



FALL 2021



*Photo: Tricia Schooley, Naples Island Garden Club*

#### Collaboration, Beautification Led to National Award

A collaboration between the Long Beach Unified School District and dedicated volunteers helped bring national recognition to Naples Bayside Academy and the local garden club that has cared for the school's landscaping for over 25 years.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. awarded the Naples Island Garden Club its 2020 Community Beautification Award for preserving the greenery at Naples Academy throughout the school's modernization. The award was announced in June of this year.

[Accessibility ramps in Naples Academy's planned upgrades](#) would have altered some of the existing landscaping at the school's auditorium and main building entrances. The District's joint effort with the Naples Island Garden Club resulted in new ramp designs that preserved the landscaping and added garden beds for new plants and trees to offset the ramp's concrete walkway and metal handrails. Garden Club volunteers persevered throughout the project, hand-watering plants when water lines were shut down due to construction activity.

The project garnered blue ribbons from the California Garden Club and the Pacific Region Garden Club before taking the top prize in the National Garden Clubs, Inc.'s community beautification award category.

Founded in 1973, the Naples Islands Garden Club funds landscaping projects and performs volunteer gardening services for local establishments. The organization has been a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the California Garden Clubs, Inc. for 15 years.