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Artist and designer Ron Finley couldn't help but notice what was going on in his backyard. "South Central Los Angeles," he quips, "home of the drive-thru and the drive-by." And it's the drive-thru fast-food stands that contribute more to the area's poor health and high mortality rate, with one in two kids contracting a curable disease like Type 2 diabetes.

Finley's vision for a healthy, accessible "food forest" started with the curbside veggie garden he planted in the strip of dirt in front of his own house. When the city tried to shut it down, Finley's fight gave voice to a larger movement that provides nourishment, empowerment, education -- and healthy, hopeful futures -- one urban garden at a time.

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