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CSW Update Newsletter

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Guiding Tours of the LA River and Promoting Sustainability

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Author

Price, Jenny

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LA RIVER

This spring, I'm pleased to report that I and my two alter egos (*Ranger Jenny* and advice columnist *JJ*) have so far enjoyed our work in 2011. *Ranger Jenny* and her colleagues in the Los Angeles Urban Rangers collective launched their Downtown L.A. Trail System, with a California Biennial program for the Orange County Museum of Art. The Rangers led an intrepid group of 55 urban mountaineers on an interpretive Vista Trail hike, from the Pershing Square trailhead to the top of the Bonaventure peaks—with stops at the Banker Canyons, a series of corporate meadows, and the Lodge of Memory and Stories, aka the L.A. Public Library. The Rangers will use



Los Angeles Urban Rangers

ORIENTATION

FIELD SITES



NEWS

Jan. 29-30: Inaugural Downtown LA Hike and Sunday Salon at OCMA

Rangers at MOCA for Summer 2011 Engagement Party

Rangers in CA Biennial, opening October 24

The Los Angeles Urban Rangers use guided hikes, campfire talks, and other interpretive tools to explore the everyday life of our home megalopolis and its surrounding areas.



RANGER JENNY

LA RIVER



a summer residency at MOCA to expand the trail system and to offer more public interpretive programs on the whats, whys, and wherefores of Downtown L.A.

JJ posted a new entry in her not-quite green advice column “Green Me Up, JJ” (see page 46) on how to weigh the costs and benefits for the planet when you’re deciding whether or not to have children, and on whether it’s greener to have boys or girls. Teenage boys, as she noted, can often eat nine meals and take seven showers a day.

As for me, I’ve been writing for *Sunset*, leading frequent tours of the concrete L.A. River (a river that I love), teaching a bit for Antioch Los Angeles’s new M.A. in Urban Sustainability program, and excitedly preparing for a fall fellowship in American Studies at Princeton University, where I’ll teach a seminar, “The Art of

Sustainability,” on the central role that artists play in envisioning and enacting sustainable places and practices.

Jenny Price has been a CSW Research Scholar since 1998. Price received her Ph.D. in History from Yale University in 1998 with a focus on the environment, the American West, and writing history. She is a freelance writer and she gives tours of the Los Angeles River on her own and assorted urban hikes as part of the Los Angeles Urban Rangers, an art-performance educational group. She has published a book called *Flight Maps: Adventures with Nature in Modern America* (1999). She is also a contributing writer to *LA Observed*, *Sunset*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *GOOD*, the *Huffington Post*, and the *New York Times*. She recently began writing a satirical environmental advice column called “Green Me Up, J.J.” for *LA Observed*.

Credits: Photos of LA River are from a tour Jenny Price conducted in 2008 and were taken by CSW Research Scholar Becky Nicolaidis.