

GRAND PARK BACKGROUNDER

Grand Park is a 12-acre public park in the heart of downtown's cultural and civic center, stretching from The Music Center on the west to City Hall on the east. One of the largest parks in Los Angeles County, Grand Park features multi-use spaces and lawns that welcome all sizes and styles of events, celebrations and activities for the entire community. Grand Park is an important central gathering place for all, including children and families, youth and school groups, couples and seniors, downtown dwellers, daily commuters and tourists. Grand Park offers something for all county residents and visitors to enjoy.

Features

Grand Park spans from Grand Avenue to Spring Street and features four blocks, each of which includes distinctive amenities. The park's design brings a new sense of vibrancy and energy to downtown Los Angeles and offers visitors the opportunity for special experiences, from walks and picnics, to events, activities and entertainment for all ages.

Its features include:

- The historic and newly renovated Arthur J. Will Memorial Fountain, a focal point of the park. The fountain sprays water 50 feet into the air and entertains visitors with five towering colorful plumes of water;
- A quarter-inch deep splash pad with interactive water jets, encouraging water play;
- New pedestrian steps and ADA-accessible ramps that create a series of terraces leading down into the park;
- The Performance Lawn and stage, located towards Hill Street, which are ideal for smaller musical performances, art shows and other cultural events;
- Twenty-four gardens inspired by the six Floristic Kingdoms of the world;
- The Event Lawn facing City Hall, which is designed to accommodate major public events;
- A reconfigured Flag Garden, featuring historic American flags, with cherry blossom trees planted among the flags;
- A dog run;
- A courtyard lined with olive trees; and
- Expansive lawns and movable tables and chairs for picnics, relaxing and gathering.

Grand Park Backgrounder

Page 2

Park History

Grand Park represents a unique piece of civic real estate. Originally named El Paseo de Los Pobladores de Los Angeles (The Walk of the First Settlers of Los Angeles), and commonly known as the Civic Center Mall, Grand Park transformed and reinvigorated underused public space that was challenged by grade changes and underground garage access ramps.

The Grand Avenue Committee—a public-private partnership formed in 2000, with James A. Thomas of Related Companies as the founding chairman and Eli Broad as co-chairman—initiated the concept for the park, an idea that had been entertained in civic circles since the 1950s. Most recently, it was advanced by the Civic Center Authority chaired by Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina and Los Angeles City Councilmember Rita Walters. With the park as the Grand Avenue project centerpiece, Supervisor Molina agreed to form the Grand Avenue Authority in 2003 as a Joint Powers Authority between the County of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency. Since then, the Grand Avenue Authority has overseen Grand Park design and development, as well as implementation of the larger Grand Avenue development plan. Construction on Grand Park began in July 2010 and was managed by the County of Los Angeles. The \$56 million for the construction of Grand Park was comprised of \$50 million in pre-paid rent for ground leases from Related Companies—a key condition Supervisor Molina was instrumental in securing—plus other city funds and interest. No taxpayer dollars were used in developing and constructing the park.

Park Design

Los Angeles-based Rios Clementi Hale Studios designed the park after a multi-year planning process centered on civic engagement and feedback, a commitment that defines the form, function and spirit of Grand Park. The jumping off point for the design was the concept of Los Angeles as a dynamic cultural and global crossroads. Graphic inspiration came from a flattened map of the globe from the 1920s by J.P. Goode, an American cartographer. Together, these inspirations gave rise to an overlay of meridian paths and connections, ranging from an eight-foot wide walkway to an 18-inch footpath that crisscross the four blocks of the park.

With many of the existing trees preserved, the design was enhanced with the addition of masses of flowering trees and landscape plantings of species native to Southern California. The park also features trees, shrubs and flowers that reflect the heritages of the many who have made Los Angeles their home. The park's floristic gardens, featuring many drought-tolerant species, were inspired by the world's six Floristic Kingdoms—Boreal, Neotropical, Paleotropical, South African, Australian and Antarctic.

Grand Park Backgrounder

Page 3

Programming

Under the direction of the county, The Music Center oversees and operates Grand Park, creating a dynamic, inclusive environment for community events, cultural experiences, festivals, holiday celebrations and the like that engage and attract visitors from all communities in Los Angeles County. Park visitors enjoy original programming, outdoor activities, interactive events, entertainment, site-specific programming and many other activities that benefit from the park's multi-use lawns, stages and spaces. Grand Park was designed to accommodate the needs of many types of performances and events, with state-of-the-art multimedia technology and multiple options that provide for flexibility in set-up. The Music Center also oversees Grand Park's spaces, which can be rented for events and activities by public and private parties.

Grand Park is a vibrant, inviting park and an outdoor destination for all in the community. From its design to landscaping to programming, Grand Park welcomes and honors the diverse cultures of the communities of Los Angeles County.

For more information, visit <http://www.GrandParkLA.org> and follow Grand Park on Facebook, Twitter (@GrandPark_LA) and YouTube.

#