

Bio – Fco. Nava

Francisco Javier Gonzalez Nava was born in Guadalajara, Jalisco Mexico. His family moved to Los Angeles, CA when he was 2 years old. Raised both in Mexico and the United States, Francisco grew up speaking Spanish at home until he was 5 and learned English in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Francisco earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Southern California (USC) and **Cal State University, Los Angeles** in **Early Childhood Development** (teaching credential option). **His graduate work took place at USC in the Instructional Technology Department.**

After graduation, Fco. worked at KCET- PBS (Channel 28 Los Angeles), KABC (Channel 7 Los Angeles), Pathe Films and MGM (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Century City). During his 11 year tenure at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and Pathe Films in Santa Monica and Los Angeles he pursued infusing the company's instructional, multimedia and digital departments with youth consciousness and social direction.

Francisco decided to pursue his love for the environment and architecture by completing a further degree in Architectural Design at Santa Monica College's Academy of Entertainment Technology (AET) and UCLA's School of Architecture.

His apprenticeship in sustainability was mentored by Lois Arkin, founder of **Los Angeles Eco Village**, a member of the world-wide intentional community network. At Los Angeles Eco Village Francisco found inspiration and information, that would establish and nurture his future career as a **Sustainable Architectural Designer.**

Francisco then signed on to work with **Living Homes**, a forerunner of the reestablished pre-fabrication home construction movement. Francisco monitored and researched new "green" materials, bringing them to the attention of the Living Homes' architects & designers.

Consequently the Dean of the School of Architectural Design at the AET at Santa Monica College asked Francisco to author and teach a course in the Department of Architectural Interior Design. Francisco authored and taught the first sustainable design course at Santa Monica College: **“GREEN” DESIGN FOR ARCHITECTURAL INTERIORS: A Comprehensive Look At Sustainable Design**”.

After completing his teaching career in the United States, and feeling a need to return to his homeland, Francisco returned to live in the Lake Chapala area in 2012. He spent a few months settling into his new home and then ventured forth to create a new “green” sustainable business: **La Recicladora de la Ribera de Chapala (RRC)**, a plastics recycling center in Riberas del Pilar.

RRC collected, reprocessed (ground) and sold post-consumer plastic collected in our area. The sustainable process used no toxic substances and produced no toxic waste.

In 2015 Francisco and his associates started the **Chapala Public School District’s - Ramon Corona Elementary School, Children's Organic Garden Project** in the Tepehua area of Chapala.

Francisco taught 40 – 4th graders weekly how to grow organic food for their school and their families.

We started the Ramon Corona Children's Organic Garden (RCCOG) with a vision of one day gathering in a lush, verdant setting to sit with the children and dine on food they grew...and we accomplished just that!

Francisco is presently part of the *Growers Group*, an organization of worldwide gardeners that continues to provide Francisco with newfound gardening knowledge.