven decision making, towards a food system that is regionally local, appropriately scaled, environmentally responsible and socially and economically just that can also feed the 7 billion people on planet Earth, 323 million people of the United States as well as the 100,000 people of Richmond, California. In short, we need a plan. Rooted in Indigenous, African American, Latino, Asian Pacific Islander, and working-class white communities throughout the U.S., Climate Justice Alliance is applying the power of deep grassroots organizing to win local, regional, statewide, and national shifts. These communities comprise more than 100 million people, often living near toxic, climate-polluting energy infrastructure or other facilities. As racially oppressed and/or economically marginalized groups, these communities have suffered disproportionately from the impacts of pollution and the ecological crisis, and share deep histories of struggle in every arena, including organizing, mass direct action, electoral work, cultural revival, and policy advocacy. Together we are strengthening relationships between community-based organizations, environmentalists, labor unions, food sovereignty/sustainable agriculture groups and other sectors of society.

- More about the CJA: <https://climatejusticealliance.org/>

### **The US Food Sovereignty Alliance**

Urban Tilth currently co-represent the US Western Region in the National Convening Committee and supports the spread of sustainable agriculture practices such as Agro-ecology, leading in the development of regionally local, just, and sustainable food systems and transitioning farm lands from massive corporate entities driven by shareholder profit to agricultural economies that put soil, water, air and people before profit. The US Food Sovereignty Alliance (USFSA) works to end poverty, rebuild local food economies, and assert democratic control over the food system. We believe all people have the right to healthy, culturally appropriate food, produced in an ecologically sound manner. As a US-based alliance of food justice, anti-hunger, labor, environmental, faith-based, and food producer groups, we uphold the right to food as a basic human right and work to connect our local and national struggles to the international movement for food sovereignty.

- More about the USFSA: <http://usfoodsovereigntyalliance.org/>



## Current Fiscally Sponsored Projects

Urban Tilth fiscally sponsors resident led initiatives to create a healthy, sustainable and just community in Richmond. We believe it is necessary to support the development of impactful work led by residents as we need many leaders to realize the change we crave. Here are our current fiscally sponsored projects, many of which Urban Tilth staff helped to co-found or serve on their governance bodies.

### Cooperation Richmond

Cooperation Richmond builds community-controlled wealth through worker-owned and community-owned cooperative businesses and enterprises by and for low-income communities and communities of color in Richmond whose wealth has been extracted.

We encourage, incubate, and facilitate the launch and successful operation of diverse cooperative enterprises in Richmond operated by local residents, especially those of us coming from legacies of systemic marginalization and barred opportunity.



*For more information visit the Cooperation Richmond:*

<https://www.cooperationrichmond.org/>

### Rich City Rides

Founded in August of 2012, Rich City Rides (RCR), helps make Richmond a healthier city where our youth and families thrive. Rich City Rides understands that sedentary lifestyles lead to debilitating, devastating, and preventable chronic illnesses that plague our community with obesity, heart disease, diabetes, and depression. We have worked tirelessly to combat these preventable slow-death sentences by daring to redefine physical activity as cool, and by reconnecting disconnected neighborhoods



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instead of encouraging divisions.

The cure for an anti-social sedentary lifestyle is to get out and ride! Have pride in yourself and the strengths of your community. Meet people, see new places, and learn how things work so you too can create the changes you need to thrive in this world.

**Learn more about the Rich City Rides:** [richcityrides.org](http://richcityrides.org)

### Richmond Our Power Coalition

The Richmond Our Power Coalition is made up of local community organizations fighting to keep us in our homes, make sure we have clean healthy air, water, food, transportation, and different ways we can have meaningful work and co-governance that's inclusive of the most marginalized of our communities. Collectively we hope to develop models of success for a Just Transition for and by local frontline community members.

**Learn more about the Richmond Our Power Coalition:**

<https://www.ourpowerrichmond.org/>



### Richmond Our Power Coalition Member Organizations:

Asian Pacific Environmental Network, APEN, Communities for a Better Environment, CBE, Urban Tilth, Rich City Rides, ACCE, Safe Return Project, Cooperation Richmond, Richmond Progressive Alliance, Richmond LAND **Friends and Allies:** Idle No More SF Bay and the RYSE Center



### Moving Forward for Our Future

Moving Forward launched in 2016, when Anselmo Ramirez and Victor Garcia were inspired to organize a community event that would support youth from their community(Richmond, California). The year prior, Victor organized a school supply drive of his own and through crowd-sourcing, he provided six backpacks to families from Richmond. Anselmo, who donated to Victor's school supply drive, and had been working on community service projects of his own, decided to approach Victor with the idea to collaborate on a

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community service project. After some discussion and planning, they decided they would work together and host a 5K event to raise money for a backpack giveaway, thus Moving Forward was formed. Thanks to community support, they provided 200 hundred backpacks filled with school supplies to families from Richmond.

Following the success of the 5K fundraiser and backpack giveaway, Anselmo and Victor decided to make it a yearly event. Since then they have gradually grown the project to include more services and provide additional resources for their community. Along the way, Moving Forward added members that have played key roles in the growth and success of the project. Arleide Santos and Diana Salazar are two of those important members who have committed to scaling the project and maximizing the group's efforts. With their help, the operation grew to include a scholarship program that supports young scholars from Richmond seeking higher education.

Today, Moving Forward has given over \$15,000 in scholarships to young scholars from Richmond, as well as hundreds of backpacks filled with school supplies. Not only that, Moving Forward has expanded to include life skill workshops, community clean-ups, and healthy outdoor activities for their community. All of Moving Forward's projects have had one leading inspiration, to support the community's needs. Based on their own experiences as Richmond natives, the Moving Forward team knows first hand the community's needs and the importance of taking action. With additional community support, Moving Forward plans to further scale their projects, improving the quality of everything they do, and providing more resources to the community they are dedicated to serving. Moving Forward has its sights set on continuing to maximize its impact by routinely finding ways to improve their approach and grow the team. **Learn more, visit their website:** <https://www.movingforward510.org/>



### **It Takes a Village**

It Takes A Village Resource Center provides the high priority resources Richmond children and families need to succeed, thrive, and excel.



### Richmond Grows Seed Lending Library

Just as one seed can produce many seeds, one idea can change many lives. Free public libraries were revolutionary in their time because they provided access to books and knowledge that had not previously been available to a large segment of the population. A free seed lending library can also provide people with a chance to transform their lives and communities by providing access to fresh, healthy food that may not otherwise be available.

The Richmond Grows Seed Lending Library is open to everyone and provides, in addition to seeds, education about growing and saving seeds and organic gardening. It is our hope that seed library patrons will return some seeds from their harvest to make the library self-sustaining. We are committed to saving and sharing rare and unique varieties in particular ones that have cultural significance to our community. We believe that we can preserve the biodiversity of our seed stock, create locally adapted resilient seeds while increasing food security. Our library is maintained by volunteers and supported by donations. Get involved! Together We Can Do It!

**For more information visit the Richmond Grows:** [RichmondGrows@gmail.com](mailto:RichmondGrows@gmail.com)



### Richmond Tool Lending Library

The Richmond Tool Library is a free service that lends tools to Richmond residents with the goal of providing opportunities to be self-sufficient, to take agency over their neighborhoods, and to work towards a more sustainable Richmond, California

**For more information visit**

[www.ci.richmond.ca.us/3254/Richmond-Tool-Library](http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/3254/Richmond-Tool-Library)

