



Values and Leadership Guidelines

Environmental Justice

1. Pacific Palisades is situated between the ocean and the mountains in an area of great natural beauty. It has a wonderful small-town feel unusual for Los Angeles neighborhoods. The neighborhood has a higher proportion of affluent residents, and a less diverse (more white) population than the average Los Angeles community.
2. Resilient Palisades is a 501(c)3 non-profit that aims to build a resilient future for the Palisades and for the city and parkland that surrounds us by bringing together neighbors and local institutions to address climate change and ecological degradation, and to help build stronger connections between people and the environment.
3. We are aware that some in the environmental movement have been criticised as being “too elite, too white, and too focused on beautiful scenery and charismatic species.” (1) Regardless of how fair or accurate these criticisms are, we are mindful that we must not overlook or minimize the importance of environmental justice and social justice. We understand that caring for the earth and caring for vulnerable human communities cannot be regarded as separate endeavors.
4. To this end we undertake to approach each project with humility, and to examine the possibility that it may have unintended consequences for vulnerable communities. Any project that we undertake should not have any foreseeable negative effect on other communities, and ideally, there should be a vision for how the project might be expanded to benefit other communities.
5. We will avoid undertaking projects that are or appear to be NIMBY (not in my neighborhood) in nature, understanding that all communities bear responsibility for combatting the climate crisis, and that those communities with the greatest resources and privilege bear the greatest responsibility.
6. We undertake to educate ourselves about environmental justice and environmental racism issues in Los Angeles, and to learn about the history and current viewpoints of Indigenous people with roots in our region. We will seek out voices and opinions from diverse communities.

Culture

1. Resilient Palisades welcomes all in our community: residents, people who attend school or who work in the Palisades, and neighbors, to join in our work.
2. We will cultivate a culture in which diversity is respected and sought after, and the needs and opinions of diverse groups are considered; including the disability community, people of all ages and gender orientations, all racial and ethnic groups, and people of different economic means.
3. We aim to foster a welcoming, warm, kind, and neighborly environment where all Palisadians who care to address the climate and ecological crisis are valued and welcomed regardless of political orientation or beliefs.
4. We strive for a culture of open-mindedness, in which ideas that seem new or strange are considered with care, rather than dismissed.
5. We understand that we are all implicated in the climate and ecological crisis, and that no Palisadian has a pristine eco-footprint. While many of us have tried to take steps to reduce our personal footprint, we know that everyone has different circumstances and is at a different place on this journey. As such we will not judge community members based on the car they drive, the size of their home, the activities they engage in, and so on. We will instead delight in each community member's participation in our work, knowing that this is the best way to begin to effect change both at the personal and at the global level.
6. All of us are volunteers, and we will strive to remember this and value whatever contributions Palisadians are able to make. We know that everyone brings unique gifts and talents to the table, and we celebrate the different ways in which our members enrich our community and our work. (2)
7. We believe in action, and we are moving forward with a firm commitment to effect change and get things done.
8. We are proud to be strengthening Pacific Palisades as we work together. We are mindful that community building is valuable in itself, in addition to being necessary for achieving our goals.
9. We believe in following the guidance of science and evidence. We also understand that there is great value in seeking out other sources of wisdom about our planet, especially the knowledge of indigenous communities. As such, we aim to approach the task of establishing what is best for the planet with care and humility.

501(c)3 Status

1. We will take actions that are in furtherance of our 501(c)(3) non-profit status. We recognize that Resilient Palisades is organized exclusively for charitable purposes and not for the private gain of any person.

- (1) <https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2016/12/how-the-environmental-movement-can-recover-its-soul/509831/>
- (2) <https://resilientpalisades.org/the-three-sisters/>