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## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Council Unanimously Votes to Turn Former Federal Armory into a Boyle Heights Youth Service Center**

*Legacy L.A., a start-up nonprofit based in Boyle Heights, will turn old federal armory into a multi-faceted youth service facility in an effort to reduce gang violence in Boyle Heights*

**LOS ANGELES (Dec. 10, 2008)** – The Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously Wednesday to approve a 50-year lease between Legacy L.A., a burgeoning nonprofit designed to keep kids in Boyle Heights and Ramona Gardens out of gangs, and the City’s department of Recreation and Parks.

Legacy L.A. is championed by Councilmember José Huizar, who grew up in Boyle Heights and continues to live there today with his family. With the help and input of the Ramona Gardens’ community, Legacy L.A. will design and build a multi-faceted Youth Center at the site of the former federal armory at Hazard Park.

“This is a major step in our battle to decrease gang violence in our community,” said Councilmember Huizar, following the 11-0 vote. “Now instead of housing trucks, the old armory will house children and in doing so, it’ll be a place where dreams come true for kids who desperately need hope. Today we answered that cry. I salute the council, the department of recreation and parks and the mayor’s office for fully supporting this effort.”

Earlier this year, Legacy L.A. received funding from The California Endowment for a needs assessment community study, which was conducted in large part by 10 area teenagers who were awarded a fellowship. The teens conducted an elaborate study of community members to determine what sorts of programs are needed in the area.

Legacy L.A. has been selected, along with Violence Intervention Program in Lincoln Heights, Barrio Action Youth & Family Services in El Sereno, to receive funding under Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa’s Gang Reduction and Youth Development program.

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