

## **LABC Institute Receives \$300,000 in Grants From Three Leading National Funders**

*JPMorgan Chase & Co., The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Project grants will back Institute work in renewable energy, energy efficiency and workforce development*

LOS ANGELES (March 11, 2014) – Recognizing its success in fostering a strong and sustainable L.A. economy, the LABC Institute has been awarded grants totaling \$300,000 from three leading national funders to advance its work in key areas of focus.

JPMorgan Chase & Co., The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the 11th Hour Project awarded the three competitive grants, each for \$100,000. They will support the LABC Institute’s efforts to nurture workforce development in CleanTech and other core L.A. industries, as well as to continue supporting local renewable energy and energy efficiency programs, particular the CLEAN LA Solar feed-in tariff (FiT) program championed by the Los Angeles Business Council.

“The LABC Institute is proud to have earned investments from these three preeminent organizations to continue our work developing innovative policy tools that promote sustainable jobs, investment and business development in Los Angeles,” said Mary Leslie, President of the Los Angeles Business Council and the LABC Institute. “We are confident that the work supported by these grants will contribute to smart, forward-thinking public policy that strengthens the long-term health of our region and beyond.”

The LABC Institute is the research and education arm of the Los Angeles Business Council (LABC), one of the most respected business advocacy organizations in Southern California. The LABC is known as an innovator and catalyst for policy development on a wide range of issues, including education, housing, green building, energy efficiency, transportation and solar development.

Studies commissioned by the LABC Institute and conducted by researchers at UCLA and the University of Southern California helped pave the way for CLEAN LA Solar – the nation’s largest rooftop solar energy program, approved by Los Angeles city officials in 2012. At its full 150-megawatt size, the program will create 3,200 local jobs, generate nearly \$500 million in direct investment, and displace 4 million tons of greenhouse gases over 20 years.

A new UCLA evaluation of CLEAN LA Solar released by the LABC Institute finds that the program is drawing strong interest among solar developers and property owners, and is fully on track to reach its expected economic, environmental and social objectives.

The \$100,000 grants from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Project will fund work in support of the CLEAN LA Solar program and related energy efficiency programs, helping the programs expand and positioning them as models for other municipalities throughout the nation. LABC Institute research indicates that CLEAN LA Solar is succeeding as a new model for achieving economic development and clean-energy generation, while fostering the growth of the renewable energy industry in the City of Los Angeles.

## **2-2-2 LABC Institute Grants**

“The LABCi’s research demonstrates not only the myriad benefits of increasing renewable energy and energy efficiency, but also innovative ways to finance and deploy solar power on business and residential rooftops across the city,” said Erin Rogers, Environment Program Officer at the Hewlett Foundation. “The Hewlett Foundation’s continued support for LABCi is based on the impact they have been able to achieve, which is substantial and rippling across the country.”

“We’ve been proud supporters of LABCi and its work on making CLEAN LA Solar a robust and resilient rooftop solar feed-in-tariff program in the country,” said Jamie Dean, Program Manager for The 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Project. “This program is showing national leadership by reducing LA’s dependence on fossil fuels and accelerating the production of renewable energy.”

The \$100,000 JPMorgan Chase & Co. Workforce Grant will help the LABC Institute promote the technological and creative capacity of several core creative industries in L.A.: design, apparel, technology, and CleanTech. The grant will allow the LABC Institute to conduct a business survey that will define and clarify the workforce and economic development needs of these industries.

In particular, the research will focus on L.A.’s successful “Silicon Beach” high-tech community, exploring the infrastructure and policy considerations that helped propel its growth and identifying similar catalysts for the nascent CleanTech Corridor in Downtown Los Angeles.

“At JPMorgan Chase, we know that supporting a more environmentally sustainable global economy is a challenge with real implications for every sector of modern society, including financial services,” said Antonio Manning, Vice President of JPMorgan Chase Office of Corporate Responsibility. “That’s why we are using our resources to help clients, customers and the communities we serve to respond to the environmental sustainability challenge. We look forward to the insight the research will provide on what these industries offer the city and how we can meet the needs for sustainable development and job creation.”

Founded in 2010, the LABC Institute collaborates with diverse community stakeholders and world-class institutions – USC, UCLA, Caltech and others – to connect the business, government and nonprofit communities of Southern California and support cutting-edge research that promotes the region’s economy.

Learn more about the LABC Institute at [www.labcinstitute.org](http://www.labcinstitute.org), and learn more about the LABC at [www.labusinesscouncil.org](http://www.labusinesscouncil.org).

### **About the LABC Institute**

The LABC Institute is a forward-thinking research and education organization dedicated to strengthening the sustainable economy of California, particularly the Southern California region. Founded in 2010, the LABC Institute provides a bridge between the business, government, environmental, labor and nonprofit communities of Southern California to develop policies and programs that promote investment, jobs and business development. We are the research and education arm of the Los Angeles Business Council, one of the most respected business advocacy organizations in Southern California.

# # #