



SBVC Science Division

# **BOTANICAL GARDENS**

*fostering ecological discoveries  
& stewardship*

**TATIANA VÁSQUEZ**  
 VP Academic Senate  
 Professor of Biology  
 Co-curator, BotGardens & Museum  
 Sabbatical Leave Report




# *SPECIAL THANKS*

**Dr. Gilbert Contreras**, President, SBVC

**Dr. Dina Humble**, VP of Instruction, SBVC

**Keith Bacon**, VP of Administrative Services, SBVC

**Dr. John Stanskas**, Dean of Science, SBVC

**Dr. Diana Z. Rodriguez**, Chancellor

**Jose F. Torres**, Exec. Vice-Chancellor of Financial

**Farrah Farzaneh**, Exec. Director of Facilities Planning, Construction, Sustainability

**Yash Patel**, Assoc. Director of Facilities Planning, Construction & Sustainability

**Abel Favela**, Assoc. Director Bond Program Planning & Construction

**Greg Ochoa**, Construction Manager, SafeworkCM

**Sam Yacob**, Design Manager, AECOM





...ing stems, with  
-18 leaves on the tip of each stem. The leaves remind me  
too because of their shape

Pine-tree-like tree. Its around 20 ft  
leaves are a dark green in color.  
of most of the branches have a ~20ft  
flowers, flowers are bulb-like and  
in color.

...ish bird with a white stripe below its  
along a sparsely leaved tree. Maybe its  
looking for a spot to build a nest.

... is full of all types of life. 4 kids  
& a larger ecosystem. Many birds



*fostering ecological  
discoveries & stewardship*



Studying Nature  
& Building Community

# Sabbatical Outcomes



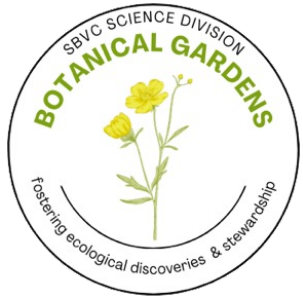
Website



Logo & Brochures



Partnerships



[sbvcbotanicalgardens.org](http://sbvcbotanicalgardens.org)



SBVC Botanical Gardens

*fostering ecological discoveries & stewardship*

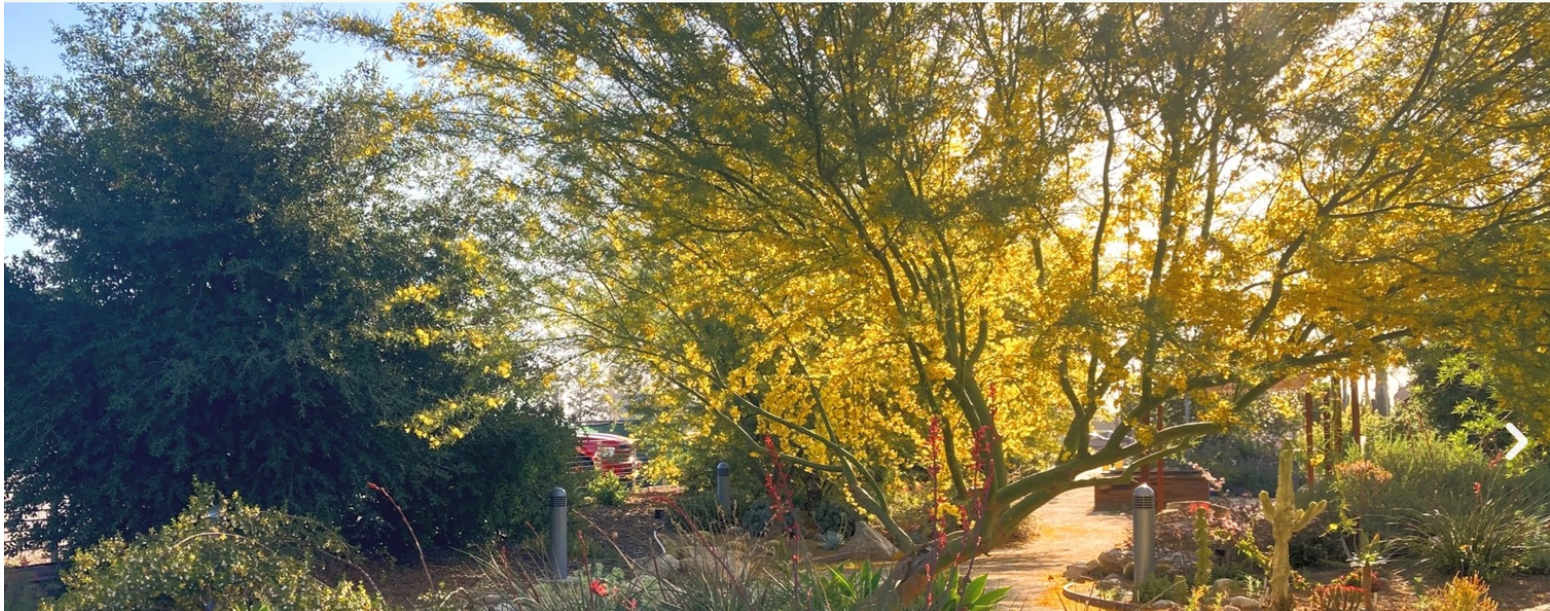
[San Bernardino Valley College](#)

701 S. Mt. Vernon Ave.

San Bernardino, CA 92401

[Map](#)

[Home](#) [Learn](#) [Stewardship](#) [News & Events](#) [Collections](#) [Collaborators](#) [Curators](#)





# Thank you!





# OUR HISTORY



The Botanical Gardens at SBVC were established in the mid-2010's by Biology faculty members. Since then, faculty & students have actively cultivated and maintained the gardens. Currently, professors Tatiana Vásquez and Thomas Lechuga serve as curators, preserving the gardens and ensuring their access for research, teaching, and learning.



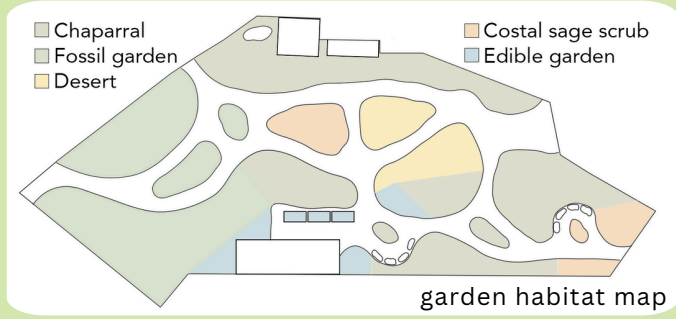
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[sbvcbotanicalgardens.org](http://sbvcbotanicalgardens.org)

 [sbvcbotgardens](https://www.instagram.com/sbvcbotgardens)

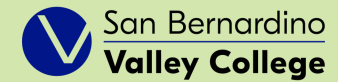


**San Bernardino Valley College**  
701 S. Mt. Vernon Ave.  
San Bernardino, CA 92410

Garden located  
Southeast of HLS Building



Botanical Garden



# SCIENCE DIVISION BOTANICAL GARDENS



Botanical Garden

**“fostering ecological discoveries & stewardship”**

Our garden offers unique teaching & learning experiences for the college and local community to enjoy. It is home to over 40 species of plants, each with unique characteristics and evolutionary & ecological histories.

The garden showcases different regions of our local plant biodiversity and highlights plant evolution with living fossils that evolved millions of years ago! Many of the species also have valuable sociocultural significance.

# LEARN

## ABOUT PLANTS, WILDLIFE, GEOLOGY & CULTURES

### PLANTS

The garden includes plants from nearby macrohabitats of Chaparral, Oak Woodland, Coastal Sage Scrub, and Desert. The garden includes an area with ancient plant species that evolved millions of years ago.

### ANIMALS

The garden hosts many residents of our local urban areas and seasonal or transient visitors. Insects & birds are the most common, with occasional visits from coyote & squirrels.

### GEOLOGY

The garden includes geological samples for student studies and representation of geological quarries.

### CULTURES

With the garden, we explore the intricate relationships between humans and plants/animals through the lenses of culture and tradition; past & present.



## URBAN BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVES & PROJECTS



### HERBARIUM & MUSEUM

Collection of >2,000 local botanical specimens, dating back to SBVC's start in the 1920's, teaching us about local plant history & diversity



### BOTANIAL SEED COLLECTION

Collection of native seeds harvested from our Botanical garden. Seeds will assist in identifying & sharing native plants in our urban habitat.



### NATIVE PLANT PROPAGATION

Cultivation of native and mediterranean plants grown in our lath house to sustain the garden & provide outreach with our community.



### BEE BIODIVERSITY

Student Interns identify native bees in our botanical gardens and local areas. Identifying bees help us to incorporate native plants in urban gardens.



### FIELD & LAB WORK

Student Interns, independent project researchers, and Biology major students use the gardens for sampling insects, plants, & geological specimens.



### BIRD MONITORING

Tracking resident and migratory birds provide valuable information on the health of bird populations in our campus, in our urban area, and nearby regions.

# ENGAGE

## IN NATURE STEWARDSHIP

Nature stewardship involves caring for our environment, from local habitats to the broader ecosystem.

We take this responsibility seriously, aiming to instill a sense of ownership and accountability in our students and visitors.

We encourage everyone to become stewards by adopting behaviors and practices that promote conservation, sustainability, and restoration.



Research projects



Bio majors student projects



Bee biodiversity project



herbarium botanicals



white sage propagation







# SBVC'S NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS & MUSEUM

We utilize our botanical and zoological collections for teaching, research, and community outreach. We evaluate into nature's beauties, natural history, and the organisms' impacts on our world. With our collections we get a window into the past and present while acting as nature stewards. Our collections also aim to help our habitats & our local biodiversity.



**San Bernardino Valley College**  
**HLS Building, Rooms 239/235**  
**701 S. Mt Vernon Ave.**  
**San Bernardino, CA 92410**



## OUR HISTORY



The natural history collections at SBVC were established in 1926 by a founding Biology faculty member. Since then, biology faculty have actively collected and maintained specimens and their associated database. Currently, two professors volunteer as curators, preserving the collections and ensuring their accessibility for research, teaching, and learning.



**ALSO COME VISIT OUR  
BOTANICAL GARDENS!**

[sbvcbotanicalgardens.org](http://sbvcbotanicalgardens.org)



# HERBARIUM COLLECTION

Our herbarium houses over 2,000 plant specimens, spanning rare desert blooms to California native and global species. This is a vital resource for contemporary research in DNA analysis, climate change, and biodiversity. We use it to train students in scientific observation and research across various disciplines. Visitors can explore our region's rich botanical heritage, including locally extinct plants, offering unique insights into evolving ecosystems. The herbarium bridges past and present, supporting cutting-edge science and education while preserving our natural history.



## NOTABLE COLLECTIONS



### DINOSAURS

We house a variety of reptile specimens including a Velociraptor skull and a Titanosaur egg replica.



### MAMMALS

Several articulated mammals such as a River Otter and an Okapi are in display in our student project room.



### FLOWERING PLANTS

Our herbarium features the annual Sand Blazing Star, highlighting the rich flora of the Chuckwalla Mountains.



### MOLLUSKS

Our mollusk specimens feature our prized Nautilus specimens showcasing the stunning spiral shell of this ancient "living fossil" of the sea.

# ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTION

Our zoological branch houses diverse vertebrate and invertebrate collections, serving faculty and students in teaching and learning, external researchers, and the general public. These officially permitted collections provide vital references for species identification, comparative studies, and historical ecology. Showcasing animal diversity and evolution, they bridge scientific research and public education, fostering understanding of biodiversity, environmental changes, and conservation needs in our community.

