El Dorado Nature Center
Long Beach, California

Embracing the River

Helping highly urban audiences appreciate and value nature is a special challenge relished by The Acorn Group. Jones & Stokes Architects and Ron Yeo, FAIA Architect, Inc. retained our services to develop an interpretive master plan for the El Dorado Nature Center in heavily urbanized Long Beach, as part of a comprehensive master plan involving wetlands restoration, habitat management, and resource maintenance of this aging 85-acre site. To ensure project success, The Acorn Group focused on understanding the community and its interests, gathering input from visitors, educators, and front-line staff, facilitating public design workshops and strategic planning and design workshops, and developing a strategic education prospectus. Final design calls for interior exhibits on river and wetlands ecology, urban wildlife, and stewardship through community involvement; wayside exhibits and innovative trail system on the grounds; and new viewing platforms and wetlands extensions along the San Gabriel River.