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# Friends of the Hollywood Central Park Honor Community Leaders

HOLLYWOOD—The Friends of the Hollywood Central Park (FHCP) will once again pay tribute to the real stars of Hollywood on Jan. 8, 2015 when it honors community leaders at its annual For the Love of Hollywood gala celebration.

A nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a 38-acre street-level park over the Hollywood Freeway in a densely populated and park-poor area of the city, FHCP will recognize the accomplishments of leaders whose dedication to the Hollywood Central Park is helping to transform this dream into a reality.

“Hollywood Central Park will have a positive and profound impact on generations of Angelenos,” said 13<sup>th</sup> District City Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell, one of the honorees at this year’s event. “This visionary public space will reconnect us all as neighbors and further an already strong sense of pride in our community.”

In addition to O’Farrell, this year’s honorees are: Michael LoGrande, director of the Los Angeles City Planning Department; Dixon Slingerland, executive director of the Youth Policy Institute; and Gail Goldberg, executive director of the Urban Land Institute’s Los Angeles Chapter.

“Over the last year, many people have stepped up to support the park and work tirelessly to bring much-needed green space to Hollywood,” said Laurie Goldman, FHCP executive director. “The unwavering leadership of Mitch O’Farrell, Michael LoGrande, Dixon Slingerland, and Gail Goldberg have helped shape our progress and move us one step closer to realizing this long-held dream.”

Friends of the Hollywood Central Park was created in December 2009 to raise funds to create a park above the Hollywood Freeway between Santa Monica Boulevard and Hollywood Boulevard. The Hollywood Central Park is a landmark infrastructure project that will reunite communities separated for more than 60 years by the freeway, create 40,000 jobs, provide economic stimulus and long-term economic security, build healthy communities, and provide children with open green space in which to grow and thrive. The park will transform Hollywood’s disadvantaged communities into thriving economic engines and is an investment in our children, our community and our future.

The park began as an idea more than 30 years ago. In 2006 it progressed from a Hollywood Chamber of Commerce initiative to a Hollywood community coalition, with support from then-

LA City Council President Eric Garcetti and the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency. Three years later, in 2009, saw the launch of Friends of the Hollywood Central Park.

In 2012 a significant step toward building the park was achieved when, thanks to a \$1.2 million donation from the Aileen Getty Foundation and \$825,000 from the City of Los Angeles, work began on the environmental impact report. Last year, Congressman Adam Schiff convened a meeting with the Federal Highway Administration, Caltrans, and the City of Los Angeles to outline an EIR framework and timeline. In 2014 the park realized a major milestone when the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks released the Initial Study and Notice of Preparation and conducted a scoping session for the park's DEIR. The city continues work on the DEIR with the release of the document anticipated in 2015.

This year's event, the sixth for FHCP, will be held at the Hollywood Palladium, kicking off the Palladium's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary season. For the Love of Hollywood is hosted by Richard Montoya of Culture Clash and made possible through the support of Presenting Sponsors: Aileen Getty Foundation, Crescent Heights/Palladium Residences, Millennium Hollywood, and Toyota of Hollywood; Gold Sponsor: Guess Foundation; Underwriting Sponsors: Wally's, Beverly Hills/Greater Los Angeles Association of Realtors, and First Carbon Solutions; Silver Sponsors: Author Services, Hollywood Palladium, Kilroy Realty, Nederlander, Paramount Contractors, and Sheppard Mullin; and Bronze Sponsors: Bowery Enterprises, Children's Hospital, CIM, GO! Goldman Organization, Hollywood Hotel, Hollywood International Regional Center, Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente, LADWP, Liner LLC, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, pointC, Psomas, Puck Creative Group, Rescore, Roschen Van Cleve Architects, Sunset Gower-Sunset Bronson Studios, Tailwaggers, TSA Housing, Visionary 3, and Walter P. Moore.

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