



THE ARROYO ARTS COLLECTIVE
IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE AUDUBON CENTER AT DEBS PARK
PRESENTS:

ZONE 5 IN THE CITY: ART SUSTAINING NATURE

APRIL 12 – MAY 10, 2008

Reception: Saturday, April 12, 2:00 – 5:00PM

Edible Plant Walk with Christopher Nyerges: April 26, 2:00 – 4:00PM. Free

Hours: Wednesday - Saturday, 9:00AM – 5:00PM. Free Admission

Location: 4700 North Griffin Avenue , Los Angeles , CA 90031

ARROYOARTSCOLLECTIVE.ORG
ZONE5INTHECITY.WORDPRESS.COM



Ten installations, jurored by **Helen Lessick** and **James Rojas**, addressing sustainability by **Artists formerly Known as Women, Otis Bardwell, Libby Gerber, Rebeca Guerrero, Barbara Koziel-Gawronski, Nancy Kyes, Kelly Nicholson and Jenna Robinson, Chad Rea, Jane Tsong, and Julie Zemel** with the assistance of students from the Arroyo Seco Academy of Franklin High School sited throughout the Audubon Center at Debs Park bounded by Griffin Avenue, Scrub Jay Trail and the Butterfly Loop.

The Arroyo Arts Collective's site-specific temporary installation exhibition, *Zone 5 in the City*, refers to permaculture's classification of "Zone 5" as the wilderness zone from which we learn the important lesson of working with nature not against it. *Zone 5 in the City* is a project that brings professional artists together with Franklin High School students to explore the issue of sustainability through the construction of site-specific installations on the grounds of the Audubon Center at Debs Park.

The Audubon Center is located on one of the last parcels of open space in Los Angeles. Comprising 282 acres of urban wilderness, it contains California walnut woodland and coastal scrub habitats. Located in a wildlife corridor for migratory birds, the park is a haven for 138 species of birds. The Audubon's building was designed using the principles of sustainability. The design focuses on a number of key environmental issues that are at the heart of sustainable building, including renewable energy sources, water conservation, recycled building materials, and native landscaping.

About the Installations:



Artists Formerly Known as Women with Franklin High School students **Daniel Rodriguez** and **Eva Torres**

Framing the Loop addresses the local terrain, the ecosystem and the effects of water consumption on the local landscape. By literally framing sites along the Butterfly Loop Trail, the viewer's gaze will be directed to specific elements in the landscape, and by the use of cell phones, the viewer will hear information that will augment the experience of the environment.

Otis Bardwell with student **Carlos Borja** *Plastic Hut*: a life-sized hut modeled after dwellings made by Tongva Nations, indigenous groups of Southern California. The structural framework is built from flexible plastic tubing instead of sticks, lashed together with plastic twine instead of leather or bark, and thatched over with recycled plastic bags in lieu of grass.



Libby L. Gerber with student **Porchea Tretola** *Natura Urbana* acknowledges the closeness of the impending city, but does not allow it to penetrate the small parcel of wilderness. Only the implication of man-made objects find their way into the park via 15 imprinted earthen "artifacts". The objects cast in the earth pieces are collected in the urban areas surrounding Debs Park. The images of these "found" urban objects will fade once rain, extreme heat, and growing plants overtake the forms. Their man-made features will slowly disintegrate and blend back into the soil from which they were made.

Rebeca Guerrero and **Gabriel Reyna** with students **Tiffany Garibay** and **Michelle Leon** *The Arch of Composting* is a sculptural cycle of the transformation of plants to consumer goods to compost.

Barbara Koziel-Gawronski with students **April Baily** and **Karina Momreal** *Commemorating the Passenger Pigeon* is made to commemorate a bird which once was the most common bird in the USA and is now extinct. The project consists of a group of small, printed flags attached to sticks, and a stone with an inscription.

Nancy Kyes with student **Gustavo Orduna** *Sphere* is an installation that suggests oneness, in which the continual diversity we experience arises. Branches found lying on the ground are woven together, in a seemingly random way, to build a larger, recognizable pattern.

Kelly Nicholson and **Jenna Robinson** with students **Alex Cortes**, **Monica Montoya**, and **Alex Saravia** *Stepping off the Path: Resting Places in Zone 5* will address issues of sustainability within the Audubon Center at Debs Park through the creation of a site-determined installation that focuses on connecting to nature through the creation of resting places. We will create sanctuaries made of natural materials found on site for people to sit, meditate, and connect with their surroundings on a visceral level. Our aim is to build comfortable seats where people will want to linger, connect with and understand the essence of the place, rather than just pass through on a footpath.



Chad Rea and **Scot Rea** *Ecopop* with student **Pablo Sotelo** *Trading Spaces*: With elements of their former life still intact, these uniquely designed birdhouses constructed from discarded tradeshow displays are a constant reminder of consumerism and waste management, and their effects on our ecosystem.

Jane Tsong with students **Moises Hernandez** and **Anthony Zapata** *The Water Cycle Speaks*: Our team will be designing graphics to be mounted on Debs' water fountains and faucets. These graphics will express the life cycle of the water we use from rain to the ocean.

Julie Zemel with student **Angie Urbina** *Car Park*: a site-specific native plant garden within and around a wrecked car with interpretive signage. I propose to reuse this site of decay by filling it with local soil and then creating a native plant garden by transplanting samples of the park's flowering plants.

This project is supported in part by generous grants from the City of Los Angeles , Department of Cultural Affairs and the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.