

What goes around...

On February 10th, with peach blossom pink in the background, five City College students linked arms at Mesa Harmony Garden to have their photograph taken with architect Michel Saint-Sulpice. The students are just getting started with Adam Green's *Projects in Sustainability* course, which asks them to "work in groups to develop and implement projects that make the campus or community more sustainable".

They've organized into two groups. One group is working with Michel to draft a scale plan of the site that can be used to suggest new features and improvements to the existing design. The second group is working to create educational resources that will help to build the garden's capacity as a learning center.

They say that *what goes around comes around*, and this is a great example of something good doing the rounds. The original idea for Mesa Harmony Garden came from students doing the same course – *Projects in Sustainability*. They started out with the simple intention of doing a plan for a community garden. Then someone noticed an open plot of land belonging to Holy Cross church, one thing led to another, and with the support of the church and the local community a food forest garden soon started to take shape.

If you helped to plant any of those fruit trees, it's not something you'll forget in a hurry. Over 100 of them, including that Santa Barbara peach in full blossom, were planted over the last year by people in the community enthused by the idea that a patch of unused urban land could be turned into a source of fresh and healthy food for people who rely on the Foodbank.

For the students lined up in the picture, the garden is not just a great educational opportunity; they can also see how their projects can make a real difference in the world. Their legacy is a model community garden that has brought people together around an idea, and a living demonstration of permaculture in action creating self-sustaining food systems in harmony with nature. It's not just plants that grow in gardens!

Next volunteer day: Bring your thinking caps!
The students invite your creative input to mapping the garden
Saturday, March 3rd, 9am – 12:30.
Corner of Meigs Road and Dolores Drive.

For more information about the garden, and to join our email list, visit:
www.mesaharmonygarden.org

Please support our work by volunteering, or by sending donations (we're a 501(c)3 nonprofit) to:
Mesa Harmony Garden, c/o Holy Cross Church, 1740 Cliff Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93109



Students Halston Spellman, Gordon Gerbitz, Hannah Tokuno, Stephen Newhan and Abbas Baig meet at Mesa Harmony Garden with architect Michel Saint-Sulpice