

Container Garden Returns to Laurel Street



By Janet Gilmore, Charelene Landreau and Erica Richter

Master Gardeners

The twenty-five large planting containers along three blocks of Laurel Street in downtown San Carlos have been transformed into a new MG Demonstration Garden. The Laurel Street Container Garden showcases a variety of plants for public enjoyment and education. Project leads Charlene Landreau and Erica Richter planned this project with these goals in mind:

- To inspire and inform our community about the variety of plants they can grow.
- To publicize our Master Gardener organization, the Helpline, local Master Gardener activities, and UCCE resources.

Each container is planted to demonstrate a particular theme, such as Drought Tolerant, Pollinator Attractor, Succulent, California Native, Herb, etc. Signage in each container designates the “Pot Number” and provides the URL to our [public website](#). There the interested gardener will find the plant list for the Container Garden, with photos and information about the best growing conditions for each plant. The gardener will also have a chance to see all the other UCCE resources our website offers.

This MG Project was made possible by partnering with the City of San Carlos and the local non-profit organization San Carlos Together. The City purchased many of the plants, provided extra soil and compost, picked up the cost of printing the sign labels, and will provide irrigation. San Carlos Together made a generous dollar donation which helped with the remainder of the plant purchases and sign stakes.

A team of Master Gardeners including Kerry DeBenedetti, Kathy Fleming, Janet Gilmore, and Judi Lum volunteered many hours designing the signs, researching and creating the website plant list, propagating plants, removing dying plants and weeds, planting new plants, watering, and more, to make this project come to life. Web experts Michael Aires and Jeffrey Blake successfully linked the plant list to our website and ensured that the team can easily update plant names and information as needed. Master Gardeners Naomi Mier and Katherine Barg have joined the team and will be helping with ongoing garden care.

Master Gardeners have already had many interactions and teaching moments with local passersby while tending the planters. The team looks forward to continued

community interaction and plans to offer small group tours of the garden when protocol and safety permits.

Please take a walk down Laurel Street to see the Container Garden live, and check out all the plants on our [public website](#).

