



THE ENVIRONMENTAL MEDIA ASSOCIATION INTRODUCES ITS FIRST EMA SCHOOL GARDEN GRANT SPONSORED BY CITY NATIONAL BANK

Four winning schools will receive up to \$5,000 to enhance their garden projects

LOS ANGELES, CA (February 27, 2020) – To kick off its 30th year anniversary, The Environmental Media Association (EMA) is proud to award its first ever **EMA School Garden Grants**. The grants are sponsored by City National Bank, America’s Premier Private and Business Bank®. In December, EMA launched a two-tiered grant competition for Los Angeles schools to help students benefit from shared urban garden experiences and inspire them to take action on behalf of nature. This year’s winners include:

\$5000 EMA School Garden Grant Winner

- Carthay Environmental Studies Magnet

\$1000 EMA School Garden Grant Winners

- University High School
- Playa Del Rey Elementary
- Westminster Elementary Math & Technology/Environmental Magnet

"We are overjoyed to receive this grant, which will bring Carthay students’ environmental education and interactions to the next level," said Caterina Mercante, PTA President of Carthay Environmental Studies Magnet, in response to the school taking home the top prize. "The EMA grant funds allow us to expand native pollinator gardens and provide interactive experiences, which will be accessible to all students throughout the school day. Through the creation of Wildlife Gardening Stations, students will have daily opportunities to enhance their observation skills as they study butterflies, silkworms, bees, birds, bats and other insects."

All Los Angeles schools (ranging from the kindergarten to high school level) that were active in the EMA Garden Program were eligible to participate in the competition. Schools were evaluated based on their existing or planned garden site, strength of student, parent and staff involvement, and how their garden is utilized to enhance education. Submissions were first reviewed by EMA and then the top applicants were sent to a panel of three judges for further assessment.

Judges included EMA Board members **Amy Smart** and **Lance Bass** and **Jennifer Nickerson**, City National Bank’s corporate citizenship manager.

"I chose Carthay Elementary as the recipient for the \$5,000 grant because they are going to use the money to create new habitat stations for wildlife, including bees which are so incredibly vital for everything! I chose Westminster Elementary as the recipient for the \$1,000 grant because it is a predominately low-income community of students. Having a garden teaches them about clean and healthy food and provides the children with the skills to be able to not only implement a school garden but take those skills and bring them home. They also have an All-School garden salad day which is a really nice way to provide lunch to the students who cannot afford it," said Lance Bass, Co-Chair of the EMA Executive Board.

“City National is proud to support the EMA School Garden Grant winners in their inspiring plans to expand environmental literacy programs at their schools,” said City National’s Jennifer Nickerson. “The grants will help to educate students about healthy eating, provide our communities with increased access to nature, and beautify our city’s schools.”

The Environmental Media Association continues to directly support LA school gardens through the EMA School Garden Program established in 2009. By means of corporate and public funding along with celebrity mentoring, more than 20 LA gardens have benefitted from the program. With the help of City National Bank, EMA plans to expand to more schools in LA, with a vision to bring the program to every major city in the nation.

About EMA:

The Environmental Media Association (EMA), a nonprofit 501(c)3, has grown into a diverse subsection of entertainment industry tastemakers, entrepreneurs in finance and technology, and green icons dedicated to the mission of promoting environmental progress. EMA is a movement powered by celebrity role-modeling, campaign work, social media messaging, year-round programs as well as annual events. We hold two large scale events, this year is our 30th Anniversary of the EMA Awards & Honors Benefit Gala and the EMA IMPACT Summit in Los Angeles. For additional information please visit green4ema.org.

About City National

With \$61.4 billion in assets, City National Bank provides banking, investment and trust services through 72 offices, including 19 full-service regional centers, in Southern California, the San Francisco Bay Area, Nevada, New York City, Nashville, Atlanta, Minneapolis, Washington, D.C. and Miami*. In addition, the company and its investment affiliates manage or administer \$82.7 billion in client investment assets.

City National is a subsidiary of Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), one of North America’s leading diversified financial services companies. RBC serves more than 16 million personal, business, public sector and institutional clients through offices in Canada, the United States and 34 other countries.

For more information about City National, visit the company’s website at cnb.com.

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