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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NATIONAL DANCE DAY BRINGS THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER FOR
PUBLIC INAUGURATION OF GRAND PARK**

**-- Large Crowds Join in Dance and Celebration on Saturday with Nigel Lythgoe,
Adam Shankman, Lil' C and Special Performance by Cirque du Soleil –**

**-- Fool's Gold to Headline "Sunday Music in the Park" Presented by
Grand Performances and The Music Center--**

LOS ANGELES (July 28, 2012) – Thousands of people kicked up their heels today in celebration of the opening of Grand Park, Los Angeles County's newest green space. The park's public inaugural weekend activities featured the West Coast's official National Dance Day Celebration, presented by The Music Center and The Dizzy Feet Foundation. They also included the unveiling of the U.S. Postal Service's new "Innovative Choreographers" stamps that pay tribute to four influential choreographers. National Dance Day is a grassroots initiative created by Nigel Lythgoe, executive producer and co-creator of "So You Think You Can Dance" (SYTYCD), to encourage the nation to get up and move. The Grand Park event invited visitors, young and old, to participate in a free interactive dance experience – a hip-hop routine led by SYTYCD All-Star Lauren Gottlieb and a Zumba Fitness routine led by Zumba's Gina Grant. Joining Lythgoe at the event were "Rock of Ages" director and SYTYCD judge Adam Shankman and SYTYCD's Lil' C and others from the show.

"We're honored to inaugurate Grand Park – a park for everyone – with an event for everyone," said Lythgoe. "I cannot imagine a better place or a better way for the community to get up, move and get healthy at the same time." "This weekend's activities are great examples

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of how we envision the community will enjoy Grand Park,” said Thor Steingraber, vice president of programming for The Music Center. “And Grand Park is a dynamic urban gathering place where people can experience the cultural vitality and versatility of Los Angeles County.”

Park visitors were also treated to free community dance classes taught by The Pussycat Dolls’ Robin Antin and SYTYCD’s Mary Murphy as well as performances by four of Los Angeles County’s best and brightest young dance talent – Debbie Allen Dance Academy, Ehecatl Dance Company, Casa de la Cultura de Mexico and Rage Crew.

As part of the day’s activities, Lythgoe joined United States Postal Regulatory Commission Chair Ruth Goldway in a ceremony to reveal the choreographer stamps, which include Isadora Duncan, José Limón, Katherine Dunham and Bob Fosse. Designed to look like posters advertising a performance, the colorful stamps capture the art of the dance styles of each honoree. In addition, performers from IRIS by Cirque du Soleil captivated the crowd with a special performance that featured the group’s signature combination of dance and acrobatics.

Support for the National Dance Day Celebration is provided by The California Endowment. The California Endowment, through the Health Happens Here campaign, is committed to expanding health access for all Californians by improving the places where we live, learn and play. As part of the campaign to create healthy neighborhoods, The Endowment has partnered with The Music Center to provide programs at Grand Park.

Presented by Grand Performances in partnership with The Music Center, the weekend’s festivities continue on Sunday, July 29, 2012, with “Sunday Music in the Park,” a free event featuring headliner, Fool’s Gold, a Los Angeles collective that weaves together western pop aesthetics with African rhythms. Other performances by Quetzal & Friends, and Fanny Franklin and the Gents will fill Grand Park with music and offer the public an opportunity to experience an outdoor musical treat in Los Angeles County’s newest downtown destination. “As Los Angeles’ premier free outdoor performing arts producer, we are proud that The Music Center and the County have asked Grand Performances to help the community celebrate the opening of Grand Park. We believe this wonderfully improved public space will now play a great role in

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bringing our communities together to participate actively and as audience members, enjoying the arts that are part of the lives of all the people who call Los Angeles County their home,” said Michael Alexander, executive director of Grand Performances.

About Grand Park

A vibrant outdoor community gathering place for all, Grand Park adds a new spirit and vitality to downtown and is a beautiful public park for the entire community in Los Angeles County. With expansive green space for gatherings large and small, Grand Park celebrates the cultural vitality of Los Angeles County and is host to community events, cultural experiences, holiday celebrations and many other activities that engage and attract visitors from all communities throughout the county. The 12-acre Grand Park stretches from The Music Center on the west to City Hall on the east. 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 – included the concept for the park, an idea that had been entertained in civic circles since the 1950s but which was most recently advanced by the Civic Center Authority chaired by Supervisor Molina and L.A. City Councilwoman 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 L.A. County and the L.A. 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. Under the direction of the county, Grand Park was developed through Grand Avenue Park Development, LLC (Related Companies) with an award-winning creative team, including landscape architect, Rios Clementi Hale Studios; general contractor, Charles Pankow Builders; environmental graphic design firm, Sussman/Prejza; and fountain design consultants, Fluidity Design Consultants. Grand Park is operated and programmed by The Music Center. For more information about Grand Park, visit <http://www.grandparkla.org>.

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About The Music Center

A leader at the cultural heart of Los Angeles County, The Music Center brings to life one of the world’s premier arts destinations by creating opportunities for arts participation, enabling compelling programming and providing first-class venues and services. The Music Center is one of the largest and most highly regarded performing arts centers in the country, creating a cultural hub that is central to L.A.’s status as “the creative capital” of the world. Celebrated for its illustrious dance programming Glorja Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center and home to four world-class resident companies– LA Phil, Centre Theatre Group, LA Opera and Los Angeles Master Chorale – The Music Center is the place to experience the most innovative and critically-acclaimed performing arts in the nation. In its effort to extend the reach and accessibility of the performing arts, The Music Center is a national model for experiences in which people participate directly through its Active Arts® at The Music Center. As well, The Music Center presents special productions, events and festivals for children and families, including World City at The Music Center. Each year, over one million audience members delight in the excitement of live performances on The Music Center’s stages and enjoy free community arts events all year long across its outdoor campus. The Music Center is also on the forefront of arts education in Los Angeles, providing arts resources to students and teachers in schools and community centers throughout the region. For more information, visit musiccenter.org.

About The Dizzy Feet Foundation

The Dizzy Feet Foundation was founded in 2009 by producer Nigel Lythgoe, director Adam Shankman, "Dancing with the Stars" judge Carrie Ann Inaba and actress Katie Holmes, among others, to help underprivileged young people realize their dream of becoming professional dancers and to support, improve and increase access to dance education in the United States. The Dizzy Feet Foundation also sponsors, funds and offers community-based dance programs that expose kids in underserved areas to the lifelong benefits of dance education. The Dizzy Feet Foundation is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)3 charitable organization.

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About Grand Performances

Make your summer GRAND. Grand Performances (GP), L.A.'s premiere free outdoor summer performing arts presenter, is known for providing Angelenos with an eclectic mix of high quality performing arts by world-renowned artists across genres. With programming reflective of the many cultural interests of people across the region, GP hosts America's most diverse audience. All are welcome to enjoy GP's unique, awe-inspiring venue nestled under the spectacular Downtown skyline. Grand Performances is a 501(c)3 located on Bunker Hill. For more information about our 26th Annual Season, visit grandperformances.org or call (213) 687-2190.

About the U.S. Postal Service

A self-supporting government enterprise, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation, 151 million residences, businesses and Post Office Boxes. The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations. With 32,000 retail locations and the most frequently visited website in the federal government, usps.com, the Postal Service has annual revenue of \$66 billion and delivers nearly 40 percent of the world's mail. If it were a private sector company, the U.S. Postal Service would rank 35th in the 2011 Fortune 500. In 2011, the U.S. Postal Service was ranked number one in overall service performance, out of the top 20 wealthiest nations in the world, Oxford Strategic Consulting. Black Enterprise and Hispanic Business magazines ranked the Postal Service as a leader in workforce diversity. The Postal Service has been named the Most Trusted Government Agency for six years and the sixth Most Trusted Business in the nation by the Ponemon Institute.

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