



Santa Cruz Valley  
HERITAGE ALLIANCE

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### HERITAGE FOODS PROGRAM AWARDED COMMUNITY GRANT FROM FOOD CONSPIRACY CO-OP

The Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Alliance's *Heritage Foods Program* has been awarded a \$365 Community Grant from Tucson's Food Conspiracy Co-op.

"We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Food Conspiracy Co-op for supporting the Heritage Foods Program, and to all Co-op members who voted for the Heritage Foods Program as a grant recipient," says Vanessa Bechtol, Executive Director for the Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Alliance.

The goals of the Heritage Foods Program are to increase consumer awareness of regional heritage foods, support local food security and economy, and preserve cultural food traditions. With an agricultural history dating back 4,000 years, the Santa Cruz Valley is considered one of the longest continuously cultivated regions in the United States. This agriculture heritage can still be experienced today through the local foods produced throughout the Santa Cruz Valley, from Nogales to Marana and Green Valley to Sonoita.

"As we carry out a variety of projects affiliated with the Heritage Foods Program we will continue to partner with other local organizations, such as the Food Conspiracy Co-op, to increase the availability and use of local, heritage foods in the community," states Bechtol.

The Heritage Alliance is one of five grant recipients who were selected by members of the Food Co-op through their Cooperative Community Fund, which is the work of a collaborative effort initiated by the Twin Pines Cooperative Foundation and twenty-one food co-ops around the country. Each year, donations made by members and shoppers are paired with investments from the Co-op.

The Food Conspiracy Co-op is a natural foods market, cooperatively owned by its members and open to the public. Since 1971 the Co-op has been committed to providing the highest quality natural and organic foods and products to the Tucson community. For more information about the Food Conspiracy Co-op, visit them in Tucson at 412 N. 4th Ave. or online at [www.foodconspiracy.org](http://www.foodconspiracy.org).

The mission of the Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Alliance is to connect people to the cultural, historic, and natural treasures of the Santa Cruz Valley through education, preservation and promotion of its unique resources and living traditions. For more information visit us online at [www.SantaCruzHeritage.org](http://www.SantaCruzHeritage.org).

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