

# THE CONNECT

**March**

**2023**



## **Youth Led Project Revitalizes Richmond Park**

### **Background:**

This project has been a long journey of four years with different youth engagement team cohorts supporting the vision. From park analysis, creating a survey, and sharing data with stakeholders, this has been possible through hard work and of the energy from many youth, families, and community members. The Nicholl Park Beautification Project received a \$10,000 grant from the Love Your Block Program through the City of Richmond. The project included a mural on the Nicholl Park bathroom walls, a community garden, and a new water fountain.

### **Story Narrative:**

Contra County Health Service's subcontractor YES Nature to Neighborhoods youth engagement program participants and staff, neighborhood residents, and community

volunteers worked together to complete a Nicholl Park Beautification Project. With the support of the City of Richmond's Love Your Block grant, YES Nature to Neighborhoods was able to commission a mural at Nicholl Park, install a teaching garden, paint the restroom interiors, and install a new drinking fountain.

The first weekend event took place on January 15, 2022. The event was attended by more than 30 participants that supported and helped make the garden a reality. Where previously there were weeds and a patch of dirt, community members transformed the space into a teaching garden filled with a variety of plants, as well as plants to attract pollinators like bees and butterflies.. Volunteers installed the garden by constructing the planter boxes, painting them, and filling them with medicinal plants as well as plants that would attract pollinators like bees and butterflies. A Richmond Pulse reporter attended the event and published this article that includes responses from two of the participating youth leaders:" YES and Youth Bring New Garden to Nicholl Park."

### New Nicholl Park Youth Garden

For the mural design YES staff solicited input from the community, including YES youth engagement team members and families, on what they'd like to see painted on the mural that represent their community. After conducting six listening sessions in summer 2021, YES enlisted the services of Richmond-based muralist Richard Muro-Salazar.



Mr. Salazar utilized a paint-by-numbers approach to outline the mural, which was supported by our youth leaders. Community volunteers painted the mural themselves in the month of February. Volunteers worked together to create a work of art that truly represented community bonding and community pride. The first paint day took place with



over 50 residents and volunteers from Richmond and nearby cities excited to be part of the project and a second paint day was attended by over 55 volunteers. Other park improvements included painting the insides of the bathrooms, weeding, and picking up litter to make the park feel more welcoming and enjoyable. This community improvement project provided an opportunity for 140 community members to engage and bond with each other for over 2,250 hours to help create a more welcoming outdoor gathering place.

Nicholl Park became a green space where neighborhood residents wanted to spend time. In addition to the mural and garden, this project also included a new drinking fountain with a refilling feature to encourage park visitors to drink more water and less sugary drinks. A Richmond Standard reporter attended this celebration and published this article about the environmental change project: Youth- Led project Revitalizes Nicholl Park. [Youth led Project Revitalization Park](#)



**Quote:**

“Now it doesn’t look like a horror movie, it looks more like Disney.”

Youth engagement team member speaking at the unveiling ceremony of the Nicholl Park Beautification Project. 🧩



*before*

*after*





## **Planning an Inclusive Walk Audit**

When planning this year's walk audit, what should the focus be? The obvious easy answer is making sure the selected route is safe for pedestrians. Some things we typically look for to ensure safety include sidewalks, visible crosswalks, stop signs and proper signage throughout the entire route. Without these infrastructures, drivers may not know pedestrians are sharing the road. Walk audits are a common public engagement activity used for planning, but often these are not inclusive of people with disabilities. It is imperative that we include people with disabilities in our findings from walk audits because when the street is accessible for people with disabilities, it is accessible for everyone.

Some tips to consider when planning your walk audit include inviting your local disability organizations to be organized in the planning and subsequent findings report. Planning walk audits can feel overwhelming at first, but inviting the right people will help distribute the work and will result in a more inclusive effort overall.

Also to consider doing a self-guided virtual walk audit as an option to ensure more participants can attend. It's easy to create using Google My Map and can still allow for a group to attend in-person while some participants attend virtually. The walk audit leader will take the lead to embed videos and photos of intersections to enhance the virtual experience. By allowing participants to attend the walk audit in various ways, you ensure the walk audit findings are more inclusive. This happens to broaden the audience and makes feedback available to all.

If you are interested in hosting an inclusive walk audit and would like more information with guidance, please reach out for resources at the email below.

Email contact for state support: [Sophia.mercado@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Sophia.mercado@cdph.ca.gov) 



## **Chef Ann Foundation Healthy School Food Pathway Fellowship Program**

The Chef Ann Foundation recently launched the inaugural cohort of its Healthy School Food Pathway Fellowship Program. The year-long fellowship program will be comprised of 24 school food leaders from across the U.S. Of the 24 school food leaders selected, the 13 noted below are from California school districts! The program will involve innovative virtual and hands-on learning experiences to prepare the food leaders to create healthy changes in their school districts. For more information on the fellowship program, visit the [Chef Ann Foundation webpage](#).

Bassett Unified School District (CA) – Liz Estavillo Valdez  
Hacienda La Puente Unified School District (CA) – Brittney Rodriguez  
Marysville Joint Unified School District (CA) – Nick Dramis  
New Haven Unified School District (CA) – Daryl Christian  
Pleasanton Unified School District (CA) – Maly Pra  
Redlands Unified School District (CA) – Josie Perez  
San Bernardino City Unified School District (CA) – Warren Ryan  
San Bernardino City Unified School District (CA) – Alonso  
San Juan Unified School District (CA) – Kelli Seidel  
Twin Rivers Unified School District (CA) – Rhima Ramirez  
Vacaville Unified School District (CA) – Richie Wilim  
West Contra Costa Unified School District (CA) – Randal Lane  
Western Placer Unified School District (CA) – Christina Lawson 🧩





## CalFresh Healthy Living Training Resources

Check out the [Training & Events webpage](#) for the latest training information and calendar of scheduled events.

### Technology of Participation Facilitation Methods: Leadership Edition

April 3, 4, 14, 17, 18, 28 and May 1, 2, and 12\*

\* Must attend all sessions (2 ½ hour sessions each morning)

### LHD Learning Communities – 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter!

Two dynamic and engaging virtual events will be held later this year to support learning, networking, and resource sharing with your CDPH local agency community.

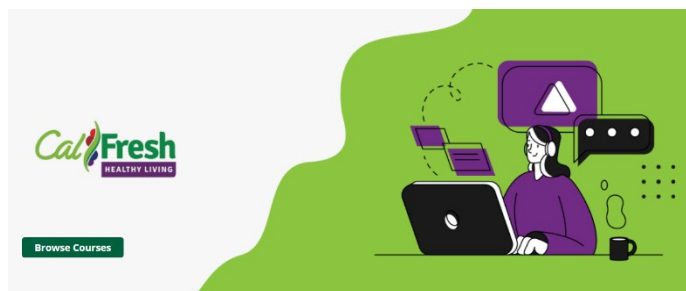
#### We want to hear from you!

Do you have a specific topic or activity you would like to learn more about? Let the CDPH Team know by emailing us at [NEOPBTrainingSection@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:NEOPBTrainingSection@cdph.ca.gov).

### CalFresh Healthy Living Statewide Training Resources

For information regarding CalFresh Healthy Living Statewide Training events and resources, email [CFHLStatewideTraining@leahspantry.org](mailto:CFHLStatewideTraining@leahspantry.org).

- [CalFresh Healthy Living Statewide Training Resources](#)
- [CalFresh Healthy Living Statewide Training Learning Platform](#)



### Other Program Updates

#### Take Action! Website

The *Take Action! A Worksite Employee Wellness Program* website will be retired effective





March 31, 2023. If you need resources to support worksite wellness program activities, please email the CDPH Team at [NEOPBTrainingSection@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:NEOPBTrainingSection@cdph.ca.gov)



## CDPH Project Directors' Meeting

Hilton Arden West  
February 15–17

2023

### 2023 Project Directors' Meeting Resources

Thank you for your participation at the 2023 Project Directors' Meeting last month. Your suggestions for strengthening LHD support for CalFresh Healthy Living are very helpful and will inform state level activities in FFY 2023/24. In the meantime, please find slides, recordings, presenter resources and participant information in this 2023 PDM resource document:

[2023 PDM Event Resources.pdf \(myctb.org\)](#)



#### CONGRATULATIONS CARMEN HEREDIA !!!

*Carmen will be leaving her NEOPB family of 12 years (sadly for us, but happily for her), to join the CDPH Office of Health Equity. Carmen started with the Public Health Institute before going on to work for the California Department of Health Services which became CDPH. She has served 25 years in State service. Carmen is a deeply compassionate person who has a heart for people and an advocate for nutritional and health campaigns in Media and Advertising. Carmen was also the Senior Editor/Manager of the LHD Newsletter.*





This material was produced by the California Department of Public Health with funding from USDA SNAP and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These institutions are equal opportunity providers and employers.