

ECNANDC Funding Proposal

I. Title: Planting, Watering and Maintaining 30 Trees on Adams Blvd between Normandie and Vermont Avenues

II. Project Overview

Adams Blvd. is one of the major commercial corridors in our neighborhood council area. Much of it is attractive, but the stretch between Normandie and Vermont is both depressed and its parkways underplanted. Through the Mayor's Million Trees LA project if we act quickly we have a unique opportunity to have the City of Los Angeles finance the planting of 30 street trees, down a full fourteen-blocks on both sides of Adams Blvd., beginning almost immediately. There is, however, a cost to the community to receive this valuable benefit. We must guarantee that the trees will be watered regularly and maintained for a three-year period until they are sufficiently established to survive on natural rainfall. The City has a chosen agency to do this task, the Koreatown Youth and Community Center (KYCC), which both plants the trees and will, for their costs, do the regular watering and maintenance. Their charge for this follow-up is \$5 per tree per visit. They average one visit to each tree every two weeks. They estimate the cost for the first year to take care of the 30 trees at \$2,700.

The Van Buren Place Community Restoration Association, a block club that represents residents on the south side of Adams Blvd. between Normandie and Vermont, has been working with KYCC to survey Adams Blvd. and plan the tree plantings. It has signed a pledge to the KYCC to secure funding to pay for watering and maintenance, a necessary condition if the trees are to be planted. The Van Buren block club has already at its own expense hired a contractor to repair broken curbs along this section of Adams where new trees are to be planted and expects to undertake other expenses such as several iron cages where the trees will need protection near bus stops. We are asking the ECNANDC for the \$2,700 to be paid directly to the Koreatown Youth and Community Center to cover the first year of watering and maintenance.

III. Background Information/ Statement of the Problem to be Addressed

Many of our block club members have lived in the neighborhood for more than twenty years and a few for more than forty. Development to improve our major street has been nonexistent over that time. We think that lining the street with attractive trees, a step that we can take now at minimal expense, would make a great improvement and potentially encourage investors to look on our community in a better light. Imagine the Adams Blvd. corridor a few years from now lined with stately trees shading the sidewalks and overhanging the roadway. This one act will make a major improvement in the appearance of this neighborhood, which is also one of the City's valued Historic Preservation Overlay Zones.

IV. Project Details

a. Goals & Objectives

To quickly meet the requirements of the Mayor's Million Tree LA project in order to be included in this effort so that we are not bypassed.

b. Benefit to and Affect on Stakeholders

In comparison to the section of Adams between Figueroa and Vermont, and again beginning at Western Avenue headed west, the section of Adams Blvd. between Normandie and Vermont is shabby and run down, far worse than the residential streets that surround it, making our neighborhood look much worse than it actually is. Adding a 30 tree landscaping to this street would dramatically improve its appearance, provide shade for pedestrians in the summer, and make the street more attractive for the stores that exist there now and perhaps attract new ones.

c. Methods for Executing Proposed Project

All that is required is a single payment to the Koreatown Youth and Community Center of \$2,700 and they will take care of the whole project. The trees will require this care for a three-year period, but this should be taken one year at a time and this proposal is for the first year only.

d. Staff/Administration Needs

There is no staff other than to engage the Koreatown Youth and Community Center.

III. Available Resources

The Van Buren Block Club in collaboration with the Koreatown Youth and Community Center has repeatedly surveyed the whole of this stretch of Adams Blvd. to determine precisely where trees may legally be planted. There are strict requirements on distances from street lights, telephone poles, low power lines, etc., in some cases requiring different trees in different locations depending on the eventual height of the tree and what is overhead.

The Van Buren block club has secured City permission forms from the property owners or major tenants of the properties where the trees are to be planted.

The Van Buren block club has already, at a cost of \$500, had a contractor repair curbs at two places where new trees are to be planted and at two places where existing trees were being water starved because their curbs were broken. The block club plans to have wrought iron cages custom made for trees near two bus stops at an additional cost of approximately \$700.

The Los Angeles Conservation Corps at its own expense has agreed to cut out sections of concrete sidewalk in six locations where new trees are to be planted.

The Koreatown Youth and Community Center

Koreatown Youth and Community Center
3727 W. 6th Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90020
Los Angeles Business License # 244980-91
Contact: Irma Garcia, Environmental Service Coordinator
213-743-8750
igarcia@kyccla.org

The KYCC is the chosen nonprofit partner of Mayor Villaraigosa's Million Trees LA for Koreatown and South Los Angeles between the 10 Freeway and Slauson. Over the last 18 months, KYCC has planted more than 3,000 free shade trees across Koreatown and central Los Angeles. Partnering with the Community Redevelopment Agency, they expect to plant an additional 900 street trees in Koreatown within the next year and additional hundreds south of the 10 Freeway.

KYCC, as part of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's Million Trees LA project, and in conjunction with the Department of Water and Power's Trees For a Green Los Angeles Program, is planting trees from Koreatown southward through central Los Angeles, to Slauson Blvd. These are mainly street trees, but KYCC also plants trees in and around schools. KYCC has also distributed more than 5,000 free shade plants through Million Trees LA's tree adoption events.

Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI)

There is a related project in the planning stage by the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative. We have coordinated our project closely with theirs. As part of our tree location survey, Jennifer Charnofsky walked the fourteen block site with two LANI representatives, Vanessa Rodriguez and Anna Apostolos.

The LANI project is for street-scape improvements on a longer stretch of Adams Blvd., from Western to Vermont Avenue. Their project, which still has various funding and other approvals to negotiate, is estimated to begin, if all goes well, 10 to 11 months from now. It involves various street features, potentially but not necessarily including trees. If they get their funding and approvals they have the same approach to trees as the KYCC: without a guarantee of watering by a community group they will not plant the trees. LANI doesn't water trees. LANI's plan does include pouring concrete in some parking strips that are now plain dirt (we are negotiating with them to encourage using a porous material such as pervious concrete that will allow rain water to percolate into the ground). They plan to construct stone gateway monuments landscaped with Mexican blue palm tree clusters at the Western and Vermont intersections with Adams, and they plan to install concrete sidewalk grates around existing trees. They will also remove volunteer palms that are crowding older trees.

LANI has told us that since we will have already arranged for watering, that for our section of Adams, if their project comes off, they will replace any of our initial trees that die or are vandalized. In the Normandie to Western segment they will plant trees only if they can find a community partner that will guarantee the watering.

VI. Needed Resources

a. Personnel

To be supplied by the Koreatown Youth and Community Center.

b. Facilities

None required

c. Equipment/Supplies/Communication

All equipment and supplies to be supplied by the Koreatown Youth and Community Center, which owns a large water tank truck it uses for this purpose. Relations with and follow-up with the KYCC will be managed by Jennifer Charnofsky of the Van Buren Place Community Restoration Association, a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

d. Budget

For one year of watering and maintenance on approximately an every two-week basis: \$2,700.

VII. Evaluation Plan

a. *Qualitative - How will the outcome of the project be measured? What is the situation before the project; what will it be after?*

The outcome will be a vibrant tree lined street over a fourteen-block section of Adams highly visible to both pedestrians and motorists.

b. *Quantitative - How many people will be affected by this project? How many of the goals outlined in the Project Overview were accomplished; how many were not? Why?*

There are 745 houses and commercial buildings in the Historic Preservation Overlay Zone that parallels Adams Blvd. between Normandie and Vermont and runs from the 10 Freeway to 29th Street. Most of the houses are large and there are numerous apartment buildings. A reasonable estimate would be that 5,000 to 6,000 people live in the immediate residential area adjacent to this part of Adams Blvd. All of these residents will benefit in their daily lives from the mitigation of the bleak streetscape that now exists. It will also bring this section of Adams more into line with the better appearance of the adjacent portions and not give motorists the impression of a seedy part of town. We will consider the project accomplished if we get the trees planted, the watering and weeding is done as contracted and scheduled, and the large majority of the trees survive. We have a potential backup option with LANI a year from now to possibly replace any of our trees that don't make it through the first year.

VIII. Appendices

Currently attached documents:

- a. Resume for Jennifer Charnofsky, project coordinator

Notes on other points listed in application form:

a. *Project Timeline*

The KYCC wants to begin the project immediately. We are discussing with them if they will do so on the promise that the funding for the watering will be arranged after the trees are in the ground.

b. Completed Expenditure Report

This is a single one-time payment for a year's watering and maintenance service.

c. Council statement (provided by ECNANDC Secretary) on who will control any assets purchased with ECNANDC funds.

There will be no assets purchased. The end product will be 30 street trees

Submitted by:

Jennifer Charnofsky
Van Buren Place Community Restoration Association
2657 S Van Buren Place
Los Angeles, CA 90007
323-734-7391
Email: [@earthlink.net](mailto:earthlink.net)

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