

Challenge Statement

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Client-Partner: Pico Union and CDLA



How might we develop more urban green space in disadvantaged areas and meet multiple sustainability needs?

The small bet:

create a successful pocket park model at a target location.

County Goals:

#3: Equitable and sustainable land use and development without displacement.

#6: Accessible parks, beaches, recreational waters, public lands, and public spaces that create opportunities for respite, recreation, ecological discovery, and cultural activities.

Client Partners:

Pico Union Housing Corporation (PUHC) and Careers by Design LA (CDLA).

PUHC develops low-income housing that integrates a holistic approach to neighborhood development. CDLA guides Angelenos to high-demand and well-paid architecture, engineering, and construction careers while increasing racial diversity in these industries.

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Need:

Dense urban communities lack access to green space. According to a Los Angeles Times report 41% of lower-income households in Los Angeles do not have immediate access to a park. Recent studies correlate a lack of access green space with poor health, crime and even domestic violence.

Location:

The target area is a 2,500 sq foot section of a city street that will be blocked off to community traffic, located a half block away from Pico Union's headquarters. There is significant crime in the area and the need to repurpose and define a safe, green space for the community's benefit.

The Challenge:

Transform an under-utilized urban space into a clearly defined "pocket park" that will meet the needs of the community and serve as developmental model with the following components:

- **Best use proposal:** which may include recreation, entertainment, food, gardening, pop-up, and/or other uses;
- **Infrastructure design:** with renderings or prototype applications as appropriate;
- **Ongoing community engagement:** from needs assessment to feedback to communications and educational outreach, throughout the whole of the process.

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Teams may focus on the challenge from a range of departmental or other perspectives, including architecture, landscaping (including urban ag), communications, social or commercial entrepreneurial development, city planning, and more. Diverse approaches are appreciated along with inter-school collaboration.

More information, deliverables, and assessment criteria: see Pando Days '21 webpage.

<https://pandopopulus.com/programs/pando-days-21/>

