



GRAND PARK BACKGROUNDER

A vibrant outdoor gathering place, Grand Park is a beautiful public park for the entire community in Los Angeles County located in the heart of Downtown’s cultural and civic center. Across its multi-use lawns, stages and spaces, Grand Park celebrates the county’s cultural vitality and is host to community events, interactive experiences, holiday celebrations, and many other activities that engage and attract visitors from all communities. The 12-acre urban oasis stretches from The Music Center on the west to City Hall on the east and is easily accessible by Metro via the B/D (formerly Red/Purple) line to the Civic Center/Grand Park station. Grand Park was named one of American Planning Association’s 10 “Great Public Spaces” in the U.S. for 2013. “The park for everyone” offers something for all County residents and visitors to enjoy. Working closely with the County, The Music Center is responsible for all operations and programming for Grand Park.

Park History

Grand Park represents a unique piece of civic real estate. Originally named El Paseo de Los Pobladores de Los Angeles (The Walk of the First Settlers of Los Angeles), and commonly known as the Civic Center Mall, Grand Park transformed and reinvigorated underused public space that was challenged by grade changes and underground garage access ramps. The Grand Avenue Committee—a public-private partnership formed in 2000, with James A. Thomas of Related Companies as the founding chairman and the late Eli Broad as co-chairman—initiated the concept for the park, an idea that had been entertained in civic circles since the 1950s. Most recently, it was advanced by the Civic Center Authority chaired by then Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina and Los Angeles City Councilmember 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 the County of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency. The Grand Avenue Authority oversaw the Grand Park design and development, as well as implementation of the larger Grand Avenue development plan. Construction on Grand Park began in July 2010 and was managed by the County of Los Angeles. 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. No taxpayer dollars were used in developing and constructing the park.

Grand Park has been powered by The Music Center since its grand opening in 2012, and recently entered a new 30-year Operating Agreement with the County of Los Angeles for the operation, maintenance and programming of Grand Park. Approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors after a public process in July 2021, the Operating Agreement includes an initial term of 10 years with up to two 10-year renewal options. The Music Center/Grand Park/County of Los Angeles partnership will continue through 2051.

Park Design

To fulfill the need of a dynamic cultural and global crossroad for civic engagement, Los Angeles-based RIOS (formerly Rios Clementi Hale Studios) designed the park after a multi-year planning process centered on civic engagement and feedback, a commitment that defines the form, function and spirit of Grand Park. The jumping off point for the design was the concept of Los Angeles as a dynamic cultural and global crossroads. Graphic inspiration came from a flattened map of the globe from the 1920s by J.P. Goode, an American cartographer. Together, these inspirations gave rise to an overlay of meridian paths and connections, ranging from an eight-foot-wide walkway to an 18-inch footpath that crisscross the entire park.

With many of the existing trees preserved, the design was enhanced with the addition of masses of flowering trees and landscape plantings of species native to Southern California. The park also features trees, shrubs and flowers that reflect the heritage of the many who have made Los Angeles their home. The park's floristic gardens, featuring many drought-tolerant species, were inspired by the world's six Floristic Kingdoms—Boreal, Neotropical, Paleotropical, South African, Australian and Antarctic.

Features

Spanning from Grand Avenue to Spring Street, Grand Park is organized into four public spaces or "blocks." In Blocks One and Two, visitors will find the Fountain Overlook with the regal Arthur J. Will Memorial Fountain and interactive splash pad (developed by Fluidity Design Consultants); Grand Park's administrative office, public restrooms, an ATM and a Starbucks outpost; an Olive Court plaza space marking the historic alignment of Olive Street with 16 olive trees and Mediterranean plantings, as well as historic speaker poles and benches; and the Performance Lawn with broad expanses of grass and a small stage. This shady lawn area incorporates several existing Jacaranda trees and is surrounded by various gardens containing plants from North America, Australia and Southeast Asia. In Blocks Three and Four, visitors will find the Community Terrace, a large central plaza surrounded by gardens from each of the world's six Floristic Kingdoms; small lawn areas for picnics and lounging; a Flag Garden; the Broadway Steps that provide ADA access down to the street level and informal stepped-seating areas; the Event Lawn, an open, flexible area for large public gatherings and marketplace; and a dog run and children's playground, both open year-round. Wide steps—along with ADA-accessible ramps, switchback paths and landscaping—mitigate Bunker Hill's 90 feet of grade change throughout the length of the park.

Programming

Grand Park visitors enjoy original programming, outdoor activities, interactive events, entertainment, site-specific programming and many other activities that engage and attract visitors from all communities in Los Angeles County. Grand Park was designed to accommodate the needs of many types of performances and events, with state-of-the-art multimedia technology and multiple options that provide for flexibility in set-up. TMC Arts—the programming engine for The Music Center—curates a dynamic, inclusive environment highlighting local talent, artists and community partners, representing the many faces, corners and lived-experiences of Angelenos in the county. Over the years, the Grand Park team has created legacy events that bring people from all over Los Angeles County together to celebrate

yearly milestones including *Grand Park + The Music Center's 4th of July Block Party* and *Grand Park's NYELA*, each attracting crowds in excess of 50,000 people. In fact, the park's New Year's Eve event is recognized as the West Coast's flagship New Year's celebration. The park also connects Angelenos as a multicultural community with such programs as *Grand Park's Downtown Día de Los Muertos*, a week-long altar and art installation that honors the customs and traditions surrounding the increasingly international Día de los Muertos/Day of the Dead holiday, and *Grand Park's Our L.A. Voices: A Pop-up Art + Culture Fest*, a free, performing and visual arts exhibition and marketplace that showcases the artistic work, identity and vibrancy of Los Angeles.

Grand Park hosts other seasonal programs as well as year-round lunchtime activities that include yoga classes, food trucks and concerts. Whether live at the park or as a platform for vibrant digital programming, Grand Park continues its commitment to be the destination where everyone can enjoy programs that reflect the talent and creativity of emerging and L.A.-based artists as well as the diversity of community partners representative of a multi-cultural county. Grand Park is a great example of how arts and culture can play a vital role in connecting one another through accessible programs and experiences that honor, reflect and celebrate Los Angeles.

The Music Center also oversees the rental of Grand Park's spaces by public and private parties for commercials, music videos and television shows to name a few. Grand Park's spaces can be rented for events and activities by public and private parties.

From its design to landscaping to programming, Grand Park, in line with The Music Center, strives to deepen the cultural life of every resident of Los Angeles County. For more information, visit grandparkla.org. Follow Grand Park on Instagram, Twitter, Twitch, TikTok, Spotify and Mixcloud (@grandpark_la) as well as YouTube and Facebook (@grandparkLosAngeles).

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