

2015 Awards  
Community Stewardship Grant Program  
**Projects Summary**

The Community Stewardship Grant Program has proposed six projects for funding for the 2015 grant cycle. Eleven applications were received, for a total funding request of \$54,501.

**A total of \$25,000** in small grants will be awarded, as follows:

1. **EarthTeam- \$4,900**
2. **Friends of Sausal Creek - \$4,500**
3. **Golden Gate Audubon- \$5,000**
4. **Manzanita SEED Elementary school- \$5,000**
5. **Thousand Oaks School-\$4,600**
6. **Trybe, Inc.- \$1,000 (note: an additional \$800 in unused funds from the Friends of Leona Heights 2014 grant will be reallocated to this project, for a total award of \$1,800)**

**Project #1**

Applicant: EarthTeam- in collaboration with San Lorenzo High School  
Project Title: Ghost Creek Art Installation and Litter Assessments with San Lorenzo High School and the City of Hayward KHGC Task Force  
Project Director: Manuel Alonso  
[manuel@earthteam.net](mailto:manuel@earthteam.net)  
Project location: San Lorenzo  
Award Amount: \$4,900

**Project Description:**

EarthTeam’s mission is to empower teens to become lifelong environmental stewards through experiential education, skills development and the building of community connections. They were funded in the 2014 CSG cycle for the development of an afterschool internship program at San Lorenzo High School focusing on campus-wide litter reduction efforts. The 2015 project will continue the internship program, as well as the zero litter outreach and education campaign, but the 2015 project will include collaborating with the Hayward Clean and Green Task Force in litter assessment/cleanup community events. This year’s project will also include research on San Lorenzo Creek, the planning and implementation of an artistic installation along a culverted “ghost creek” section of the creek, a field trip to Hayward Shoreline for zero litter interns, and as a concluding element to the overall project, the interns will make a presentation at a public meeting of the Hayward City Council on the results of their litter assessments.

## **Project #2**

Applicant: Friends of Sausal Creek  
Project Title: Cleaning up the Sausal Creek Watershed- a Watershed-Wide Effort!  
Project Director: Kimra McAfee  
coordinator@sausalcreek.org  
Project location: Oakland  
Award Amount: \$4,500

### **Project Description:**

The Friends of Sausal Creek (FOSC) CSG project will provide support for additional volunteer-led cleanups at two sites along Sausal Creek in the Fruitvale area of Oakland and other upstream sites, greatly reducing the amount of litter that accumulates in the creek . In addition to removing trash, volunteers will remove invasive, non-native plants and plant local native plants grown at the FOSC native plant nursery to restore riparian habitat and increase biodiversity. Part of the project will include expanding outreach to the community surrounding the Fruitvale sites, which will be developed to reflect the needs and interests of that very diverse neighborhood. FOSC staff will assist volunteer site leaders with logistical support, planting plans, outreach and volunteer recruitment, city coordination and tools procurement, provision of the doggie bag dispensers that will be installed along trails, and graffiti removal equipment. FOSC will also partner with others to prepare a flyer about picking up after dogs and keeping them leashed. Publicity about the volunteer workdays will also include articles in the FOSC e-newsletter, flyers and signage, and sharing event information via partners, such as Keep Oakland Beautiful. FOSC was funded several years ago in an earlier CSG grant cycle.

Note: FOSC had requested \$5,000 in their application, but \$4,500 was allocated to their project with the thought that it would be a reduction their program could manage. The \$500 was allocated to Trybe in order to be able to at least fund a portion of their project proposal (see Project #6 below).

## **Project #3**

Applicant: Golden Gate Audubon Society  
Project Title: Eco-Oakland Environmental Education Program  
Project Director: Anthony DeCicco  
adecicco@goldengateaudubon.org  
Project location: Oakland  
Award Amount: \$5,000

### **Project Description:**

The award-winning Eco-Oakland Program was created in 1999 to provide East Oakland students and their family members with high-quality environmental education opportunities via a year-long classroom watershed curriculum and creek/ shoreline field trips for Title 1 (federally assisted) schools. For the grant project their trained educators will work with at least seven 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade classes at three elementary schools during the course of the 2015-16 school year, educating students and family members about the impacts of urban stormwater runoff pollution sources, especially litter. Each class will do a weekday cleanup of the neighborhood surrounding their school , and receive a weekday field trip to the MLK Jr. Shoreline and Arroyo Viejo Creek. They will survey/study wildlife to gauge the health of each ecosystem, remove trash and plant native plants at Arrowhead Marsh to improve habitat.

**Project #4**

Applicant: Manzanita SEED Elementary School  
Project Title: Watershed Leaders  
Project Director: Simone Delucchi  
simone.delucchi@ousd.k12.us  
Project location: Oakland  
Award Amount: \$5,000

**Project Description:**

Manzanita SEED Elementary is located in the Fruitvale area of Oakland, where the population served is 74% low income and 44% recent immigrants. 50% of the school's students are English language learners. The project will include 160 students in the Afterschool Program, who will be directly participating in creative watershed education and promotion activities, and over 850 students will be exposed to the information through campus-wide (two schools at the site) presentations made by project participants. The project will also reach many local residents, through the combination of posters around the campus and neighborhood, handouts for parents, a mural project, and nearby residents seeing students directly cleaning up in the neighborhood around the school. The Afterschool Program will include a 6-8 week watershed science unit taught by a skilled and creative science educator, which ends with the students making and posting Healthy Watershed posters, a citizen science project to measure litter at a nearby stormdrain and litter cleanups in the vicinity of the school. Also, a group of 80 students will participate in weekly science and art enrichment course for four months called Watershed Leaders. This group will lead the public education element of the project including theater skits at assemblies, a Sausal Creek mural painting project on campus led by a mural artist, community outreach via bilingual handouts, and provision of information to the students' families in appropriate languages on the topics of protecting waterways and community health by reducing waste, and disposing of trash and other contaminants properly.

**Project #5**

Applicant: Thousand Oaks School  
Project Title: Blackberry Creek Interpretive Signage and Public Art  
Project Director: Nila Rosen [nilarosen@yahoo.com](mailto:nilarosen@yahoo.com)  
Project location: Berkeley  
Award Amount: \$4,600

**Project Description:**

Thousand Oaks School serves a diverse population, with 42% of the students eligible for free or reduced lunch. The school also hosts a Spanish language program for native speakers. The school currently uses Blackberry Creek, which runs through school property and which was daylighted in 1995, as a living outdoor science lab as part of a two-year program. The CSG project involves partnering with the Museum of Children's Art (MOCHA) and Cycles of Change (whose staff leads the creek science lab), to work with all of the students at the school to create artistic, interpretive ceramic mosaic signage to educate park users about creek habitat and need to protection it from litter. Messages to be included in the signage include stormwater pollution prevention, watershed protection, litter reduction and proper waste disposal, which are reinforced in the creek education program. The PTA will provide outreach to the community during signage creation, installation and completion.

**Project #6**

Applicant: Trybe, Inc.  
Project Title: Bella Vista Neighborhood Youth Zero Waste  
Project Director: Andrew Park oaklandtrybe@gmail.com  
Project location: Oakland  
Award Amount: \$1,800\*

**Project Description:**

Trybe, Inc. is a community-based nonprofit which facilitates and leads a range of after-school programs and skills-building experiences designed to develop youth leaders in East Oakland. They work to engage high-needs youth in their communities in positive ways, providing safe alternatives and opportunities. They include eco-consciousness leadership as part of their overall strategy for community engagement. Trybe youth currently participate in and lead afterschool clubs at five middle and high schools in East Oakland, and help lead community events and cleanups on Saturdays in Bella Vista Park.

The CSG project will include supporting several youth “Zero Waste Ambassadors” internships. These high school students will be trained and educated via presentations by several local professionals working in the field of waste management. Interns will then put on workshops and act as mentors for the summer school youth program at Bella Vista Elementary. They will prepare information packets for students to share with their families, perform litter cleanups in the vicinity of the school, and may poll neighborhood businesses and neighbors to see if they see a difference. They will create signage to create awareness, and work to have it translated to reach additional community members about zero waste practices and litter reduction efforts.

*\*Note: Trybe had requested \$4,600 but was funded at \$1,800; therefore some elements from their application were dropped, most notably the production of a professionally edited video, that would have been shown at community events (seemed uncertain). They will seek other funds to support additional interns so they can have at least five available to support the summer workshops. A workplan for the project that takes into account the reduced level of funding will be submitted and approved by the workgroup before the contract is finalized.*