

Dear Earthroots Community Member,

This has been an amazing year for Earthroots Field School, and I'm excited to tell you why.

It has been a year of discovery, creativity, and solidarity. It has been a year of strengthening existing connections, forging new ones, and relying upon our community for support. It has been a year of spreading our roots deeply and anchoring ourselves and our work more solidly in service to others. This is truly a revitalizing time.

If you can remember back to this time last year, we were unsure about what the future held. There were no shortage of challenges as we were faced with offering distance learning while keeping nature connection at the heart of our offerings. We were committed to holding our vision in the midst of great uncertainty, but that didn't make the path any clearer or easier to navigate.

And yet, with your support and generosity, here we are today. What a difference a year can make! I am grateful to and proud of our Earthroots community. Together, we embraced the challenges and opportunities that the moment provided and faced them with creativity and open-mindedness. The results are stunning. Together we have offered new virtual and in-person classes for our community and made numerous improvements to Big Oak Canyon. I hope you read the details of our activities that are outlined in our **Annual Report**.

The momentum created by overcoming these challenges also inspired us to move boldly toward a vision of a more expansive future for Earthroots Field School, one in which we are able to be of greater service, and to have a greater impact.

Among the most thought-provoking experiences I have had this year since we have been able to once again offer live classes have been the conversations with parents. While these types of

communications are not new, Earthroots teachers and I have always made a point of being in close communication with Earthroots parents, this year things have been different. The conversations have been more meaningful. It is as if we have all been starved for connection and just waiting for the opportunity to come together in shared experience over something as solid, resilient, and reliable as nature.

These conversations, these connections, led me to an even greater understanding of the uniqueness of the Earthroots community—our families, supporters, and staff. Earthroots is a community with great appreciation, vast knowledge and understanding, and unwavering commitment, not just to our land and our community, but to the land and people everywhere.

For Earthroots, serving our Southern California community will always be the heart and soul of our work. It is this space of deep and meaningful connection that gives us the experience, ability, and desire to go beyond the borders of our community, to be of service to people who may never have access to Big Oak Canyon.

With this in mind, during this past year, while creating new programming and activities at Big Oak Canyon, we have stepped into two new opportunities for Earthroots Field School. The first is our **Big Oak Canyon Land Connection and Blessing** that will take place on January 8, 2022. The event will allow for a limited number of participants to be at Big Oak Canyon along with Adelia Sandoval, the spiritual overseer for the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians/Achjachemen Nation. Adelia will speak and then lead all attending in a land connection and blessing. Her personal sensitivity and cultural connection to the land at Big Oak will make this an unforgettable experience for all involved.

**When there is a separation, a struggle in life,
we need to get back into connection with the Earth.
Feeling Mother Earth underneath, feeling her heart
beating, feeling that the Earth is alive, affects how
people move on the Earth. – Adelia Sandoval**

With Adelia's permission, this event will be videotaped and then shared with the public. By "public," we mean families and groups around the country, and possibly beyond. The video will be an opportunity for everyone to witness the Big Oak event, and the accompanying downloadable "do it yourself tools" will guide anyone and everyone in creating their own land connection and blessing.

Whether they are at a public beach, a local park, or in their own backyard, we will be calling upon people to make a conscious choice to acknowledge the sacredness of “their” land in their community. It is our belief that these moments of connection will come together to create a shifting of awareness and appreciation that will affect and serve people today in countless ways, and in doing so have a major impact on future generations as well.

As people have their own land blessings we will provide a place on the Earthroots website for them to give us their zip code and any details of their blessing that they would like to share. We will then create a digital map with each blessing being represented by a pin on the map. It is our goal to have the pins go coast to coast...and possibly beyond.

Earthroots staff will reach out to groups, schools, and organizations across the country throughout the year, sharing information about creating their own land connection and blessing experience. We are looking forward to sharing our values and knowledge with organizations and families in other parts of the country.

The second opportunity is also based on our new awareness that **people beyond our borders are not beyond our reach**. Earthroots has begun working this year on our online learning portal. **The Earthroots Treehouse will be a one-site source for ecological learning and fun in the form of activities for children ages 2-12 and their families - everywhere.** The portal will cover the spectrum, offering introductory activities for families new to the outdoors as well as extended activities for nature-focused families – all designed to get kids outdoors, experiencing, connecting with and appreciating nature!

Earthroots Treehouse will be a place for all children, even if their access to nature is limited to their front stoop or local park. It will be a supportive community for parents desiring to strengthen their Parenting in Nature skills. Ultimately, it will be a resource for teachers wanting to offer Ecoliteracy as a component in their classrooms. It is designed to be a family-affordable revenue source for Earthroots that will provide access to any interested family, regardless of ability to pay.

The Earthroots Treehouse is completely in alignment with the Earthroots Field School mission of cultivating a sense of care and connection with the natural world and our commitment to Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity. **It is an amazingly worthwhile,**

audacious, demanding project which will be a unique and welcome resource for many families, and a game-changer for future generations and their relationship to nature.

Earthroots has the ability to make these projects happen—and it is our responsibility to step up and do so. We all need to share our gifts as far and wide as possible. The Earth has no borders. Luckily, with technology, neither do we.

Now you can see why I believe this has been such an amazing year for Earthroots. What's more, I truly believe that the best is yet to come! But this year wouldn't have been possible without your support and generosity. Realizing the future that we have been working towards, that we envision, also depends on your support and generosity.

We stand ready to offer people in Southern California and everywhere a helping hand in connecting with nature. We are dedicated to profoundly impacting the way people move on the Earth. Without your donation, none of this is possible.

If you are excited by our successes this past year, and inspired by our vision of the future, please be as generous as possible. We guarantee you that your investment in Earthroots will be felt for generations to come.

If you'd like additional information on any of our activities, past, present, or future, please feel free to call our office at **(949) 709-5777** or email us at **info@earthrootsfieldschool.org**. We welcome the opportunity to speak with you. We value your input. We depend upon your financial support.

Please click on the button below to donate today.

In gratitude,


Jodi Levine-Wright

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