



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GRAND PARK TO HOST MAJOR FESTIVITIES
FOR OFFICIAL GRAND OPENING OF COMPLETED PARK**

**– Los Angeles’ Premiere of Bandaloop’s “Bound(less)” Vertical Dance on City Hall
to Cap Day-Long Series of Free Public Events –**

– New Park Director Solidifies Commitment to Activating Grand Park as “The Park for Everyone” –

LOS ANGELES (September 18, 2012) – The County of Los Angeles and Grand Park today announced a day-long series of free public events on October 6, 2012 to mark the official grand opening of the now completed Grand Park, located in downtown Los Angeles. Visitors to Grand Park that day will enjoy entertainment in all four blocks of the park, culminating in the first Los Angeles performance by international aerial movement pioneer, Bandaloop, with a large-scale vertical dance suspended hundreds of feet high on the exterior of City Hall.

“The completion of Grand Park marks the beginning of a new chapter for Los Angeles County and opens the door to events and gatherings that bring the community together to share the many cultures that comprise the fabric of Los Angeles,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina. “I am thrilled Grand Park will host the Los Angeles premiere of Bandaloop and am confident it will be a performance not only befitting of our ‘grand’ park, but one that visitors of all ages will enjoy.”

The day’s festivities commence in the morning with “A Taste of Dance,” presented by The Music Center as part of its Active Arts® series, on The Music Center Plaza, where visitors will enjoy dance lessons in a variety of styles in a salute to Latino Heritage Month. Programming continues on Grand Park’s Fountain Plaza with a novel, high-energy performance in the Arthur J. Will Memorial Fountain that premiered in July at the park’s civic dedication. This command reprise, entitled “A Fanfare for Grand Park,” features a dance choreographed by Jacques Heim, artistic director for Diavolo Dance Theatre, and live music under the direction of its composer, David O. Musicians in the “Fanfare” orchestra include the classical quintet “Brass Pacifica,” members of the well-known “Mariachi Los Camperos” and West African master drummer, Malick Sow.

– more –

The evening's entertainment will continue on the Performance Lawn, launching Grand Park's "World Jazz Series," with music by Latin Jazz duo "Dos y Mas," featuring percussionist/composer Arturo Stable and pianist/composer Elio Villafranca. The Cuban-born artists will warm the crowd with music deeply rooted in percussive traditions from around the world as they salute the importance of tolerance, diversity and the power of music to bridge differences, three values acknowledged during a month-long series of events around the world known as Daniel Pearl World Music Days.

Then, with great anticipation, park visitors will see video projections on the Community Terrace and join in a countdown to the public opening of the last section of the park, the Event Lawn, led by County Supervisor Gloria Molina and other special guests. Visitors will be delighted and amazed to witness a dance performance never before shown in Los Angeles, as Bandaloop lights up the exterior of City Hall with "Bound(less)," an invigorating, large-scale vertical dance. Led by Bandaloop's Artistic Director Amelia Rudolph, dancers will change the audience's perspective of gravity and transform views of the city by turning City Hall into a vertical dance floor on its side and showcasing complex, dynamic choreography while suspended from climbing ropes. "Bound(less)" will be performed to live music by composer/cellist/trombonist Dana Leong.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to buy food and beverages from food carts and food trucks throughout the grand opening events.

According to newly named Grand Park Director, Lucas Rivera, the park's celebration will continue with a series of events in October and November, ensuring Grand Park has something for all Los Angeles County residents and visitors. Rivera worked closely with The Music Center, which manages and programs Grand Park, to offer a range of free public events for the park's fall calendar with appeal to a wide range of park visitors, including:

- **New Hub for CicLAvia** – Grand Park joins other locations as a new hub for this event that opens the streets for bicyclists, walkers, runners and more. Grand Park features concerts, special activities plus food and beverages (October 7, 2012);
- **Make Your Mark at the Park (Big Draw) and Grand Park's Pooch Party** – Grand Park provides opportunities for artists and amateurs of all ages to participate in Big Draw, the world's largest celebration of drawing. That same day, dog lovers will enjoy a fun and entertaining "pooch party" with dog parades, activities and interactive booths. The event dedicates the much anticipated dog run on the Event Lawn, expected to be a popular downtown destination for dog owners and their pets (October 14, 2012);

- **AXIS Dance Company** – Grand Park welcomes AXIS Dance Company, one of the world’s most acclaimed and innovative ensembles of performers with and without disabilities, who will give audiences a new perspective on the power of physically integrated dance (October 27, 2012);
- **Dedication of the Cherry Blossom Trees** – The Japanese Consulate joins with the county to dedicate the cherry blossom trees in Grand Park’s Community Terrace in honor of the 100th anniversary of the donation of cherry trees by Japan to the United States. (November 2, 2012);
- **Grand Park Presents Downtown Dia de Los Muertos** – Grand Park presents the first official downtown Dia de Los Muertos celebration with live music and visual artists from the Latino community (November 2, 2012); and
- **Flash Fest** – The Music Center inaugurates Flash Fest with an event at Grand Park. Flash Fest is a new pop-up arts happening that explores all art forms in myriad ways with appeal to all ages and interests. Each event will turn on a particular theme, which will be up for a short time and then disappear until the next Flash Fest. The first event at Grand Park is “High Roads and Railroads,” a musical intersection of an African American string band, “The Ebony Hillbillies,” with the traditional Irish folk music of “Téada,” along with a number of interactive arts workshops (November 4, 2012).

“We have worked hard to bring new and innovative programming to Grand Park that won’t be found anywhere else in the county,” Rivera said. “It is exciting to see the park come alive with entertainment and events that appeal to everyone. And we won’t stop here. Grand Park is already home to a public square speakers’ series presented by Zócalo and will soon host a farmers’ market, book fairs, art festivals, a poetry workshop, yoga and more,” he explained.

Rivera comes to Grand Park from a position as executive director of Philadelphia-based Artists and Musicians of Latin America (AMLA), an organization dedicated to music education and presentation. An artist, dancer, musician and poet, he has significant experience working with community groups to develop and expand the reach and impact of arts programming and its role in societal change.

The grand opening celebration of the completed Grand Park (from Grand Avenue to Spring Street) will make the entire park available to the public. Visitors to the park are encouraged to take the Metro Red Line to Civic Center Station. The newly renovated Civic Center stop lets riders off right in the middle of the park. In addition, parking is available in Lot 10 with entrances on Broadway and Hill Street between First and Temple Streets (also in the middle of the park) and in Lot 17 at Olive and First Streets (enter from Olive Street).

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. One of the biggest parks in all of Los Angeles, the 12-acre Grand Park stretches from The Music Center on the west to City Hall on the east. Under the direction of the county, Grand Park was developed by 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. For more information, visit <http://www.grandparkla.org>

About Bandaloop

Bandaloop honors nature, community and the human spirit through perspective-bending dance. A pioneer in vertical performance, Bandaloop weaves climbing technology, dynamic physicality and intricate choreography to turn the dance floor on its side. Under the artistic direction of Amelia Rudolph, the work reimagines dance, activates public spaces and inspires wonder and imagination in audiences around the world. Since 1991, Bandaloop has trained dancers and youth at home and on tour and has performed for close to one million people. For more information, visit, <http://www.bandaloop.org>

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 Gloria Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center, and home to four world-class resident companies— Centre Theatre Group, LA Opera, LA Phil, 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 and is 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 <http://www.musiccenter.org>

Grand Park Grand Opening Events and Fall Schedule

Saturday, October 6, 2012 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Grand Opening Celebration

- 11:00 a.m. “A Taste of Dance” (presented by The Music Center’s Active Arts® series) – on the Music Center Plaza
- 4:00 p.m. Grand Park Celebration Begins
- 4:30 p.m. “A Fanfare for Grand Park” (adjacent to Arthur J. Will Memorial Fountain) – Grand Park Fountain Plaza
- 5:30 p.m. “Dos y Mas” performance, which launches Grand Park’s World Jazz Series – Grand Park Performance Lawn
- 6:45 p.m. Video wall greetings/welcome from Supervisor Gloria Molina and special guests – Grand Park Community Terrace
- 7:45 p.m. Bandaloop Los Angeles premiere – Grand Park Event Lawn

Sunday, October 7, 2012 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

CicLAvia Hub

Free programming in the park including Active Arts® “Drum Downtown,” “Ozo Kids” family friendly concert, DJs from KCRW and “Love in the Circus” performance (performances between 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.)

Sunday, October 14, 2012 Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Make Your Mark at the Park (Big Draw)

Opportunities for all ages to participate in the world’s biggest celebration of drawing (noon- 3:00 p.m.)

Grand Park’s Pooch Party

Dog parade honoring service dogs with celebrity dog appearances, a costume contest and other activities for dog lovers (noon-4:00 p.m.)

Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

AXIS Dance Company

AXIS showcases a contemporary dance form that includes collaboration between dancers with and without disabilities

Friday, November 2, 2012 4:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. (see specific times below)

Dedication of the Cherry Blossom Trees 4:00 p.m.
Ceremony by Japanese Consulate and Los Angeles County

Grand Park Presents Downtown Dia De Los Muertos 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Live music to celebrate the holiday in partnership with historic downtown bar, La Cita. Bands include “Mariachi El Bronx,” “Upground,” “Buyepongo” and “Trio Ellas”

Sunday, November 4, 2012 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Flash Fest: High Roads and Railroads

Music, participatory workshops and storytelling, featuring “High Roads and Railroads” – a combination of Ireland’s “Téada” and African American string band, “The Ebony Hillbillies” – which launches The Music Center’s Flash Fest performances

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