



Pando at Maryknoll Prototype Accomplishments June 2018-2020:

The idea we've prototyped in Monrovia for the past two years (beginning with an LOI in June 2018) is to create a demonstration, learning, and acceleration site for incarnating the vision of what Pope Francis calls "integral ecology" and the Maryknoll Sisters describe as "One Earth Community." Pando chair John Cobb describes the vision as "ecological civilization" and we often use the phrase "community resilience," understanding that resilience includes a deep understanding of sustainability and that by community we mean "communities of communities of communities of communities" across the human and non-human spectrum. [OurCountyLA](#) is how Los Angeles County itself reimagines its future, integrating social and environmental concerns.

Beginning in Feb. of 2018, we've used the phrase "residential research park for integral ecology" to describe our objective at the Monrovia campus. Because the vision of integral ecology (by whatever name) describes a new worldview, we have thought it important that the site incarnate this new way of living in demonstrable ways. Because formal and informal education is needed – from research level work and K-12 education to supporting lifelong learners – we have envisioned a campus for active experimenting, teaching and learning trained in project-driven, transdisciplinary, values-oriented ways. Because new ideas, tools and organizations are needed to grow and support bold visions for a re-imagined future, we envisioned a campus that fosters creative brainstorming with diverse groups of people in order to accelerate new project launch.

We have recognized and appreciated that incarnating this new way of thinking and living is a learning process that requires changing mental models and incorporating feedback loops. We have found it to be a process of experimentation and adjustment. The activities and accomplishments during the two-year prototype period, as described below, provide a foundation for continuing our work of incarnation.

Since June of 2018, we've developed the Pando at Maryknoll model in these ways:

Demonstration

- installed a low-water, drought-tolerant, native plants landscape in a section of the Maryknoll Monrovia property (through collaboration with UCLA, SELVA International, and a volunteer corps);
- put in a kitchen garden with donations from Kellogg's, volunteers, and others;
- installed a public art display, created by the first Pando Fellow;
- prototyped "Maryknoll Farms" branding and product;
- accomplished large sections of sod removal (also involving UCLA and SELVA, resulting in a Metropolitan Water District rebate for a portion of the removal work);

- brought in specialists to revise watering schedules on a portion of the property to be more in keeping with sustainable water use and vegetation/CA live oak needs;
- introduced structures for rain water collection, including large cistern and a rain garden;
- developed [landscape plans](#) with a team of more than a dozen experts and 60 students from the UCLA Extension Landscape Architecture and Design program for total campus overhaul (7.5 acres) to demonstrate an integral ecology model;
- installed Pando Bikes program for residents and guests looking for leisure, exercise, or a trip to town.

Learning

- launched Pando Fellows and student internship programs, along with a program for artists in residence (see, for instance, artist-in-residence blog post [here](#));
- tested viability, interest, and mechanics related to an alternative campus model for project-driven, transdisciplinary, values-oriented education, proving the model with students from design, architecture, landscape design, ecology/sustainability, social justice, and religion programs;
- opened partnership opportunities with some 15 educational institutions (SoCal-based and beyond) and explored it with dozens of NGOs;
- created working lab opportunities for:
 - UCLA (across multiple departments, including landscape and ecology);
 - USC (non-profit development);
 - University of Kansas (design for social impact), and
 - University of La Verne (philosophy of religion, ritual, and sacred place);
- developed a roadmap (see [overview](#)) in collaboration with UCLA for further research work, looking at developing out five areas of research interest:
 - urban agriculture (including composting, seed and plant science research, food research);
 - sustainable landscaping (including research on campus lighting and effects);
 - biodiversity (including bird habitat, human-nature interface, and the suburban-wilderness boundary);
 - water conservation (including watershed), and
 - renewable energy (including air quality);
 - established research lab opportunities on a test-case basis: wet lab facilities used for bioplastics research at the intersection of science, art and design (see blog post [here](#));
 - cameras installed for biodiversity research;
 - gauges installed for temperature and precipitation readings;
 - pending opportunity on perennial agriculture with the Land Institute.

Acceleration

- created and tested an accelerator model for developing social and environmental impact initiatives of value to LA County sustainability, and proved the model by

implementing it successfully with 10 higher ed institutions over a months-long period creating high-value projects (see [Pando Days](#) listing of schools and projects);

- created a physical lab and makerspace on campus in Monrovia with donations from the Hilton Foundation and others for use in the initiative;
- brought in partners to test the opportunity, including highly diverse participants to collaborate together on initiatives for the common good, bringing design students together with sisters with [Chief Sustainability Officers](#) and others;
- created and grew the most comprehensive educational initiative available for do-it-yourself water and power conservation ([Magenta House](#), produced in collaboration with LADWP for Council District 5).

Residential

- tested the model of cross-generational, diverse living in a communal environment, and developed the kind of first-hand experience needed for downstream implementation of the model, including understanding the importance of:
 - clear demarcation of areas;
 - benchmark-based collaboration;
 - contributions from both sides, but without overlapping areas of responsibility.
- developed interest in furthering the model among a core network, including especially those who are interested in design for environmental and social impact, living lightly, and a worldview of interconnectivity;
- conceived and laid the foundation for kibbutz-style launch over Q3-4 of this year with implementation extending over at least the next three years as the most appropriate next phase for the campus under COVID and conditions of economic hardship: The kibbutz-style model is:
 - communal;
 - emphasizes localism, including hyper-local food production;
 - provides opportunities for social and environmental impact acceleration;
 - focuses on the Pando value of the interconnectedness of all things.

We assume that residential opportunities of any kind (whether retreat, or longer term tenant opportunities) will develop in line with these values.

Organizational structures

- developed from scratch the model of "residential research park for integral ecology," bringing to it the kinds of institutions and other partners that are needed to make it happen, and tested basic assumptions;
- defined our distinctive contribution;

- explored other models with points of overlap and similarity, including:
 - Think Wrong Institute (KU) and Project M;
 - Episcopal Service Corps;
 - Jesuit Volunteer Corps;
 - Urban Youth Corps;
 - Grow Dat, and more.

- explored and tested opportunities for creating an alternative campus for project-driven, transdisciplinary, values-oriented learning and tested it among:
 - higher ed;
 - independent studios;
 - Chief Sustainability Officers, and
 - others.

- engaged in partnership development;
- established a volunteer program;
- developed and explored various financial models of sustainable campus development:
 - cost savings: instituted a model where cost savings for the Srs can move forward;
 - revenue generation:
 - likely a higher ed model can be developed, but needs to be reconfigured under COVID;
 - independent studio and NGO model;
 - retreat and other tenant models;
 - grants model, with some of the key funders interested in our target areas:
 - various SoCal sources;
 - FADICA-related;
 - sustainability-related,
 - and others.

- created a systematic ontology for strategic development, collaboration, and impact assessment (the model we developed is now being further explored in collaboration with Caltech/Sustainability);
- launched a network of women religious from across the country interested in exploring opportunities for scale;
- launched the beginnings of a brain trust for advisory purposes, important for tapping into broad talent and network resources;
- established working relationship with Plante Moran, a 3,200-member consultancy, to advise on strategic partnerships and direction.

The initiative we are undertaking is unique, or nearly-so, in the CA Southland for aiming to create a campus to demonstrate, educate, and accelerate new initiatives related to incarnating a deeply integrated view of sustainability, uniting social and environmental matters; for creating programs that attract the involvement of many of the County's

higher educational institutions, along with creative professionals as advisors; providing an opportunity for the County's Chief Sustainability Officers from government, business, higher ed, and NGOs to have an innovation site and testing ground for ideas that can create more resilient communities; and for providing an opportunity for highly diverse, cross-cultural collaboration for the common good, thereby making the values of mission highly-relevant to building the kind of future we want to inhabit.