Brewing a Greener Future

From Grounds to Growth Through Coffee, Plants, and Community at Cal State LA

Created by: Alexis Panameno & Destinee Todd

INTRODUCTION

- College campuses offer opportunities to create functional, sustainable spaces that support student well-being.
- This project proposes transforming a specific campus area into a communal space featuring: a coffee cart, surrounding plants, a pergola with hanging greenery,& picnic-style seating
- Enhance the social use of the space and contribute to ecological sustainability with a multiuse shaded area
- To maintain and keep plants flourishing through proceeds that are made by the coffee cart

HYPOTHESIS

Transforming an underutilized campus space into a green community hub will:

- Improve student engagement and interaction.
- Enhance ecological balance through plant integration and composting.
- Increase the utility and appeal of the campus environment

METHODS

- **Site Selection**: Choose a central, space on campus
- **Design**: Coffee cart, potted plants and hanging greenery around the space. Low-maintenance plants selected for air quality improvement.
- **Pergola Installation**: Build a wooden pergola to support hanging plants and provide shade.
- **Composting System**: Collect coffee grounds from the cart for composting to sustain the plants.
- **Student Engagement**: Promote the space to students and collect feedback through surveys on their experiences and the impact of the space.

PLAN

1. **Conduct a Survey**: Gauge student interest for a new hang out spot and the coffee cart to ensure support.
2. **Obtain Permissions**: Work with campus facilities to identify suitable locations for plants and get approval for a coffee cart.
3. **Pilot Program**: • **Week 1**: Site evaluation and selection.
4. **Finalize design:** order materials (plants, pergola, seating, coffee cart).
5. **Install**: plants, pergola, seating, and set up coffee cart with composting signage.

PLANTS & COFFEE

1. **Snake Plant (Sansevieria)**: Very hardy and can thrive in low light with minimal care.
2. **ZZ Plant (Zamioculcas zamiifolia)**: Another tough plant that requires little water and can survive in low light.
3. **Pothos (Epipremnum aureum)**: Tolerates low light and neglect; can trail or climb, making it versatile.
4. **Fiddle Leaf Fig (Ficus lyrata)**: Adds a striking look with its broad leaves, but requires moderate light.
5. **Aloe Vera**: Hardy, requires little water, and adds a touch of green while being practical for occasional use.



A. Organic Matter: Coffee grounds improve soil texture, increasing water retention and drainage, which is beneficial for plants.

B. Composting: Coffee grounds should ideally be composted with other organic material to balance their acidity before direct use in the soil.

WHY?

Ecological Benefits:

- Plants improve air quality and create a natural, relaxing environment.
- Coffee grounds reduce waste and are repurposed as plant compost.
- **Community Engagement**:
- Creates a social gathering space for students.
- Aesthetic and functional design enhances campus experience.
- **Sustainability**:
- Closed-loop system integrates waste management with plant care.

RESULTS/ CONCLUSION

- Increased biodiversity by integrating native plant species.
- A self-sustaining system where coffee cart proceeds are used for plant care, ensuring minimal cost to the university.
- Educational opportunities for students to engage with urban ecology and sustainable practices.
- Student use, the space will be popular among students for socializing and studying.
- The integration of greenery, a coffee cart, and sustainable practices will offer students a functional and enjoyable space.
- If successful, this model could be replicated in other areas of the campus.

Future: Indoor plants in hallways and classrooms and around the dorms.



Areas Around campus that need more



Plants, coffee, and student life



Before

After

