



## **Press Release—For Immediate Release**

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## **HEART Receives \$296,000 Grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management Board to Develop Green Accessory Dwelling Unit Designs Available to the Public for Free**

**SAN MATEO, CA** – November 21, 2018– The effort to increase the amount of affordable, green housing in San Mateo County received a significant boost recently. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District awarded \$296,000 in climate protection funding to the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust of San Mateo County (HEART) to develop green Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) designs that can be downloaded for free by the public.

The severe housing shortage and new state laws relaxing restrictions on ADUs, sometimes known as second units or granny flats, have increased interest in these smaller homes. Yet with custom designs costing upwards of \$30,000 and taking months to develop, HEART sees an opportunity to increase the number of green ADUs built using free designs. Reducing design costs for homeowners means they can reinvest a portion of their savings into better energy efficient appliances and renewable energy. This will reduce greenhouse gases and the energy bills of future ADU residents.

HEART's Executive Director Armando Sanchez notes "we all know friends, coworkers and loved ones being pinched by the housing crisis and many of these people would benefit from right-sized, energy-efficient housing. Adding more ADUs closer to jobs and services is good for the environment, good for families and good for the community."

HEART has launched a robust public engagement process to identify the green features, space-saving solutions and amenities both homeowners and future occupants would like to see in the designs. A design

competition will develop additional innovative ideas that can be incorporated into the resulting designs. Homeowners will also be able to customize an ADU's exterior appearance to better match the primary house. Once final designs are developed, HEART will work with local public agencies to pre-review the designs so as to reduce approval times.

A San Mateo County Green ADU Handbook will also accompany the designs to inform readers about the benefits of green ADUs and how to upgrade their primary home at the same time. This handbook will complement the information already released through San Mateo County's Second Unit Resource Center – once again highlighting the county's willingness to lead the state in ADU development.

To hear public comments and provide information on ADUs, HEART is holding open houses in Redwood City on Wednesday, November 28 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at the Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Avenue, and in the City of Millbrae on Thursday, November 29 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm in the Chetcuti Room, 450 Poplar Avenue. Information on these events is available at [heartofsmc.org](http://heartofsmc.org).

### **About HEART**

About HEART: HEART is a nonprofit public/private partnership among the county, the cities, and business communities in San Mateo County that is dedicated to increasing the supply of affordable housing by providing financing for the acquisition, construction and rehabilitation of affordable and workforce housing.

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