Seeds for Change:
Creative Urban Gardens and Edible Parks

Presentation by Rebecca Draper
Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative
LANI Background

- Established in 1994 to stimulate community-driven neighborhood revitalization
- Designed to utilize a public participation planning process
- Constructed over $25 million in neighborhood improvements
- Leveraged over $30 million in additional public, private and in-kind improvements
LANI’s Core Services

- Community Consensus Building
- Transportation and Pedestrian Corridor Improvements
- Business District Revitalization
- Urban Greening
- Development and Support of Community Organizations
Community Consensus Building

Bandini Canyon Walkthrough

West Adams Steering Committee
Transportation and Pedestrian Corridor Improvements

North Hollywood Transit Arts Park

Before

After
Business District Revitalization

Historic West Adams District

Before

After
Urban Greening
Koreatown Gateway

Before

After
Development and Support of Community Organizations

Annual Community Forum
Planting the Seeds for Change
Case Study: Bandini Canyon

Project Location

- Bandini Canyon is a 4.8 acre natural canyon in San Pedro.
- San Pedro is a community located in the Harbor district of Los Angeles.
Planting the Seeds for Change
Case Study: Bandini Canyon

Project Basics

- Project Time span: Seven years (2003-2010).
- Size: 4.8 acres.
- Funding: Public funds (Community Development Block Grant, Proposition 40, Quimby funds)
- Goal: to revitalize a neighborhood through the transformation of a misused & blighted open space into a natural oasis.
The LANI Process

- Meaningful community engagement - Project Steering Committee (PSC)
- Strong public/private partnerships - Technical Advisory Committee
Project Process and Flow

- Comprehensive outreach to key project area stakeholders
- Establishment of PSC
- Selection of Design Team by PSC
- Series of PSC, Public Meetings and community events
- Plan/Design Development
- Ongoing community updates and coordination during construction phase
Project Elements

- Walking path
- Tot-lot/playground
- Native Landscaping
- Educational signage

Bandini Canyon Walkthrough
Project Challenges

Dumping
Project Challenges

Encroachments
Project Challenges

Graffiti
Growing Success

- Community involvement throughout the entire process
- Public/Private Partnerships
- Long-term plan for maintenance
- Catalytic Effect
The Transformation Begins

Before

During Construction
A Vision Harvested
A Vision Harvested

Before

After
A Vision Harvested

Before

After
A Vision Harvested

Before

After
A Vision Harvested

Before

After
Success!!
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Rebuilding Neighborhoods One Block at a Time