



American Planning Association

Making Great Communities Happen

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NEWS
RELEASE

**American Planning Association Designates
Grand Park a Top 10 Great Public Space for 2013**

Redeveloped Park Noted For Exceptional Views, Attractive Features

LOS ANGELES, CA – The [American Planning Association](#) (APA) today announced the designation of [Grand Park](#) in downtown Los Angeles as one of 10 Great Public Spaces for 2013 through the organization’s [Great Places in America](#) program. Each year during [National Community Planning Month](#), APA’s Great Places in America program names 30 exemplary streets, neighborhoods and public spaces to highlight the role planning and planners play in adding value to communities, including fostering economic growth and jobs.

APA singled out Grand Park, formerly named the Civic Center Mall, for its collaborative redesign, accessibility, features, and downtown views. After 12 years of planning efforts involving residents, developers, planners, and city and county officials, the redeveloped park open last year with much fanfare.

“When the Joint Powers Authority, led by Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina, worked to develop Grand Park, they did so with a commitment to the many communities this park now serves,” said Grand Park Director Lucas Rivera. “Since its opening just last year, Grand Park has become the central gathering place that L.A. has longed for. It is an honor to be recognized by the APA as one of this country’s ‘Great Public Spaces’ and a grand tribute to the park as it approaches its first birthday.”

APA Chief Executive Officer Paul Farmer, FAICP, said, “Grand Park is the embodiment of the people, diversity, and culture of Los Angeles. It is a place for celebration, reflection and camaraderie.” He continued, “The first plans for a park in downtown Los Angeles go back more than 100 years when pioneering planning theorist Charles Mulford Robinson envisioned a civic and cultural center for downtown that was inspired by the late 19th Century City Beautiful movement.”



Framed by a stunning downtown skyline and gently sloping topography, the 12-acre park completed a \$56 million redevelopment last year that doubled the size of the 1966 Civic Center Mall. The four-blocks-long public space, which extends from The Music Center at the top of Grand Avenue to City Hall, features a community terrace, performance lawn, restored historic fountain with contemporary amenities, and 24 multi-cultural botanic gardens that contain 140 plant species representative of the world's six Floristic Kingdoms.

Operated by [The Music Center](#), Grand Park is activated all-year-long with a diverse line-up of programming and activities for visitors of all ages, ranging from fitness classes, a farmers' market, concerts and dance performances to grand-scale cultural and holiday celebrations.

APA's Great Public Spaces, Great Neighborhoods, and Great Streets feature unique and authentic characteristics that have evolved from years of thoughtful and deliberate planning by residents, community leaders and planners. The 2013 Great Places have many things Americans say are important to their "ideal community" including locally owned businesses, transit, neighborhood parks, and sidewalks. They illustrate how the foresight of planning fosters communities of lasting value.

The nine other APA 2013 Great Public Spaces are: Tony Knowles Coastal Trail, Anchorage, AK; The Broadwalk in Florida's Hollywood, Hollywood, FL; Norman B. Leventhal Park at Post Office Square, Boston, MA; Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA; Forest Park, St. Louis, MO; Essex County Branch Brook Park, Newark, NJ; Grand Central Terminal, New York City, NY; Walnut Street Pedestrian Bridge, Chattanooga, TN; and Esther Short Park, Vancouver, WA.

For more information about these public spaces, as well as APA's top 10 Great Streets and top 10 Neighborhoods for 2013 and previous years, visit www.planning.org/greatplaces. For more about National Community Planning Month taking place throughout October visit www.planning.org/ncpm.



About The American Planning Association

The American Planning Association is an independent, not-for-profit educational organization that provides leadership in the development of vital communities. APA and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, are dedicated to advancing the art, science and profession of good planning -- physical, economic and social -- so as to create communities that offer better choices for where and how people work and live. Members of APA help create communities of lasting value and encourage civic leaders, business interests and citizens to play a meaningful role in creating communities that enrich people's lives. APA has offices in Washington, D.C., and Chicago, Ill. For more information, visit www.planning.org.

About Grand Park

A vibrant outdoor gathering place, Grand Park 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 county's cultural vitality and is host to community events, cultural experiences, holiday celebrations, and many other activities that engage and attract visitors from all communities. The 12-acre Grand Park stretches from The Music Center on the west to City Hall on the east, and is easily accessible by Metro via the Red/Purple line to the Civic Center/Grand Park station. Grand Park's transformation is a credit to the leadership of Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina and the Grand Avenue Committee, established to create and implement the vision for Grand Park and commercial developments on Grand Avenue. 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. 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. Working closely with the county, The Music Center is responsible for all operations and programming for the park. For more information, visit <http://www.grandparkla.org>.