



A Better Garden, From the Ground Up

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What is Dig?

Dig: The Campus Garden Coalition at UCLA was formed in 2012 as a unique student group on campus focused on using student driven research and peer learning to educate one another about food, activism, health, and sustainability. DIG provides a space for the UCLA community to learn sustainable practices of food production through hands-on gardening experience and works to ensure spaces like the garden at Sunset Canyon Recreation expand throughout UCLA's campus and community. All students, faculty, staff and community members are welcome to lend a hand at the garden, build skills in organic gardening, participate in cultivating a local food system and simply enjoy the beautiful sunshine of Southern California!

New Beginnings

Due to years of use and natural process, the soil at DIG's garden in Sunset Recreation Center is in need of restoration. With funding from HCI, DIG will be replacing the soil from our raised beds with help from the UCLA community. This event will promote the garden by providing an opportunity for the community to actively engage in restoring the garden, allowing them to participate in sustainable food production from soil to harvest.

We will educate volunteers about DIG and encourage those interested to continue their involvement with our group. We hope we will be able to reach out to a larger part of the community to educate them about growing food in organic and sustainable ways. Students will even have the opportunity to manage garden beds of their own, as there are plans to convert Sunset Recreation's amphitheater into an urban garden.



Benefits

Restoring the garden's soil will benefit the garden in many ways.

- The garden will become more productive with more nutrient soil, allowing more vegetables to be shared with volunteers..
- The garden will require less water because healthy, well drained soil can retain water much better.
- New soil will also eliminate existing pest problems by removing the ants, aphids, and grubs that have mistakenly made DIG's raised beds their home over the years.

Moving Forward

As the garden thrives again this spring, more gardening activities will be possible for students visiting the garden. This season, we plan to collaborate with outside groups and experts to host workshops on soil health and water conservations as well as other aspects of sustainable growing. The garden will also be serving as an outdoor classroom this quarter for course taught out of the Community Health Sciences as part of UCLA's brand new Food Studies Minor!

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Jane and Terry Semel for their vision and support for the Healthy Campus Initiative, and for the HCI leadership, including Gene Block, Scott Waugh and Wendelin Slusser. We would also like to thank The Green Initiative Fund for providing grants that have allowed DIG to encourage a sustainable lifestyle.