

# SENSIBLE SAGES

## *A CALL TO ARMS*

### WE ARE JUST GETTING STARTED

You have been resting peacefully whilst the work of “start-up” was taking place. Well... Your Board has done that. Now it's time for the Members to take up the cause. We'll need all the help we can get.

### HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

We have initiated two projects that are going forward and we going to require help from you all.

#### THE SAGES CAREER FORUMS

We are in active discussions with the Los Angeles Unified School District about a program of Career Talks, led by some of our distinguished members (maybe you) to give Inner City Middle School and Early High School students insights into career paths that are open to them. These will be given in “Ted Talk” formats and the presenters will talk about the variety of opportunities that are available in many different activities.

Our first series will involve “The Arts”... Not everyone in the “Arts” is a movie star or a famous director and we will show that there are a wide-ranging field of accessible jobs included in that broad field. Costume, Design, Sound, Music, Dance, Management, Lighting, Technical crews, and so many more.

If a young student can be made aware that a field is rewarding and offers accessible possibilities, then they can begin to think of making it their own.. Having a speaker-mentor, who has achieved in these areas, will be inspiring. Knowing that opportunities are achievable for anyone with the “passion” to take them, will open up a new world to young minds. The students we will reach out to, are the underserved youth of LA A great many of whom have had little exposure, beyond their immediate world.

A most important feature of the program is that it will be videotaped and edited and put into a library that will be accessible to the school system in perpetuity.

Each “talk” will be accompanied with a library of “library of Inks” and contacts that will enable any interested student to access more about the “talk” subject.

There's lots of work to be done and we look to you to join in and help get it done. We need volunteers to help the Sages make this program a success.

Please let us know at: [www.sensiblesages.org](http://www.sensiblesages.org) when you can meet and discuss your involvement.

#### THE SAGES MEDICAL PROJECT

We are very fortunate to have Dr, Marshall Grode on our Board. Marshall is a noted neurosurgeon in practice at Cedar-Sinai Medical Center. He has a great understanding of the needed services and is inspiring in his ideas about giving Medical help to the under-served members of the Los Angeles Community.

To that end, we have begun a program of great interest... Giving advanced Medical advice to the Free Clinics in LA. In this regard, we have entered into an association with The Sherry Lansing Foundation, a major contributor to medical projects and to the Los Angeles community at large.

This association had evolved into to a project that has engaged with an orgaization entitled “The MAVEN

Project". The MAVEN Project works throughout the United States and brings the services of Retired Specialist Doctors and other medical volunteers, to provide expert services to Free Medical Clinics. This is an invaluable service to patients who could rarely avail themselves of this level of medical attention.

The MAVEN Project is eager to establish a "presence" in Los Angeles and the Sherry Lansing Foundation and the Sensible Sages have committed to work with them. There will be a good deal of investigation involved in selecting the clinics that we will work with at the outset of the program. As it progresses, the Sages will take on the administration of the program.

We need help doing this!

#### **PROGRAM IN DISCUSSION: HOMELESS URBAN GARDENS**

Ted Hayes is on our Board of Advisors. Ted has been a champion of the "Homeless" community for a great many years. He founded the "Dome Village Transitional Housing Community" in downtown LA in 1993 with our Board Member Katy Haber as Executive Director, and it thrived until 2006 when the land was sold from under it. Our member, Les Hamasaki, has served the City as a "planner" through many administrations, and is also a leader in developing a meaningful homeless program. We, of the Board, all feel that the Sensible Sages should embrace a project that will help Los Angeles with the immense challenge that the growing homeless population engenders.

Les Hamasaki is a great proponent of Urban Gardening... (Hydroponic raising of vegetables). The produce that comes from these gardens is fresh and free of any chemicals and pesticides. An Urban Farm unit uses only 5% of the water that field farming uses and a minute fraction of the land. As this program grows throughout the world, streams, lakes and rivers will no longer be polluted by pesticides now used on farmland crops. These crops grow year-round and produce a much greater volume of produce. Transportation from farm to city will be greatly reduced and freshness will no longer be a problem. These gardens are already being used by many restaurants, who can now serve organic foods the moment they are harvested. In time, this process will be the future of feeding the world.

The Mayor has proposed creating homeless housing in trailers on city property. The program will house about 70 people and provide shelter, community kitchens and bath facilities. Sensible Sages would like to see these projects include Hydroponic Gardens, not only to feed themselves, but to provide food for free kitchens and, possibly, profit from the sale of the produce.

The operation of the Garden would provide a learning experience for community members who wish to take the knowledge to other venues. These skills will be more and more in demand in the very near future.

We are approaching the Mayor and his team right now, to see if they will be receptive to the concept.

#### **SOME OTHER POSSIBLE PROGRAMS**

##### **LAYMAN MEDICAL VIDEOS:**

Much of the information that accompanies medical diagnoses for the Inner City Free Clinic patients is hard to come by, and/or overly technical. This proposal is to generate a series of short animated videos that will explain, in layman's terms, the information that will be most helpful to patients who are diagnosed with ongoing problems. It will give them the security of understanding their illness and the process of recovery and help them to participate with an understanding of the process. The videos to cover such subjects as: *Diabetes, Hypertension, Pregnancy, Obesity, Hematology, Cardiology, Dermatology, Pediatrics, Urology, et al.*

Your thoughts in developing a project for this arena are welcome and valuable.

##### **MEDICAL TRANSPORT:**

There is a great need for Clinic patients to be able to come and go to the clinics and for patients, who need other services, to be transported to and from the specialty services they require.

Here too, your thought and suggestions are valuable.

## **NATURE EXCURSIONS:**

It is mind boggling to realize that a great many of the youth in our city have never been to a Nature Park or to have even seen the Ocean. The Inner City is extremely “insular”. Some never go past the 4-6 blocks that constitute their “Turf”.

What a great achievement it would be, to initiate a program like this. Or something like this...

## **OVER TO YOU:**

All of you have reached some semblance of maturity. Look around you! What a vast number of opportunities there for is to make a difference! Our Board has just skimmed the surface of the “ocean” of challenges there are to make this world a better place than it was when we found it.

**We want to hear ideas from you!**

**The Sensible Sages is here to “Make a Difference”**

**Let us hear your voice.**

[www.sensiblesages.org](http://www.sensiblesages.org)