



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GRAND PARK MAKES SUMMER SENSATIONAL WITH SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE
IN *THE PARK FOR EVERYONE***

-- Free Music and Dance Performances, Movies, Exercise, Kids Activities, Special Summer Holiday Celebrations and More Encourage Grand Park Visitors to "Park Here Any Time" --

LOS ANGELES (May 22, 2013) – Grand Park today announced a robust, multi-dimensional series of free summer events and activities designed to help Angelenos make this a summer to remember. For the first complete summer season since the park's October 2012 grand opening, Grand Park will feature a wide variety of exciting opportunities for park visitors, including music from both live bands and DJs; a ballet performance under the stars; a movies-in-the-park series; a speakers series; and a number of participatory events, including a movie dance-along, group drumming experiences, a boot camp and special activities for families and kids. The park will also host two major public summer celebrations in July, including a July 4th block party and National Dance Day festivities.

According to Grand Park Director Lucas Rivera, the diversity of the community and the way people have embraced the park were driving forces in the development of the park's summer programming line-up. "While not yet a year old, Grand Park already has a special welcoming and engaging spirit, which comes from our visitors, whether they are reading a book under a tree, splashing in the fountain or enjoying a nighttime concert," Rivera explained. "We will celebrate the enthusiasm they have for Grand Park by offering new ways for park visitors to appreciate its beauty and versatility as a setting for many different types of experiences."

Grand Park's summer programming line-up includes:

MUSIC

Grand Park's Sunday Sessions

Sundays: May 26/June 30/July 28/August 25 2:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Featuring the soaring sounds and beats of local and international DJs, Grand Park's Sunday Sessions present the best in electronic music. The free performances are curated by Eduardo Castillo of The Eclectech. Guests can purchase food from food trucks and cocktails from Pattern Bar.

Grand Park's Out-of-Office

Thursdays: June 20-September 12 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Downtowners can get an early start to the weekend on Thursdays and enjoy warm summer twilight hours after a day in the office. This free concert series will feature LA-based artists and tastemakers from a broad spectrum of genres from jazz, to indie, to pops, to name a few. Guests will also enjoy food trucks and a beer garden.

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Drum Downtown

Saturdays: July 6/August 3/September 7 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

This free do-it-yourself musical activity lets Grand Park visitors make music in the moment as part of an outdoor group drumming experience. All skill levels welcome; drums and other percussion instruments provided. First come, first served with no RSVPs or tickets required.

July 6/Sample of Brazilian Beats: Rhythms inspired by Brazil, home of the Samba

August 3/ Pulse and Pitch: Tones and drums blended to make unique sounds and melodies

September 7/West African Rhythm Expedition: A drumming journey through West Africa

DANCE

Hairspray Dance-Along

Friday, June 21 6:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Grand Park partners with LA Film Fest and Dance Camera West to present a free screening of the John Waters' cult classic favorite, *Hairspray*. Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the film's release, the evening includes free dance lessons and performances, guest appearances from the cast and food trucks.

Ballet Under the Stars

Saturday, July 6 7:30 p.m.

In partnership with Los Angeles Ballet, this presentation features the company's productions of *Agon* and *Rubies* with music by Igor Stravinsky and choreography by George Balanchine. Visitors can enjoy a picnic and a performance under the stars by this world-class ballet company.

FILM SERIES

Grand Park and Street Food Cinema Present Movies in the Park

Saturdays: August 3/August 10/August 17/August 24/August 31/September 7/September 14 5:30 p.m./screening begins at sundown

Grand Park partners with Street Food Cinema to provide free screenings of family-friendly (PG-13 and under) movie favorites of the 80s and 90s along with live performances by up-and-coming musical artists. Audiences will also enjoy special guest appearances and food trucks in addition to fun giveaways and audience participation movie-themed competitions. The series kicks off on August 3 with a screening of *The Sandlot* featuring members of the original cast and crew.

SPEAKERS SERIES

Grand Park's "Park Your Politics" Speaker Series

Fridays: July 12/August 9/September 6 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Following Zócalo Public Square's strong debut in Grand Park in 2012, which featured Los Angeles' leading museum heads, the city's top architects, Southern California's great culinary minds and more, its Ideas Exchange returns to the center of civic life in downtown Los Angeles with the Park Your Politics Speaker Series. Discussions will address the future of Los Angeles and the big issues facing Angelenos today. Zócalo will ask Southern California's most compelling thinkers and doers provocative questions about where Los Angeles should be heading next. This series will be published online on the Zócalo website <http://www.zocalopublicsquare.org/>

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SUMMER HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Grand Park's 4th of July Block Party

Thursday, July 4 3:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Grand Park presents a new way to experience downtown Los Angeles and celebrate the Fourth. Lights, projections and pyrotechnics will delight audiences of all ages. Hosted by KCRW DJ Anthony Valdez, Grand Park's 4th of July Block Party will turn the park into a special place for guests to enjoy picnics and world music performances, including Los Angeles-based artists Ethio-Cali and Jungle Fire. The event salutes the global nature and diversity of the many communities that comprise Los Angeles as they come together to celebrate the nation's independence. Visit <http://grandparkla.org/> for more details and an announcement of the headline performance on June 22.

National Dance Day

Saturday, July 27 Time 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

For the second year in a row, The Music Center partners with The Dizzy Feet Foundation to present the west coast's flagship free celebration of National Dance Day at Grand Park. Dancers of all skill levels are invited to participate in hip-hop and jazz dance routines shared online in advance by some of today's most popular dance choreographers and performers. Additional details will be released soon.

ACTIVITIES

Grand Park's Bootcamp

Tuesdays: June 18-September 10 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Open to all, this free fitness series is open to all designed for all fitness levels and makes an end-of-day workout accessible and fun.

Grand Park's Splash + Surprises

Saturdays: August 3/August 10/August 17/August 24/August 31 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Kids and their parents adore Grand Park's historic Arthur J. Will Memorial Fountain. Now the fountain just got better with kid-friendly activities and special surprises for the young and the young at heart.

About Grand Park

Under the leadership of The Music Center, Grand Park has become a vibrant outdoor community gathering place for all which adds a new spirit and vitality to downtown. 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 downtown 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://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. Approximately 500 full-time, seasonal and part-time staff members are employees of The Center and contribute to its operation and success. The Music Center was developed as an unprecedented public-private partnership with Los Angeles County. Through the support of the Board of Supervisors, the County of Los Angeles plays an invaluable role in the successful operation of The Music Center. This relationship has cemented the importance of the arts to the cultural fabric of Los Angeles. For more information, visit <http://www.musiccenter.org/>

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