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IMPROVE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD WITH A \$10,000 BEAUTIFICATION GRANT

City Invites Schools, Neighborhoods, Youth and Environmental Groups to Attend Community Beautification Grant Workshops on Proposal Writing and Project Development

LOS ANGELES (August 9, 2007) – The City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works Office of Community Beautification yesterday conducted the first of fifteen workshops to teach the public how to draft their proposals and tap into the \$850,000 available through the Community Beautification Grant. More than 40 local residents from the Rancho Park and Palms area attended the grant workshop to learn more about the community improvement opportunities. Open since July, the annual competitive matching grants of up to \$10,000 allow community groups of five or more individuals that reside, work or take an interest in implementing a community beautification project in the city of Los Angeles to apply for the grant.

“The Community Beautification Grants have been an invaluable city resource for community improvement initiatives that challenge neglect and improve our quality of life,” said Cynthia M. Ruiz, president of the Board of Public Works. “We strongly encourage the public to attend these workshops and learn more about how to access this resource that improves and redefines neighborhoods.”

Since 1998, more than 780 community beautification projects have been completed throughout the city. The scope and extent of the projects have ranged from mosaic and painted murals, public works of art, learning gardens on school campuses, tree plantings along highway medians, hiking trail restorations, new playground equipment, park benches and flower plantings along walkways.

“These workshops are key in our outreach and support for the public’s effort to keep Los Angeles

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beautiful,” said Paul Racs, director of the Office of Community Beautification. “Through these workshops, community groups will receive the needed information to write an effective proposal.”

The Community Beautification Grant is a program of the Office of Community Beautification, which serves as the city’s lead agency for graffiti removal, volunteer cleanup projects, anti-graffiti education outreach and community beautification. The grant was created by the city of Los Angeles as a way for residents in the city to reshape the character of their neighborhoods through volunteer beautification and cleanup actions.

“The workshops will be conducted throughout the city from the valley, westside, midtown, eastside, south Los Angeles and harbor areas,” said Michael Espinosa, grant manager of the Community Beautification Grants. “This outreach activity in tandem with the citywide clean and green movement is to provide notice that this valuable city resource is available to be used in support of locally initiated beautification and community improvement projects.”

The remaining 2007-08 Community Beautification Grant workshops will be held:

- Tuesday, August 14, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in Highland Park
Arroyo Seco Library, 6145 N. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90042
- Wednesday, August 15, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in North Hollywood
Valley Plaza Library, 12311 Vanowen Avenue, North Hollywood, CA 91605
- Thursday, August 16, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in Tarzana
Encino Tarzana Library, 18231 Ventura Blvd., Tarzana, CA 91356
- Tuesday, August 21, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in Los Feliz
Los Feliz Library, 1874 Hillhurst Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027
- Wednesday, August 22, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in Van Nuys
Marvin Braude Building, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Room 1B, Van Nuys CA 91401
- Tuesday, August 28, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in Pacoima
Pacoima Library, 13605 Van Nuys Blvd., Pacoima, CA 91331
- Wednesday, August 29, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in Manchester Square
Council District 8 Constituent Center, 8475 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90044
- Thursday, August 30, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in Southeast Los Angeles
Junipero Serra Library, 4607 S. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90037

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- Tuesday, September 4, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in South Los Angeles
Council District 10, 1819 S. Western Ave., Conference Room, Los Angeles, CA 90006
- Wednesday, September 5, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in Venice
Venice Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90291
- Thursday, September 6, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in North Hills
Mid-Valley Regional Library, 16244 Nordhoff St., North Hills, CA 91343
- Wednesday, September 12, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in El Sereno
El Sereno Library, 5226 Huntington Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90032
- Thursday, September 13, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in Harbor City
Harbor Gateway Library, 24000 S. Western Ave., Harbor City, CA 90710
- Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in Echo Park
Edendale Library, 2011 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026

Hard copies of the Community Beautification Grant applications will be made available at City Hall, the fifteen City Council offices and their field offices as well as seventy-two selected libraries throughout the city. The due date for proposals is October 17, 2007. Applications may also be found online at www.laocb.org.

For more information on the City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works Office of Community Beautification and Community Beautification Grants, please dial 3-1-1 the citywide toll-free number for information and non-emergency services.

About Board of Public Works

The five-commissioner Board of Public Works manages the Department of Public Works, the City's third largest municipal division with a \$559 million operating budget. The department awards more than \$500 million in construction and personal service contracts annually, and oversees the construction, renovation, and operation of public projects such as municipal buildings, streets, bridges, street lights, water treatment plants, sewers and sidewalks, and provides essential public services like recycling and solid waste management. For more information, visit www.lacity.org/bpw/.

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