



## San Diego Botanic Garden Announces Second Round of Community Outreach Program “Access Afternoons”

*Launched in 2022, this program partners with organizations to provide more diverse communities access to the Garden*

**San Diego (August 28, 2023)** – [San Diego Botanic Garden](#) (SDBG) announces its second round of *Access Afternoons*, a community outreach project that welcomes new audiences to the Garden, through funding awarded by the City of Encinitas. From September 2023 through February 2024 SDBG will partner with the [Community Resource Center](#) (CRC) to host group tours and various activities for CRC individuals and families in need.

“We are thrilled to be launching our next round of Access Afternoons with the Community Resource Center,” said Tomoko Kuta, Senior Director of Education and Visitor Services at SDBG. “We launched this program to provide individuals, who otherwise might not have had the opportunity, a chance to explore, relax and enjoy nature in the Garden. Access Afternoons forges a new place-based relationship with the Garden for participants, while offering hands-on activities that help maintain a healthy, hopeful outlook for the future, such as gaining new knowledge about plants, honing new skills in gardening or botanical art, and expanding one’s social network.”

*Access Afternoons* is one initiative as part of an ongoing mission to invite new and diverse audiences to the Garden. Under *Access Afternoons*, SDBG offers free visits and interactive, experiential programming for racially and culturally diverse communities, students in free after-school care, homeless and economically disadvantaged families, and more.

Located in Encinitas, CRC services include food and nutrition support for food insecure, housing and supportive services for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and domestic violence services for individuals and families. This round of *Access Afternoons* will feature group tours for CRC individuals and families led by SDBG, along with various activities in the Incredible Edibles Garden including planting seasonal fruit and vegetables, and gathering produce from the Garden to take home. A shuttle tour for accessibility is also offered throughout the Garden.

“Our partnership with the San Diego Botanic Garden and the implementation of the Access Afternoons program is not only beneficial, but is also highly coveted by our clients,” said Sloan Chau, Food & Nutrition Program Manager at CRC. “In those few hours, it grants the participants a sense of normalcy and a break from tough routines. The feedback is overwhelmingly grateful,

and touches on themes of relief and mental wellbeing. Our participants enjoy Access Afternoons because it allows them a chance to explore nature and our relationship with it.”

Launched in 2022, the initial round of funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) allowed SDBG to work with five organizations throughout San Diego County, including Alzheimer’s San Diego, Boys & Girls Club of San Dieguito, City of Encinitas, Community Resource Center and United Service Organizations (USO). Working with its partners, SDBG customizes each visit to meet the needs and interests of the audience through activities including interactive tours of the 37-acre garden and hands-on workshops about gardening and the arts.

SDBG’s *Access Afternoons* partnership with CRC will run from September 2023 through February 2024.

For more information about the Garden’s programs and projects, visit [www.sdbg.org](http://www.sdbg.org).

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### **About San Diego Botanic Garden**

Established in 1970, San Diego Botanic Garden (SDBG) is a 37-acre urban oasis located in Encinitas, California, just north of San Diego. The Garden’s four miles of trails and 8,000 square foot glass conservatory display more than 5,300 plant species and varieties. A premiere institution for botanical science and conservation, SDBG is actively involved in conservation horticulture, botany, and applied plant sciences to address our biggest local and global challenges, from biodiversity loss to climate change, food insecurity to environmental degradation. SDBG has the largest public bamboo collection in North America; gardens representing different regions and flora of the world; and demonstration gardens showcasing fruits and vegetables, water-smart ornamentals, and native plants. Through an array of educational programming, events and activities for both children and adults, the Garden aims to create, share and apply plant wisdom to the world. Learn more at [sdbg.org](http://sdbg.org). | FB [@SDBotanicGarden](https://www.facebook.com/SDBotanicGarden) | Instagram [@sandiegobotanicgarden](https://www.instagram.com/sandiegobotanicgarden) | TikTok [@sandiegobotanicgarden](https://www.tiktok.com/@sandiegobotanicgarden) | LinkedIn [@SanDiegoBotanicGarden](https://www.linkedin.com/company/SanDiegoBotanicGarden) | Twitter [@SDBGarden](https://twitter.com/SDBGarden)

### **About Community Resource Center**

Community Resource Center strives for three main objectives to provide access to nourishment and healthy food, provide stable housing for those who are at risk of, or are already currently experiencing homelessness, and to maintain safety and healing for individuals and families experiencing domestic violence.