

UCLA Sunset Canyon Recreation Center Edible Amphitheater Garden



Introduction

The **Sunset Canyon Recreation Center Edible Amphitheater Garden** is a living, thriving space for the growing of healthy fruits, vegetables, and human spirits. The Edible Amphitheater offers an impressive array of benefits to the UCLA campus and community.

Empowerment is the key to its success: the Edible Amphitheater will *empower* individuals to learn about sustainable food systems and production, to become knowledgeable of food nutrition and health, and to connect the goals of the Edible Amphitheater to the broader concerns facing the planet. As part of the UCLA Healthy Campus Initiative and the UC Global Food Initiative, the Edible Amphitheater will be a space of education, awareness, and *empowerment*.

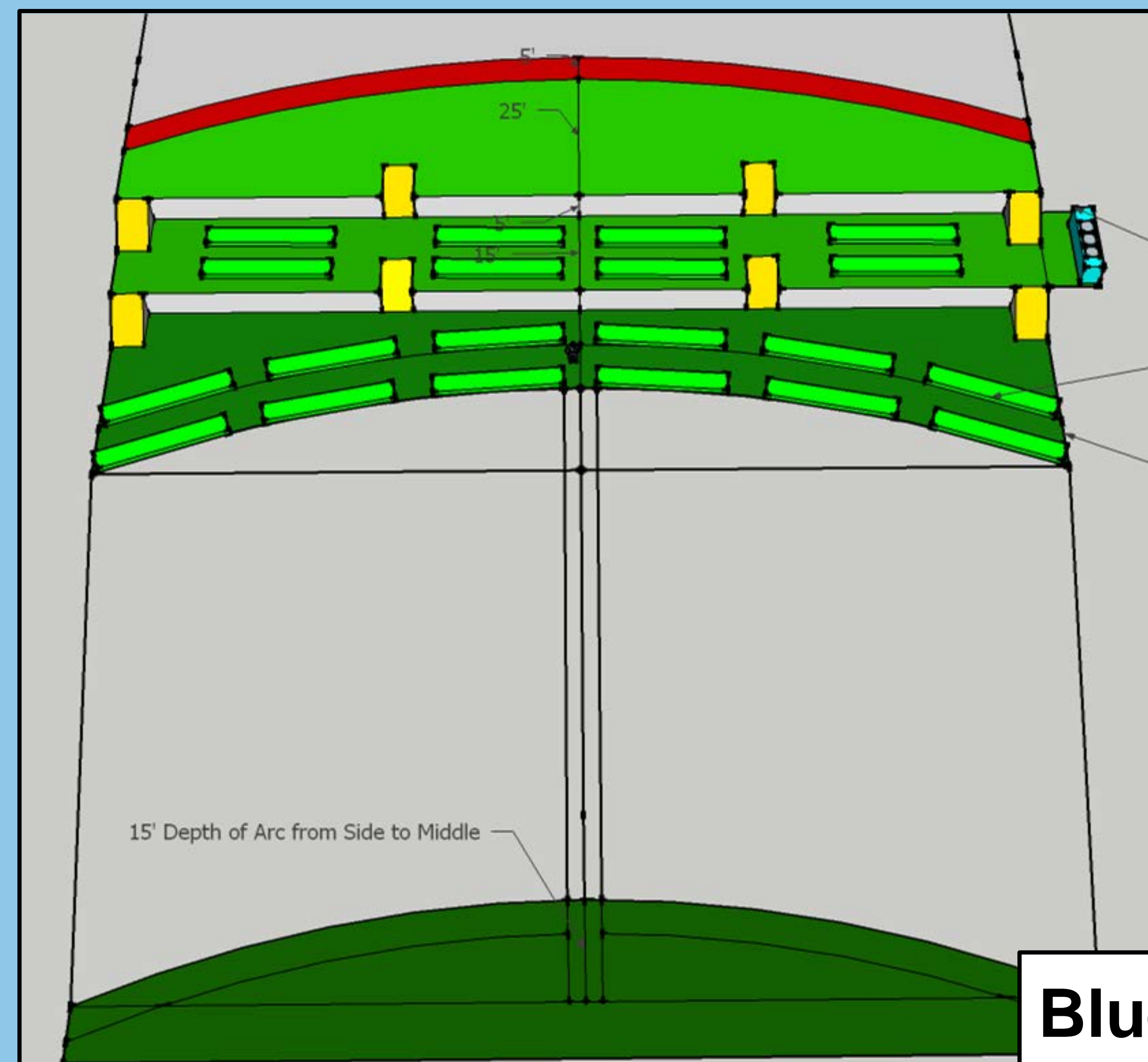
Additionally, the Edible Amphitheater will be an important component and influential symbol of the food justice and food security movement at UCLA, initiated by the Global Food Initiative and the EatWell pod of the Healthy Campus Initiative. The garden provides a space to grow crops that can be processed into cottage foods such as jam, dried fruit, and dried soup mix. These products can be donated to needs-based food providers on campus such as the CPO Food Closet and Cafe 580, who can then distribute them to food insecure students.



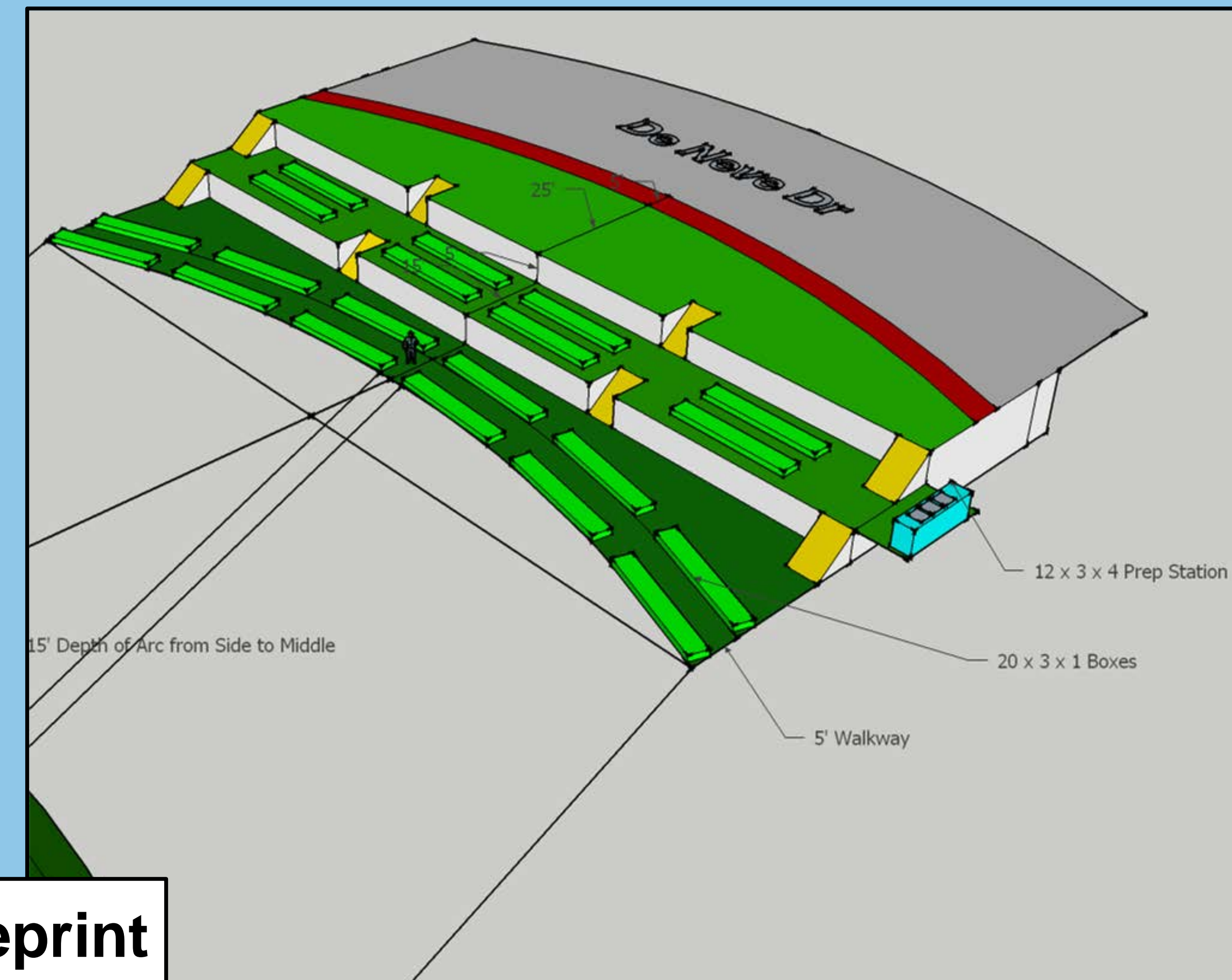
Before



After!



Blueprint



Goals

Goal #1:
Create a beautiful, well-managed garden at the top of Sunset Canyon Recreation Center Amphitheater.
Working with UCLA Facilities, Recreation, Campus Life, and Healthy Campus Initiative to break ground.

Goal #2:
Empower the UCLA community and the larger LA area to utilize the garden effectively and purposefully.
Forging strong connections with student orgs, faculty members, UCLA public health and gardening courses, UC Extension Master Gardeners, and non-profit orgs in the greater LA area.

Goal #3:
Lay the framework for the garden's future success and management.
Innovating a novel and easy-to-use system for management, long-term planning/rotation cropping, progress assessment, and external org integration.

Project History

The Edible Amphitheater project was initiated by UCLA Recreation and Healthy Campus Initiative during the summer of 2014. UCLA Recreation identified the space to be set aside for the new garden, and Healthy Campus Initiative commenced the planning stages for the garden. Beginning during Winter Quarter of 2015, the efforts of all associated parties began to bear fruit with the production of detailed plans, blueprints, timelines, and funding grants. The Edible Amphitheater is set to be planted at the end of summer 2015, for a productive and successful future during the next school year.

Healthy Campus Initiative has been instrumental in adding new medicinal gardens to outdoor areas of UCLA Medical buildings. These public gardens aid UCLA patient health, mindfulness, and community. The new edible garden planned for Sunset Canyon Recreation Center was therefore aligned with Healthy Campus Initiative values. The support of the Edible Amphitheater also further augmented HCI's EatWell campaign, which continues to facilitate research and community action in many public health and food justice sectors relevant to UCLA campus and the larger Los Angeles area.

UC Global Food Initiative, launched at UCLA by UC President Janet Napolitano during the 2014 summer, has also greatly contributed to the Edible Amphitheater project. Creating a UCLA Food Security Working Group to distribute funds to various food aid organizations on campus, Global Food Initiative has been particularly important for connecting the planned benefits and harvest of the Edible Amphitheater directly with students at UCLA.

UCLA's The Green Initiative Fund has contributed startup grant funding for the project. HCI has associated the Edible Amphitheater with One Gun Ranch, based in Malibu, who have been an invaluable resource and ally for the project. Finally, TreePeople of Los Angeles have also been significant for the garden, providing fruit trees and growing expertise.



Onsite Photo



**Steven Eggert
Ian Davies**



Future Goals

The Edible Amphitheater will continue to partner with UCLA's Healthy Campus Initiative, working with HCI's Research Pod to develop unique methodology and tracking to assess the impact of the project over the next years. This may include tracking harvest quantities, number and frequency of engaged community members, and monetary profit and cost of the space.