Koreatown Youth and Community Center (KYCC) is one of 17 organizations statewide selected to receive funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act administered by California ReLeaf. KYCC’s mission is to serve the evolving needs of the Korean American population in the greater Los Angeles Area as well as the multi-ethnic Koreatown community through programs and services directed toward recently immigrated, economically disadvantaged youth and families that promote community socio-economic empowerment.

The $138,000 grant for KYCC’s Expo Line Tree Planting Project allowed this Los Angeles County non-profit to plant more than 500 trees within about a mile of the recently-completed Exposition Light Rail Transit Line. The project will mitigate for some of the increased pollution flowing into urban neighborhoods that will house new stations and parking lots accompanying the Expo line.

The plantings also provide a measure of safety to pedestrians along the Expo Line alignment by providing a buffer between pedestrians and the heavy vehicle traffic throughout the alignment.

**Fast Facts for the KYCC ARRA Grant**

- Jobs created/retained: 3
- Trees Planted: 581
- Job Hours Contributed to California Work Force: 6,042

Lasting legacy: this project will minimize the urban heat island effect, reduce energy consumption, clean the air, and lessen other impacts to local communities as a direct result of the Expo Line alignment.

“This project has been very beneficial to the community. The single act of the addition of trees has completely transformed some neighborhoods.” – Byron Shinyama, Director of Community Development Services, Koreatown Youth and Community Center.