

# CIV:LAB

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## **LA Climate Fund Awards \$500,000 to Local Climate Initiatives**

*CIV:LAB's climate grantmaking network announces seven unrestricted grants ranging from \$10k to \$100k to LA-based climate organizations*

**Los Angeles, CA — July 10, 2024** — CIV:LAB is proud to announce the recipients of its first installment of the LA Climate Fund. The fund, using a place-based, participatory grantmaking model, aims to support organizations and initiatives in climate technology, workforce development, and education in Los Angeles County. On May 31, CIV:LAB hosted a celebratory breakfast to recognize the seven awardees who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to local climate action.

“As huge and diverse as our region is, we have the challenges and goals to match. Our region has committed to huge things—phasing out fossil fuels, carbon neutrality, creating a climate resilient region, and supporting our workers and communities throughout that transition,” says Rita Kampalath, the Chief Sustainability Officer of the Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office, at the breakfast. “We’re all seeing the evidence of climate change before us...it’s clear our work is only increasing in urgency. [Climate work] is too big and all encompassing for one organization to tackle it all,” she continued, noting how great the need is in LA County.

Simon Sylvester-Chaudhuri, CIV:LAB Executive Director notes “In LA County... we had over 110 applications asking for more than \$9M of funding showing the breadth of climate projects and programs across the County in need of more unrestricted and quick support.” The competitive pool of applicants each brought unique visions and impactful strategies to the intersections of environmental justice and climate mitigation and adaptation.

“As we’re moving forward... the opportunity is there, the initial investment made by CIV:LAB and the partners have allowed us to now bring some of these [climate] projects together. Hopefully that serves as an example for

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other community groups and partners to bring resources and projects together,” says Stephen Cheung, CEO of the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC). CIV:LAB is partnering with the LAEDC’s CA Jobs First Program to help advocate for more federal funding to support climate projects in LA County.

After an initial evaluation by LA-based reviewers, the grantees were chosen by 12 LA-based Advisory Committee members, representing a diverse array of climate expertise, community perspectives, and connections to local climate efforts. “I believe that the most impactful climate [work is] localized, equitable, and uplifts communities that have a history of being underinvested,” says Heena Singh, an Advisory Committee member for the fund and project manager at AECOM.

As part of their selection process, the Advisory Committee focused on key metrics, including, impact, geographic spread, the unique and diverse needs in each neighborhood, community representation, and equity. Singh remarks that the participatory grantmaking process of the fund “felt like a really beautiful testament of what collective action and community can look like, and how we can make decisions that impact our communities while also uplifting those [who] weren’t at the table.”

Collectively, the LA Climate Fund grantees are building the climate workforce through nurturing interest in STEM careers; green collar trade programs for people from impacted and underserved communities; engaging people at the neighborhood level in climate action planning; advocating for free transit in LA; nurturing community green spaces and land stewardship; and utilizing technology as a vehicle for climate awareness in Angelenos; among others.

At the end of the breakfast, Annette Trejo, Environmental Justice Deputy, Office of First District Supervisor Hilda Solis presented CIV:LAB with a County of Los Angeles Commendation “in recognition of dedicated service to the affairs of the community and for the civic pride demonstrated by numerous contributions for the benefit of all the residents of Los Angeles County.”

CIV:LAB is honored to work with the 2024 LA Climate Fund grantees and support local climate work in LA County.

The 2024 LA Climate Fund grantees are:

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- 1) [Clockshop](#) — an organization that views the climate crisis as a cultural problem, and works with artists to find equitable cultural solutions promoting ecological stewardship and climate resilience among the communities they serve.
- 2) [Community Services Unlimited](#) — a nonprofit organization supporting and creating justice-driven community-based programs and educational initiatives to promote community welfare in South Central LA.
- 3) [Greener Way Associates](#) — an organization building climate-resilient communities through comprehensive workforce development and community education, focusing on transforming residential lawns, gardens, and green spaces, and employing best practices in urban agroecology.
- 4) [Proyecto Pastoral](#) — an organization empowering the community of Boyle Heights through grassroots projects in education, leadership, and service.
- 5) [SmartAirLA](#) — an organization empowering communities to improve their health with technology and data, championed by a team of experienced technology entrepreneurs and environmental health and medical experts who partner with public health agencies, community health organizations, and neighborhood empowerment groups.
- 6) [Strategic Actions for a Just Economy \(SAJE\)](#) — an organization prioritizing access to green space, reliable and safe transit, economic security, and secure and affordable housing, where the elements of the built environment necessary to survival are publicly supported infrastructure and not commodities. Their work focuses on those who have been socially marginalized in decisions about the fate of their city.
- 7) [UNITE-LA](#) — a trusted education and business intermediary, dedicated to supporting the development of an effective local public education system. Their work increases access to high-quality early childhood education, develops career pathways in high-growth industries, improves college access and success, and ensures workforce readiness.

The 2024 LA Climate Fund finalists are

1. [Beverly-Vermont Community Land Trust](#) — is the organization best positioned to be a vehicle for decommodifying housing, bringing land under community ownership in Koreatown and the greater Los Angeles transit-oriented neighborhoods. In the context of rampant

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gentrification and displacement, BVCLT prioritizes stabilizing housing for working class, primarily Asian and Latinx, communities by acquiring properties, stewarding land, and being led by tenants and those most impacted by housing injustices.

2. [California Greenworks](#) — has a mission is to improve the quality of life in urban communities in Southern California through environmental education, urban revitalization, and green economics advocacy.
3. [Humble](#) — The Humble FIVE battery replaces noisy, toxic diesel generators, allowing guests to immerse themselves fully in the experience of your event, rather than being distracted by the source of its power.
4. [Long Beach Health & Human Services](#) — has a mission to improve the quality of life by promoting a safe and healthy community in which to LIVE, WORK, LEARN and PLAY.
5. [TreePeople](#) — has a mission is to inspire, engage and support people to take personal responsibility for the urban environment, making it safe, healthy, fun and sustainable and to share our process as a model for the world.
6. [US Green Buildings Council](#) — is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting prosperous, healthy and resilient communities. USGBC's vision, mission, guiding principles, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) vision define who we are and what we do. They create our identity, embody our culture and values, and define the impact we seek to achieve.

For more information about the LA Climate Fund, or the additional work of the organization, visit [CIV:LAB's website](#).

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### **About CIV:LAB:**

CIV:LAB is a 501(c)(3) based in NYC, Michigan, and LA focused on helping communities solve the problems that civilization faces. They are an intermediary grantmaking funder channeling private sector funding into place-based climate initiatives. Additionally, they connect local actors with resources and funding required to launch bold responses to the threats of climate change. CIV:LAB aims to expand the climate workforce, educate future climate leaders, accelerate industrial decarbonization, and provide aid

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to the organizations that are taking action against climate change in their own communities. Learn more about CIV:LAB at <https://civ-lab.org/>.