

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**1-17-2022 | Pando Days '21 Winners Circle**

We are delighted to announce members of the winner's circle for the Pando Days '21 season. Congratulations to USC, CalArts, and Otis College of Art and Design!

[Pando Days](#) is the program that brings colleges and universities together from across the California Southland to help implement LA County's ambitious [sustainability goals](#). Ten schools participated in the 2021 season with eleven submissions entered in any one of four categories: Transportation, Shelter, Community and food.

Schools involved in Pando Days devote full courses, studios or labs to their projects during the fall term. Projects premiered in December. Winners were announced at the judged Finale Jan. 16, over Zoom.

Finale special guest speakers included **Gary Gero**, CSO of Los Angeles County, and **Heidrun Mumper-Drumm**, chair of LA's CSO Taskforce.

In the Shelter Category, USC was in first place position for its project [COOLING TIME](#). The project focused on bringing climate justice to Skid Row.

In the Community Category, the CAL ARTS submission, [CREATING ECOLIBRIUM](#), was in second place. The project envisioned a mobile performance stage as a vehicle of community engagement.

Otis College of Art and Design placed third for [CHARGE TO CHANGE](#) in the Transportation Category with a marketing campaign for green mobility focused on a disadvantaged region of the County.

Projects were assessed by a three-person panel of independent judges, all of whom are members of LA's CSO (Chief Sustainability Officer) [Taskforce](#).

Judges included: **Katherine Miller**, former CSO of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation; **Chris Rhei**, Associate Principal of Buro Happold and a lead member of the drafting team of the LA County sustainability plan; and **Mike Wallace**, Senior Vice President of Persefoni and internationally-recognized specialist on global sustainability matters.

Pando Days '21 Category Partners were represented by **Jose Ramirez**, Deputy Mayor for Homelessness Initiatives for the City of Los Angeles; **Gloria Farias** for the Pico Union Housing Corp.; **John Cobb** for LA's CSO Taskforce, and **Wilma Franco** of SELA (SE Los Angeles Collaborative) on behalf of the LA County-SELA collaboration.

Category Partners followed the lead of Los Angeles Deputy Mayor Ramirez to invite all eleven project teams for meetings to discuss next-step opportunities.

To date, [twenty-one Pando Days projects](#) have been developed, all focused on helping to implement LA County's sustainability goals.

Pando Days is the largest civic engagement initiative of its kind for sustainability.

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