





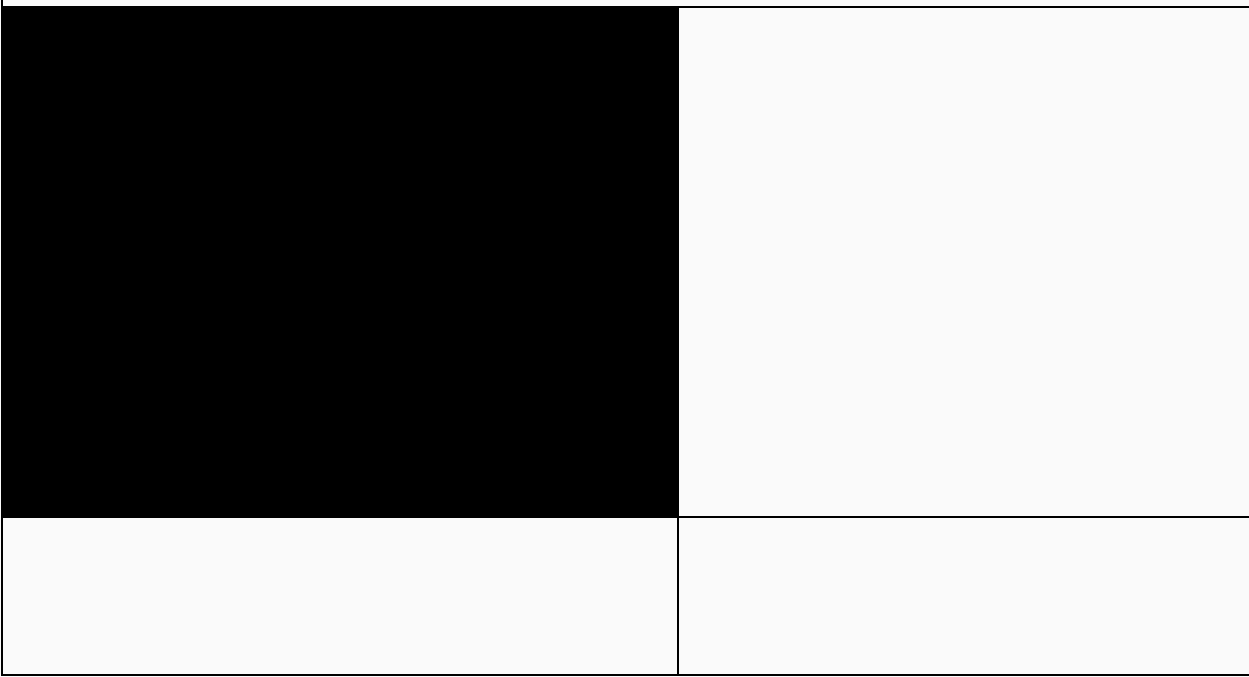
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## **Introduction**

The city o

beyond the walls of their apartment (Bellows et al., 2005). Beyond the individual benefits, rooftop farms provide financial incentives to affordable housing developers by insulating the housing units below, effectively saving the building heating and cooling costs, as well as reducing energy consumption (GRHC, 2007). Also rooftop farms provide ecosystem services like urban heat island mitigation, storm water attenuation, and air purification, that benefit not only the residents and community, but the overall environmental quality of the city of Los Angeles. The following paper will delve more

Figure 1.



shallower root systems, and therefore bear a l







health, crop diversity as









it. On a very basic level, Wilson *et al.*, popularized the idea of biophilia, meaning that humans have and seek an innate connection to nature. According to this theory, exposure to nature can





2016)



## Backgroun



produce and prepared foods native to the local d

conventional roof that costs between \$3-\$20 per square foot. The variability of cost is based mostly on soil depth and materials used for edging and membrane layers. In addition to upfront costs, Sugar Hill Farm budgets \$32,500 annually for a full time farm manager. The farm manager accounts for most of the

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performance in school or work, or predisposition to chronic diseases like type II diabetes and obesity (Jyoti *et al.*, 2005). In 2010 more than half a million people reported some level of food insecurity. Further, over 200,000 households experienced very low food security meaning, “multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake” (USDA, 2015).

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are two types of tax credits: the 9 percent credit and the 4 percent credit (HUD, 2016). The 9 percent tax credits are the most competitive and are most frequently used for new construction projects. Over the course of the ten years the investor who purchased the tax credit will be allotted a tax credit each year equal to 9 percent of the project's initial construction costs (Keightley, 2013). The actual rates are adjusted each year so at the end of the 10 year period the credits are equivalent to approximately 70 percent of the total construction costs. The 4 percent tax credits are usually used on housing rehabilitation projects or new construction that are fi



reduction in tax stress on big businesses has significantly decreased the value of LIHTC and is leaving developers uncertain how to make up unexpected gaps to finance their projects (Dillon, 2017).

*Department of Mental Health, Health Neighborhoods*

In 2014, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) began an initiative focused on whole person care and community wellness called Health Neighborhoods. This is important to rooftop farming at affordable housing developments because access to healthy affordable foods is a crucial element of preventative care, and also consists of various other mental health and c





getting to the sec

love to be able to offer urban farming or gardening initiatives at their projects. However, in reference to rooftop farming in particular, all interviewees expressed preference for ground level urban farming.

Rather than urban farming, amenities and services that developers are prioritizing are increasingly focused on health and wellness through direct health services, especially in permanent supportive housing and senior\$

allocation of lo

Committee. The cap on spending makes it difficult to accomplish everything developers envision, especially



available through health agencies like LA Department of Public Health, LA Department of Mental Health, and LA Department of Health Services. Until the goals of the city as a whole shift or increased funding for affordable housing becomes available, developers continue to follow this trend toward direct heal

attending programs. There are many times that programming sponsored by the housing development have minimal attendance, depending on residents and case managers of the building. Danie



It has become clear that use of space at af



also shifting their attention to mixed use spaces. As





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compounded solution. To improve food access to Los Angeles' lowest income most vulnerable residents, affordable housing developments need to consider and implement urban gardening programs to increase the availability of nutritious fresh foods to their residents. Whether affordable housing developments are growing food on the roof or ground level is less important. Under the circumstances ! 1 †



is an essential part to building community and generating community buy in into their local environment. As an element of whole person care, food is at the root of it all. The food we use to fuel and nourish our bodies is the foundation of health, as an element of preventative care. If all of Los Angeles' residents had access to health and nutritious fresh foods, the need for direct health services would be reduced. Low income folks are especially vulnerable to nutrition based disease like obesity, type II diabetes, and heart disease. With access to healthier foods, the risk for these diseases is greatly reduced.

On the county and federal level there has been a shift toward bigger picture problem solving, made clear thr

Appendix A

**Full List of Interviewees:**

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