



# NATURE FOR ALL

PROTECT • CREATE • CONNECT

## 2020 IMPACT REPORT



Together, we can achieve environmental justice, increase equity,  
and provide more access to nature for our diverse communities.







Nature for All's mission is to build a diverse base of support to ensure that everyone in the Los Angeles area has equitable access to the wide range of benefits that nature provides. We're committed to building support to protect and create access to our forests, rivers, and parks, and developing a new diverse generation of environmental leaders and stewards who connect to, and care for, our public lands.



We advocate for policies, projects and programs that will:

### Protect

the mountains and rivers in our area, to conserve habitat and water resources, and to be more climate-resilient.

### Create

more natural spaces, such as parks and bike paths, in our historically underserved neighborhoods.

### Connect

people to public lands through transit access programs and improved recreation facilities, which will lead to better public health.

## Nature for All Coalition Members



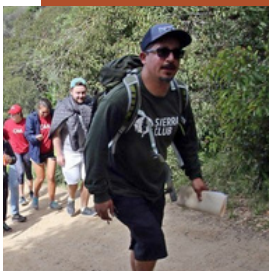


## FROM THE COALITION CHAIR

During 2020, we witnessed the resiliency and strength of the communities Nature for All serves, which reaffirmed our commitment to creating greater and equal access to our nearby open spaces. It has also provided us with the strength to look deeper into ourselves and our values so that we may create new spaces within our coalition to become even more inclusive and welcoming to marginalized communities and non-traditional partners in our movement.

This new year is already bringing us new opportunities and challenges that will allow our coalition to continue growing and expanding our mission and vision towards a more just and equitable world that will prioritize indigenous and other marginalized voices in the movement to protect the planet from climate change.

As we get ready to pick up the pace towards the finish line of our San Gabriel Mountains campaign, through the creation of a National Recreation Area and the expansion of protection of our beloved San Gabriels, we recognize that this will not be the end of our work. This will be a new beginning that will drive us to bring communities closer together through educational and leadership development training that will create LA's next generation of environmental stewards.



**Roberto Morales**  
Senior Organizer, Sierra Club  
Coalition Chair, Nature for All

## FROM THE BOARD DIRECTOR

2020 was an unprecedented year for Nature for All and the communities we serve. We worked quickly to adjust to the global pandemic—and our new virtual reality—and kept our focus on the programs and projects that have proven to be so successful over the years, including our Leadership Academy and Leadership Development Program. The board and staff of Nature for All are a diverse and deeply engaged team continuously working to grow the organization in a manner consistent with our core values: to Protect, Create and Connect.

As we kick off a new year, we are, in many ways, also kicking off a new era, with new federal leadership and our communities planning for a post-COVID world—one that we are working to ensure is more sustainable and equitable. Nature for All is also in the midst of a transition with our Executive Director, expected in the Spring of 2021. On behalf of the Board, staff and coalition partners, I want to express our deep appreciation and well wishes to Belinda Faustinos, who leaves a legacy of significant accomplishments. We are forever grateful to Belinda for her leadership as our first Executive Director. The Board is confident that the leadership transition will be seamless and will move Nature for All forward in implementing existing programs and developing new resources to achieve our mission.

2021 is already shaping up to be a year of major activity, especially for the San Gabriel Mountains Forever program, as Rep. Judy Chu reintroduced the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act in the House of Representatives; we expect Senate action to follow. Expansion of our Water and Access programs will continue as a priority for the coming year as well. With the continued support and partnership of the community, we look forward to the year ahead with great hope, excitement, and optimism.



**Thomas Wong**  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Nature for All





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## NATURE FOR ALL IN THE NEWS

Our coalition staff and members talked about work and progress with the LA Times, Mercury News, Capitol Weekly, Los Angeles Daily News and more.

### Los Angeles Times



Bryan Matsumoto, program organizer for Nature For All, hikes the Trail Canyon Falls trail. (Gabriella Angotti-Jones / Los Angeles Times)

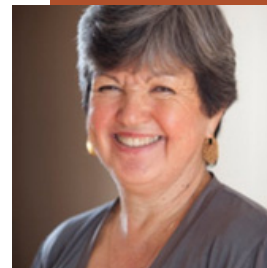


## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I could not be more proud of our Board, staff, Community Ambassadors, Leadership Academy participants, and coalition partners from Nature for All, OurWaterLA, ParksNow, and the countless others who have worked tirelessly to improve the lives of Angelenos. This year, when the challenges seemed insurmountable, we remained committed and focused on policies and programs that will help us achieve equity in underserved communities. We have acknowledged and taken actions to address structural racism in our work with a resolve to focus on honoring the legacy left to us by our Native peoples.

At our core, we committed to care for our lands so that protection of our natural resources, land, air and water can co-exist with the people of our region in a way that will result in a sustainable future for centuries to come. Therefore, it is bittersweet that this will be my last letter to our supporters about the impacts of Nature for All as the Executive Officer. Our accomplishments have been HUGE in the 10 years I have worked with Nature for All and, as I reflect on those things that have made the most impact on our work, it is hard to summarize those achievements in one short letter.

This report is a snapshot of how effective Nature for All has been in educating thousands of residents on the importance of open space and water and how the power of the people has resulted in significant improvements to our governance systems. There is still much to be done and I trust that Nature for All has a little organic magic and a phenomenal capacity to stay the course and continue to achieve great things for our region and as a role model and national leader in movement building.



**Belinda V. Faustinos**  
Executive Director,  
Nature for All

*Belinda Faustinos*





# POLICY: PROTECTING OUR PUBLIC LANDS

We're gaining ground! We came so close in 2020 with the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills Rivers Protection Act. Our champions, Representative Judy Chu and Senator Kamala Harris, stepped up along with other representatives from across the state to make the strongest pitch yet for public lands protections. There was strong collaboration among the coalitions representing the Rim of the Valley, Central Coast and NorthWest to finally pass a set of bills to help safeguard and ensure access to more than 1 million acres of public lands and 500 miles of rivers in California.

## 2020 Impact

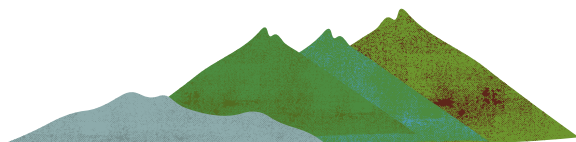
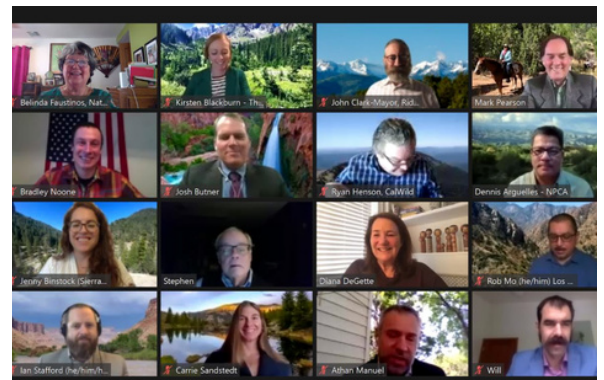
- Celebrated the movement of the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act (SGM Act), which passed out of the House
- Participated in a briefing tour for Harris' legislative staff
- Planned a major celebration, Nuestra Tierra, to highlight the four CA public lands bills (event put on hold as a result of the pandemic)
- Secured 7,900 petitions from the general public through virtual platforms
- Obtained support from 69 elected officials, 68 organizations, and 32 businesses
- Joined a virtual DC fly-in to update our champions and others on the need to pass the CA public lands protection bills
- Led efforts with other statewide coalitions and national organizations to support the House bundling four CA public lands bills and add them to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)
- Amplified the voices of local constituents in 100+ posts about the importance of PUBLIC, PAW & NDAA

### San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Management Plan

- N4A applied for several grants to improve transit access to the SGM
- With the leadership of N4A, the SGM Community Collaborative has endorsed the San Gabriel Mountains Transit Infrastructure Program as a high priority
- Funding from REI has enabled N4A to work with Leadership Academy grads to develop an online portal for volunteer opportunities in the SGM

## 2021 Focus

- Advocating for a successful House vote of the SGM Act, reintroduced by Representative Chu in February 2021
- Introduction of a bill/bill package by Senator Padilla, followed by successful hearings and vote in 2021
- Continue efforts to implement the SGM National Monument Management Plan with an emphasis on access and visitor services
- Provide input to the anticipated Visitor Services Plan to be initiated by the Forest Service
- Continue engagement with community/stakeholders at large on protections and improvements to the SGM





## POLICY: WATER



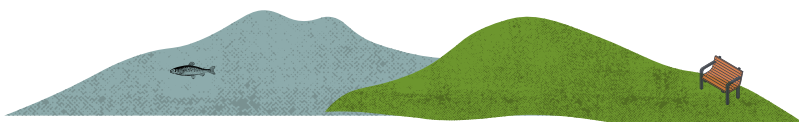
The role of N4A in water policy has been primarily channeled through OurWaterLA (OWLA) and the Safe Clean Water Program (Program). N4A is responsible for coordinating the development of policy recommendations of an active Core Team through monthly meetings, workshops with water leaders who serve in community seats on the Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASC), bi-monthly collaboration with the Board offices, and Flood Control District staff. The most unique perspective that N4A brings to these discussions is our work with the Community Organizers Committee and through the Leadership Development program, which trains community leaders on Measure W. They, in turn, help to inform policy positions for OWLA.

### 2020 Impact

- Organized and led 30+ meetings with LAC FCD, Board Offices and Core team members regarding OWLA policy recommendations
- Managed and implemented a virtual broad OWLA coalition meeting, which included the participation of 40+ NGOs, civic leaders and organizers
- Led the efforts, in collaboration with partners, for the development of metrics for Community Engagement, Community and DAC Investments
- Provided public testimony and support to community members in consideration of project submittals for both the Rio Hondo and Upper SGR WASC
- Developed coordination among NGOs considering applications for Watershed Coordinator positions in each WASC

### 2021 Focus

- Update the Nature-Based Solutions scoring criteria
- Adopt metrics for community engagement
- Set guidelines for the allocation of DAC benefits in accordance with DAC needsAssist with project selection process in the Upper SGR & Rio Hondo WASC
- Develop and implement new water policy initiative of the Core Team
- Manage the Community Organizers in their 2021 Workplan
- Implement all management functions and social media communications for OWLA



## POLICY: PARKS

At the statewide level, N4A is working with two coalitions promoting potential future bonds for parks funding, wildfire management and education, protections for habitat, and climate resiliency. Nature for All continues to work with ParksNow, whose membership includes organizations from across the state to achieve mutual goals with respect to access issues, and with our consultant team on tracking state policy bills, the Governor's budget for natural resources, and state grant programs. Due to the pandemic, the Regional Park and Open Space District postponed the competitive grant application process for the Recreational Access and Job Training Program.

### 2020 Impact

- Secured language in a proposed bond that allocated funds for improvements to National Monuments, which serve significant numbers of residents in urban areas
- Participated in the development of policy priorities for the 2020 legislative session, which was heavily impacted by the pandemic; most successes were achieved for access programs
- Worked with CA Natural Resources agency to set policy priorities for protections of natural resources

### 2021 Focus

- Providing input to development of a legislative parks, climate, wildfire bond for 2022
- Tracking implementation of the Governor's Executive Order on 30x30 Climate Adaptation, Equity, Workforce, Wildfire Policy
- State Budget Allocations: Conservancies/State Parks







# ACCESS: ALL ABOARD PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY TRANSIT

Nature for All's All Aboard for Nature Program aims to diversify and expand access to nature and get underserved communities outdoors and to enjoy the benefits provided by our public lands and open, green spaces.

## 2020 Impact

- Governor's Budget allocation of \$20M of General Fund for Access Programs was a huge win
- Final appropriation by Legislature and approval by the Governor in the FY 20/21 budget for an appropriation of funds for CA State Parks for Access Programs
- Natural Resources Agency provides funds for Access for Youth
- RPOSD - program withdrawn
- Explore the Coast and ParksCA application developed; will resubmit in 2021

## 2021 Focus

- Work with Board of Supervisors and Cities to develop Access Program plans
- Prepare for various grant programs at the state and local level to seek funds for All Aboard Program
- Develop a certified Naturalist program to provide cultural and natural resource education curriculum for the region



The pandemic has made clear how the mental and physical health of those in our communities is tied to having access to the outdoors, and has widened the divide between those who have access to nature and those who do not.

- 50% of County residents live in park-poor neighborhoods
- Millions of urban LA County residents are without backyards, vehicles, or nearby parks, and lack access to nature
- The Angeles National Forest/San Gabriel Mountains National Monument provides 70% of LA County's open space, yet there are no public transit routes into these public lands

To correct this environmental injustice, we must work to connect our investments in public transportation—the Metro Gold Line, bus and active transit system—to our public lands, the San Gabriel Mountains.

“ Low-income communities don't have equal access to parks. Public outdoor spaces are not a luxury, they are essential. ”

—N4a Coalition Chair Roberto Morales in The Mercury News





# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Nature for All is continuing to educate and empower environmental stewards with our leadership program.

## 2020 Impact

- Engaged and trained 34 community members in two cohorts; 14 graduated from Cohort 19, which graduated in May 2020; 20 enrolled in Cohort 20, which ran Fall 2020 through January 2021
- Partnered with the National Forest Foundation (NFF) in August to host the CA Naturalist Program for 10 alumni, who went on to receive CA Naturalist certification
- Began partnership with the CA Naturalist program in October to directly offer the program through our Leadership Academy curriculum, resulting in another 10 participants starting the course



## 2021 Focus

- Secure funding to support hosting two cohorts each year
- Expand on our CA Naturalist partnership opportunities and funnel our Naturalists into a docent program in the Angeles National Forest to provide interpretation to disadvantaged communities
- Re-engage our large network of alumni to support each other and offer personal development trainings and workshops with partners



### 2020 Participants

76.5% identified as female  
76.5% identified as Latinx  
79.4% came from a low-income community  
58.8% lived in underserved areas

“ Nature for All has already expanded my knowledge of local environmental justice movements in the age of the coronavirus pandemic and given me the opportunity to connect with like-minded people. ”

—Krystle Yu, Leadership Academy participant





# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS

Nature for All has a theory of change that through education and training community members can gain the skills and knowledge necessary to lead the way for decision makers to make better investments in their communities for parks, clean water and climate resiliency. The program broadly conducts outreach and education about these topics and works with active participants to develop cohorts of Community Ambassadors (Ambassadors).

## 2020 Impact

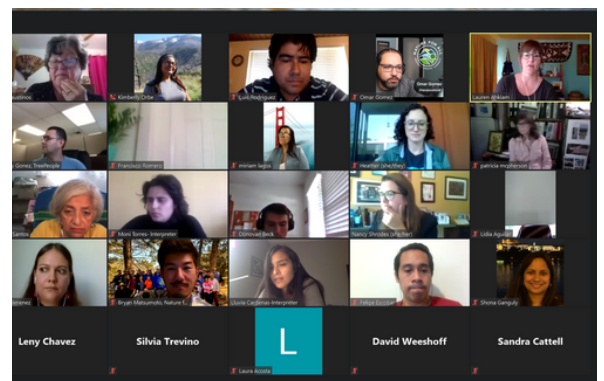
- Trained the Community Ambassadors on using technology for virtual classes
- Developed tutorials to help Ambassadors learn how to download software, create accounts and run that software for presentations and classes
- Provided tablets or computers and access to high-speed internet to those that needed it
- Completed 10 orientation presentations by Community Ambassadors (Trainers) for 178 community members and 7 Facebook Live presentations to Nature for All followers (600+ views)
- Completed 9 virtual community base-building trainings with more than 178 participants from all across LA County
- Completed three virtual cohorts of the Community Leadership Development Training with 41 new students (Leadership Development Trainings), which included one English cohort with 13 students and two cohorts in Spanish with 28 residents of the San Gabriel Valley and Southeast LA
- Continued engagement of former Leadership Development participants (16 leaders from San Fernando Valley, 17 leaders from Southeast LA and 23 leaders from San Gabriel Valley) by providing community information and connecting with elected officials via bi-monthly Zoom meetings and tabling events (before the pandemic)

## 2021 Focus

- Expand the number of active SGV Community Ambassadors
- Identify and seek funding to increase staffing capacity for this program
- Expand the curriculum to address climate resiliency

“ The classes have been a complete success, despite what we are going through with this pandemic. We’ve done good outreach, which is fabulous... we are continuing to make a change. ”

—Olivia Diaz, a Community Ambassador who completed our Leadership Development training and has also recruited and trained close to 100 community members





# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: NATURE FOR ALL STEWARDS

The Stewards Group responded to our community's need for social interaction through the pandemic with well-attended virtual programs on a variety of hot topics, creating new partnerships, education and networking while safely at home.

## 2020 Impact

- Led Echo Mountain history hike with Great Outdoors LA
- Produced 7 online sessions of the Wild LA Wednesday Book Club, with partners Natural History Museum and Altadena Library, to engage more than 150 alumni and new community participants; 7 guest speakers led discussions on community science & anti-racism, LA water history & native tribes, prehistoric LA, insects, reptiles, and wildfire
- Created a Wild LA Book Club iNaturalist project open to the public, with 24 observers and over 1200 wild flora and fauna observations submitted thus far
- Hosted 5 Friday Night Film Party sessions with films and discussions on diversity outdoors, voter suppression, LA and El Salvador water sovereignty, indigenous groups and more.
- Re-engaged Leadership Academy alumni with a Mega Mixer event at Arts District Brewing Co.

## 2021 Focus

- Produce 9 more Wild LA Wednesday Book Club sessions on mammals, birds, plants, advocacy, protecting and expanding native habitat and wildlife in LA
- Promote local biodiversity education and community science as a local partner in the City Nature Challenge, April-May
- Plan outings, hikes and camping once restrictions are lifted!

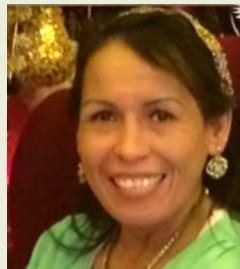




# LEADERSHIP: RECOGNIZING OUR LEADERS

## Community Champions

We honored community champions at our fundraiser: (clockwise from top left: Brenda Kyle, Lidia Aguilar, Emi Kusayanagi, Laura Santos, Josh Andujo, Machiko Yasuda, Olivia Diaz, and Dorothy Wong.



## Leadership Academy Spotlight

### Demitria Espinoza

The graduate began work for the National Park Conservation Association.

“ I grew up in a Latinx, environmental justice community with little resources and poor access to public lands. Because of experience with park inequities, I really wanted to be involved with leaders of Color advocating for land stewardship, conservation and equitable access. Through Nature for All’s Leadership Academy, I was connected with workshops, advocacy



tools, networking opportunities and career resources. The Leadership Academy really shaped my ability to put in motion the steps to pursue a career in environmental conservation. ”

## Legislative Champion

### Judy Chu

Rep. Chu re-introduced the San Gabriel Mountains, Foothills and Rivers Protection Act in February 2020.



"This bill represents the work of so many and they have come together for a plan that will complete the vision of a community seamlessly connected to the beautiful wild lands of its backyard."





# ENGAGING THE PUBLIC AND MEETING THE MOMENTS OF 2020

We are stronger when we engage the public and work together on our common goals. We provided resources for our community to support them during the pandemic and after the Bobcat Fire, worked to get out the vote, to encourage people to fill out the census, enlisted support for legislation, and engaged our followers with an online campaign to share photos of safely spending time in nature during the stay-at-home order.

Socially Connecting.  
Physical Distancing.  
Protecting Each Other  
and Nature.



**#LANATUREATHOME**

Let's share photos of how we're enjoying nature at home, or close to home.



**THE SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS FOOTHILL AND RIVERS PROTECTION ACT**



Together, we can protect our public lands and natural resources, defend against climate change, and provide more access to nature for our communities.



THANK YOU  
REP. JUDY CHU &  
SEN. KAMALA HARRIS




**VOTE FOR THE FUTURE WE WANT FOR OUR COMMUNITIES.**




**Face coverings required outdoors**



"We are outraged and heartbroken. We grieve and demand justice for the Black lives lost to police brutality, COVID-19, and more than 400 years of sanctioned violence and systemic racism in this country."



**Increasing outdoor safety and access for Black communities**

*A series of solutions-oriented roundtables*

Join us December 8th at 6:30 EST

**FIRE TALKS**

**Oct. 29:**  
Poppy Hour: Wildfire  
Theodore Payne Foundation

**Nov. 11:**  
Wild LA: Fire Future & Climate Change  
Nature for All Stewards  
Wild LA Wednesdays Book Club

**Nov. 18:**  
The Bobcat Fire and the Future of the San Gabriel Mountains  
Sierra Club Angeles Chapter  
Forest Committee



**¡BIENVENIDOS AL AIRE LIBRE!**

Mucha gente está visitando la naturaleza últimamente, pero no se dan cuenta que es muy diferente afuera en áreas naturales. ¡Se debe ir preparado!

Para pasar un buen rato al aire libre, aquí tienes algunos consejos clave:

**#RECREARRESPONSABLEMENTE**



Follow us @LANatureForAll



# LOOKING BACK

- 2008** San Gabriel Mountains Forever launches a planning meeting including the Old-timers Foundation, COFEM, the Project Amiga, LA Voice, the City Project, Sierra Club, TWS, FOR, Campaign for Americas Wilderness, Progressive Christians Uniting, and the California Wilderness Coalition
- 2009** SGMF mission continues to be refined in planning meetings to reflect social justice, resource protection, and legacy objectives
- 2010** David Dreier Wilderness Legislation organizing efforts expand; Dreier introduces Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests Protection Act in early 2011
- 2011** Introduction of a Wilderness bill by Congressman Dreier.
- 2012** Generated more than 10,000 comments to the San Gabriel Mountains and Watershed Special Resource Study by the National Park Service
- 2013** Support for the recommendations in the study by water agencies, the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments and a host of elected officials
- 2014** Introduction of San Gabriel Mountains National Recreation Area bill by Congresswoman Judy Chu; proclamation by President Obama establishing San Gabriel Mountains National Monument
- 2015** A3PCON, Amigos de los Rios, COFEM, The Wilderness Society, Community Hiking Club, The Sierra Club and SGMF are all affirmed as members of the SG Mountains Community Collaborative
- 2016** Leadership and engagement by SGMF contributed to policy successes in the development of two major funding measures for parks and transportation and ultimately to their passage in November of 2017
- 2017** SGMF re-branded as Nature for All (N4A) in October 2017 as we reflected on our expanded campaign plan to include policy objectives for parks equity, access, and water resilience
- 2018** N4a worked to cultivate grassroots and grassroots support for a potential Harris Senate companion bill. N4A also supported local and state measures for water and parks, including leading the OurWaterLA coalition
- 2019** Nature for All launched a robust Leadership Development Program by adding a San Gabriel Valley component, assumed responsibility for the Leadership Academy and provided input on Prop 68 Access Programs, Measure A, M & W implementation policies





## LOOKING AHEAD

In order to look ahead, we must look back and recognize what has been accomplished. We have reported here on our work on programs and projects in 2020. However, another critically important part of our work is securing the resources to make these efforts possible. Nature for All and the constituencies we serve have benefited tremendously from committed donors over the last ten years. Some of these particularly generous donors prefer to remain anonymous but must be acknowledged for playing a vital role in helping to grow and inspire the conservation movement to look beyond traditional actors and cultivate a reciprocal relationship with organizations whose focus is immigration, health, prevention services and climate justice.

We are grateful that our donors understand and invest in the development of low-income communities of color so that they can lift their voices to improve their lives and ensure a better future. Of course, it takes a village and the sustained philanthropic support of the following entities makes our work possible.

- Garfield Foundation
- Resources Legacy Fund
- Water Foundation

Funding from these entities has resulted in a model of community engagement that delivers a collective impact on issues, such as protection of public lands and water, multi-benefit community investments and access programs. The input and community engagement portion of our work is central to the policy work of San Gabriel Mountains Forever and OurWaterLA. Policy goals must be driven by community needs and that will remain one of our core values.

In this virtual year of COVID, our fundraising efforts went online to help support our Leadership programs. We held our first silent auction and activity was brisk with bidding wars. The highlight of this event was the opportunity to acknowledge our community champions and have the support of our Board members in highlighting our various programs.



Follow us @LANatureForAll

DONATE

For more information or to donate to our efforts, please email our Coalition Coordinator at [contact@lanatureforall.org](mailto:contact@lanatureforall.org) or visit our website, [www.lanatureforall.org](http://www.lanatureforall.org)

“ Thank you, Nature for All, for having me as an active participant for this fundraiser and honoring indigenous people.... It is nice to be with people and share community, especially when it revolves around the land and nature—I think the one thing that is truly our home. ”



—Kelly Caballero, musical performer at our fundraiser

We thank all the auction donors, San Gabriel Valley Water Company, our program sponsor and the individuals who donated to this cause.

For each of our programs and projects, we are looking ahead to funding opportunities, such as the various county measures for parks, transportation, and water, and state programs for access to fulfill the demand we have heard from communities about the need to access open space and safe, clean recreational opportunities.

In 2021, we also have a goal to work hand-in-hand with communities and municipalities to ensure that investments are led by local community members. We must also pave the way for implementation of the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills Rivers Protection Act to ensure that we we meet the expectations held by our supporters with access to our forest, rivers, and urban National Recreation Area.

Nature for All staff stands ready to deliver in 2021!

