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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**– GRAND PARK’S FIRST-HALF 2014 PROGRAMMING LINE-UP SPOTLIGHTS
THE CREATIVE EXCELLENCE AND QUINTESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES OF LOS ANGELES –
– L.A.’s Sounds, Moves and Tastes Featured in Broad Range of Programming
in the “Park for Everyone” –**

LOS ANGELES (December 5, 2013) – Grand Park’s first-half 2014 programming line-up will provide visitors with multiple opportunities to enjoy Los Angeles-based musicians, dancers, authors and chefs at events and activities that salute the diverse array of talent and experiences found in Los Angeles County. Building on its ongoing programmatic mission to support work in the County, Grand Park will transform the popular venue into a platform for some of Los Angeles’ finest artists in a unique collection of free musical and dance performances with appeal to a broad range of interests. The line-up includes a soulful Valentine’s Day concert, which also salutes Black History Month; a three-month series of lunchtime concerts; a family-friendly salute to salsa at the conclusion of LA Salsa Fest; and site-specific dance performances, including a commission by Grand Park that will adapt a celebrated work to be performed by L.A. Contemporary Dance Company. Park visitors will also enjoy the return of successful events such as the sixth annual Taco Madness tournament, presented by Grand Park with L.A. Taco; and Grand Park’s Downtown Bookfest; as well as the continuation of Grand Park’s Yoga reTREAT; Grand Park’s Downtown Farmers’ Market and Grand Park’s Lunch Á la Park.

“The diversity and caliber of Grand Park’s programming reflect the character of the many communities who have made Grand Park a central gathering place,” said Grand Park Director Lucas Rivera. “Our vision for placemaking is inspired by the extraordinary artists, artisans and authors who call Los Angeles home. We are honored that they will bring their works to life in Grand Park and provide park visitors with experiences that are distinctively Los Angeles.”

“Grand Park will start the New Year with a strong mix of high quality events and entertainment and solid, community-oriented attractions,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina. “Grand Park’s perfect locale – with plenty of open space in the heart of downtown Los Angeles – makes each experience there special and fun. It’s easily accessible by Metro, too, saving visitors the hassle of traffic,” she added.

Grand Park’s first-half 2014 programming line-up includes:

GRAND PARK FAVORITES

Grand Park Lunchtime Yoga reTREAT

Wednesdays and Fridays: January 8-May 30, 2014 12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Grand Park’s popular free yoga sessions return, giving visitors the opportunity to relax, rejuvenate and re-energize.

– more –

Grand Park's Lunch Á la Park

Returns on January 8, 2014 Wednesdays and Thursdays 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Grand Park spices up the lunch options on Bunker Hill by providing downtowners and park visitors a range of food trucks two days a week. Trucks are parked in two locations in the park: on Olive Court, between Grand Avenue and Hill Street, and in the Marketplace, between Broadway and Spring Street.

Grand Park's Downtown Farmers' Market

Returns on January 7, 2014 Every Tuesday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Farmers' market lovers will enjoy locally grown produce, fresh flowers and prepared food vendors.

MUSIC

Grand Park's Got Funky Sole: Lover's Edition

Friday, February 14, 2014 8:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.

Presented by Grand Park and Spaceland Productions, Grand Park's Got Funky Sole: Lover's Edition gives lovers of funk (and all lovers!) a way to get down on Valentine's Day with L.A.'s longest-running 60s/70s soul dance party in its second Grand Park appearance. Funky soul vinyl sounds spun by Funky Sole DJs will mix with live performances by Los Angeles-based hip-hop orchestra, Breakestra. Formed by Miles Tackett, a multi-instrumentalist and funk fan who got into hip-hop in the late 80s, Breakestra's music is influenced by late 60s and early 70s funk and soul-jazz. Picnics for two will be available for purchase. Funky soul lovers can move with the groove earlier that evening as Glorlya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center and The Apollo Theater present *James Brown: Get On The Good Foot, a Celebration in Dance* for three performances only (February 14-16, 2014) at The Music Center's Ahmanson Theatre. While the Grand Park event is free, tickets for the James Brown dance performances are available at <http://www.musiccenter.org/about/Our-Programs/Glorlya-Kaufman-Dance/201314-Subscriptions/James-Brown-Project/>

Lunchtime Concerts in Grand Park

Featuring some of LA's top performers of traditional, jazz and classical music, Lunchtime Concerts in Grand Park will run from March-May 2014.

March – Traditional Music

Thursday, March 6, 2014 Noon – 1:30 p.m. Adaawe

Comprised of seven women, Adaawe creates an international fusion of African music, R&B/pop vocals, jazz-funk, Latin and Reggae, steeped in Gospel harmonies. Based in Los Angeles, Adaawe's exhilarating djembe drumming brings audiences to their feet.

Thursday, March 20, 2014: Noon – 1:30 p.m. Jim West, Hawaiian Slack Guitar

Los Angeles-based Jim "Kimo" West is recognized as one of the world's top "slack key" guitarists and brings his own unique musical perspective to this acoustic guitar tradition. "Slack key" guitar is an old Hawaiian style of playing where the strings are loosened or "slacked" to different tunings, allowing the bass, chords and melody to be played simultaneously.

April – Jazz

Thursday, April 3, 2014: Noon-1:30 p.m. Blue Morning Quintet

Los Angeles-based Blue Morning Quintet, a music co-op, plays the best of America's songbook as well as the great jazz standards. Founded in 2005, the band formed after participating in a jazz workshop at the iconic World Stage Performance Gallery founded by jazz great Billy Higgins. With nearly 200 collective years of musical experience, Blue Morning Quintet covers the maters, including Charlie Parker, John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Duke Ellington, Dave Brubeck, Chic Corea and many more.

Thursday, April 17, 2014: Noon – 1:30 p.m. Opa Opa

Formed in 1987 by Oswaldo Bernard and his friend and fellow musician, Anthony Apollos, Opa Opa is a Los Angeles-based band that delivers rich percussive rhythms, unique vocals and robust brassy horns. One of the premiere salsa bands in Los Angeles, Opa Opa is comprised of a diverse group of musicians, who each add a special flare and flavor to the band.

May – Classical Music

Thursday, May 1, 2014: Noon – 1:30 p.m. LA Opera Springtime Concert

Celebrate springtime with artists from LA Opera in a lunchtime program featuring some of opera's greatest hits, as well as seasonal highlights from the Great American Songbook.

Thursday, May 15, 2014: Noon – 1:30 p.m. Los Angeles Flute Orchestra

A professional ensemble of Los Angeles-based flutists, the Los Angeles Flute Orchestra offers a versatile and unique instrumentation that includes some of the largest flutes in the world as well as ethnic instruments. The Orchestra's style covers a full spectrum from baroque and classical favorites, to jazz, pop, contemporary and world music.

Thursday, May 29, 2014: To be Announced.

EVENTS

Grand Park's Downtown Bookfest

Saturday, March 29, 2014 Noon – 5:00 p.m.

Los Angeles' only book festival that focuses exclusively on the local community, Grand Park's Downtown Bookfest returns, offering Angelenos access to the largest coalition of Los Angeles-based presses and publishers in an outdoor bookstore setting. The Bookfest provides a platform for writers and budding authors of all ages as well as literary support communities, including libraries and local non-profit organizations. This year, the event features performances two child-friendly groups, including Birdie's Playhouse, led by Founder Birdie Mendoza, which features upbeat Latin rhythms and catchy pop refrains that get kids up and moving; and Story Pirates, whose one-of-a-kind sketch comedy musical is based entirely on stories by children, including those written by kids in the audience.

Taco Madness 2014

Saturday, April 5, 2014 Noon – sunset

Grand Park and LA Taco present Taco Madness 2014, which celebrates a food item perhaps considered the most Los Angeles of all foods. Taco Madness 2014 features a wide variety of Los Angeles' best tacos, along with music from top DJs, live mural painting, an interactive art project, activities for kids and more. A panel of some of Los Angeles' top foodies and chefs will choose a winner among the many entries, and park visitors will select the "fan favorite."

DANCE

Grand Park's Got Moves: The Salsa Session

Monday, May 26, 2014 (Memorial Day) 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Grand Park collaborates with the 16th Annual International LA Salsa Fest (formerly Los Angeles Salsa Congress) to host a final free day of the event for families, on-site at the park. LA Salsa Fest attracts salsa dance and music lovers from more than 40 countries and boasts talent from all over the world. While the LA Salsa Fest is a paid event, Grand Park's Got Moves: The Salsa Session gives salsa lovers of all ages and all levels the opportunity to enjoy popular bands for free. Artists include Ricardo Lemvo, whose Los Angeles-based band, Makina Loca, blends Afro-Cuban rhythms with pan-African styles, inspiring his audiences to let loose and dance; and the Grammy-winning Spanish Harlem Orchestra, a formidable and authentic Latin jazz combos that mixes fiery salsa with melodic balladry.

Grand Park Presents Dance Camera West 2014

*Saturday, June 7, 2014: LA Contemporary Dance Company and film screenings at Grand Park
6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.*

Building on its reputation as a ground breaking venue for site-specific dance performances, Grand Park partners with Dance Camera West to bring both a live new work and a night of festival film screenings to dance lovers in the community. Continuing its support of the Los Angeles dance community, Grand Park has commissioned an adaptation of a celebrated work for the stage, LA Contemporary Dance Company's "Prite Oef Stringh." This piece, which has been described as "*The Hunger Games* meets contemporary dance," will take on a new life in Grand Park, complete with audience interaction. Now in its eighth season, LA Contemporary Dance Company presents exciting and relevant dance experiences to the community, providing local dancers, choreographers and artists with a stomping ground to craft the future of dance in Los Angeles and beyond. Both the performance and the screenings will take place in the park.

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. The park was named one of American Planning Association's 10 "Great Public Spaces" in the U.S. for 2013. 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://grandparkla.org/>

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