

EL Girasol

LVEJO Quarterly E-Newsletter - June 2018

LVEJO's 6th Annual Youth Summit: Youth Empowerment, Taking Back the Power!

April 21, 2018

This year's youth summit was organized by **LVEJO Youth Leaders: Cindy, Cici, Jacky** and **Marisol**. This group of young womxn of color, worked tirelessly to ensure that they provided a safer space for other youth from Little Village. They organized an *Adult Ally space*, a performance from the *Little Village High School Poetry Slam Team*, a resource table session and workshops from *Chicago Freedom School (CFS)* and *Organized Communities Against Deportations (OCAD)*.

They also prepared and facilitated their own *Youth Organizing 101* workshop for the day because they wanted to share what they have learned throughout their time with LVEJO and let other young people know there are different ways to create change.

[To see event pictures, visit our Facebook photo album!](#)



Solar for All Training Program!

LVEJO is please to inform you that we, along

with our recruiting partners **Safer Foundation**, **Elevate**, **Faith in Place**, and **Millennium Electric Solar**, successfully recruited over 150 candidates for the **Solar for All Training Program**.

After careful deliberation, the selection committee narrowed down the top 35 candidates for the 2018 cohort. LVEJO was able to advocate for eight participants to start the solar training program, which began Wednesday, May 9th, 2018.



LVEJO 2018 Solar for All Trainees.



The participants are **Gerardo Saucedo**, **Alfonso Saucedo**, **John Nunez**, **Florentino Agredano**, **Julio Ibarra**, **Jorge Ortiz**, **Andrew Hernandez**, and **Arnold Saucedo**.

LVEJO would like to thank our generous sponsors, donors, and staff for making this opportunity possible. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you **Julian Grace Foundation** and **Climate Justice Alliance** for supporting our work in fulfilling the spirit of the Illinois' **Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA)**. This work would not be possible without all of you.



School of Unity & Liberation (SOUL) Youth Organizer's Training!

LVEJO organizers Nancy and Joanna were able to participate in this year's SOUL 2018

National Youth Organizing Training Institute. They worked alongside 70 other participants who came together to share, build skills and strategize to further develop youth organizing in their own communities. They hope to bring all the skills and knowledge they learned back to Little Village youth in this year's summer youth internship!



Mother's Day Celebration

Honoring Semillas mothers and grandmothers for their strong and necessary presence in the garden and the community. Thank you all who joined us, and thanks to moms for their love, work, sometimes scolding, food, and wisdom.

Thanks to **Madera Once** for serenading us.

[Click here to view more pictures!](#)

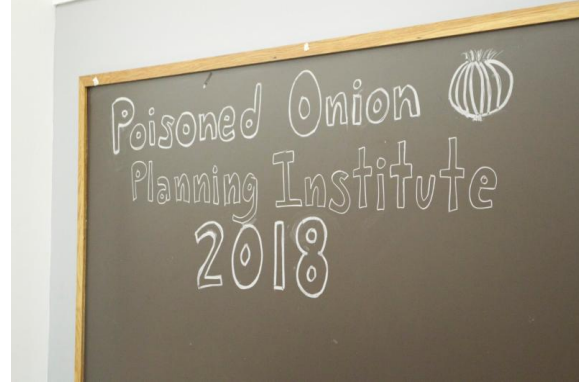


LVEJO partnerships with local high schools!

During the 2017-2018 school year, LVEJO partnered with Infinity Math & Science high school and Social Justice high school which are two out of four schools in the Little Village Lawndale High School Campus.

Students collected both qualitative and [quantitative data](#) around the increasing number of Diesel Trucks around their school and in the neighborhood, in general.

Thanks to Mr. Venegas and Mr. Crye for working with us on our #NoDieselLV campaign this year! We look forward to working together on future projects!



UIC College of Education's Poisoned Onion Project launches!

The project is funded by the National Science Foundation, hosted teachers, science educators, CPS high school students, and community organizations for a discussion on heavy metal contamination in Chicago communities.

Students from Social Justice high school recently took a trip to Northwestern University to analyze soil samples they collected!

[Click here to see more pictures!](#)



Our [Toxic Tour](#) season is in full swing, folks! Bring your class, summer programs, organizations, friends and family! We explore environmental justice topics around the east-side of Little Village, where the majority of our work is currently focused on. Sites on the tour include: Semillas de Justicia Community Garden, La Villita Park, Collateral Channel, Cook County Jail, and more!



Email Toxic Tour guide, Karen Canales for more information!

BOOK A TOUR TODAY!

Our Community Potlucks have started

for the year!

Every year, we host weekly community potluck dinners at our [Semillas de Justicia Community Garden](#). As long as the weather permits, our dinners are held every Wednesday from 5pm-7pm at 2727 S. Troy.

If you plan on coming, don't forget to bring a dish or non-alcoholic drink to share!

We hope to see you, your families, friends, and little ones <3

