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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**GRAND PARK’S FALL AND WINTER SEASONS SHOWCASE  
 THE CULTURAL HEARTBEAT OF LOS ANGELES WITH FREE EVENTS, ACTIVITIES  
 AND HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS THAT CREATE NEW TRADITIONS**

LOS ANGELES (July 22, 2014) – The Music Center today announced Grand Park’s 2014 fall and winter line-up, highlighting the talents and creativity of some of Los Angeles’ best artists along with the diverse cultures of Los Angeles. Park fans will enjoy cultural festivals, a Grand Park commission of new site-specific dance programming, the return of outdoor yoga classes, the expansion of the park’s highly successful, dynamic public celebrations of Día de los Muertos and New Year’s Eve, and more, all for free.

“This fall and winter, Grand Park visitors will experience Los Angeles as it truly is with a mix of artists who represent the fabric of the many communities of Los Angeles County,” explained Lucas Rivera, director, Grand Park. “With new ways to experience the rich heritage of Los Angeles, Grand Park is a place where traditions are reinvented for Angelenos.”

“Grand Park audiences continue to embrace this popular central gathering space in great part because of the opportunity to explore the rich diversity of Los Angeles and the best performing and visual arts presenters that Los Angeles has to offer,” said Stephen D. Rountree, president & CEO, The Music Center. “From festivals to holiday fêtes, Grand Park will continue bring people together to enjoy the beauty of the space and the cultural heartbeat of Los Angeles,” he added.

“This fall and winter, Grand Park will host an exciting array of events,” Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina said. “We’ll present specialized shows for local downtown L.A. audiences, but also offer programming geared toward attracting people from all over Los Angeles County, like our Día de los Muertos celebrations and our very popular New Year’s Eve countdown. It’s all easily accessible by Metro, making Grand Park truly ‘the park for everyone’.”

Grand Park’s fall/winter 2014 programming line-up includes:

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Grand Park and FilAm ARTS Present the Festival of Philippine Arts & Culture**

*Saturday, October 4, 2014 noon – 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 5, 2014 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.*

Grand Park partners with FilAM ARTS to bring this popular festival back to Los Angeles, and at Grand Park for free, for the first time in 19 years. Grand Park guests will enjoy contemporary and traditional Filipino food, music, dance, crafts and culture. Highlights include a crowd favorite Balut-eating contest, which challenges the participants to chow down on fertilized duck eggs, and the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Tinikling Battle, showcasing the fusion of contemporary and Filipino dance. Participants and onlookers of the downtown LA CicLAvia on October 5 will appreciate a break from the action with a visit to the Festival.

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**Grand Park & Ryman Arts Present Make Your Mark in the Park**

*Sunday, October 11, 2014*

*11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.*

For the third year in a row, Grand Park and Ryman Arts team up to present the flagship event for The Big Draw LA, a fun-filled, creative event that celebrates the art of drawing by welcoming thousands of Angelenos to draw together. Grand Park will be transformed into a giant experimental drawing studio, with both public performances and many participatory drawing activities. People can create their own Thaumatrope, a popular optical illusion toy from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, paint on a giant Sumi Ink Drawing created by all who attend, and explore traditional and alternative mark-making at drawing stations located throughout the park. Food trucks will be onsite.

**DANCE**

**Grand Park's Got Moves: Blue13 Dance Company in Residence**

*Monday, November 10, 2014 – Friday, November 14, 2014*

*Public viewing of the work in progress from noon – 1:00 p.m. each day, with the final performance on November 14 from 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.*

In a special interactive event, Grand Park commissions a new site-specific work by Blue13 Dance Company that will be developed during a public residency in the park. Through contemporary Indian dance theatre and elements of live music, the dance ensemble will explore the story of young love, prejudice, migration, rebellion and transformation. The work will be impacted and molded by interactions with the diverse audiences that Blue13 encounters during the week, and the conversations, emotions and responses that arise. The work will culminate with a final performance on November 14 in an evening of dance, music and food featuring LA's Discostan. The residency and commission are part of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs' Los Angeles/Islam Arts Initiative, which brings together cultural institutions throughout Los Angeles to tell various stories of traditional and contemporary art from multiple Islamic regions and their significant global diasporas.

**HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS**

**Grand Park's Downtown Día de los Muertos**

*October 25, 2014 – November 2, 2014*

Grand Park expands the celebration and traditions of Día de los Muertos with multiple ways to experience and learn about the holiday, all for free. At the center of the festivities is the park's presentation of 50 altars in honor of Día de los Muertos, using this customary medium to focus on both traditional and contemporary topics. The altars will remain in the park all week long.

**Noche de Ofrenda**

*Saturday, October 25, 2014*

*7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.*

For the second year in a row, Grand Park partners with Self-Help Graphics & Art to present a traditional Noche de Ofrenda ceremony honoring the dead and featuring prayer led by the local indigenous community. In addition to enjoying performances by traditional dancers representing the Aztecan, Oaxacan and Michoacán traditions as well as Los Angeles-based poets and musicians, Grand Park guests will also help build a giant community altar. The event kicks off the display of 50 altars in the park developed by local artists and community groups. Altar subjects range from personal stories that celebrate families and lost loved ones, to more contemporary expressions of current affairs and community challenges, such as gang violence, immigration reform and education.

**Grand Park's Downtown Día de los Muertos Concert**

*November 1, 2014*

*3:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.*

Grand Park presents its third annual Downtown Día de los Muertos concert, blending the traditional with the cutting edge, and reflecting the multi-dimensional ways in which Los Angeles truly celebrates this burgeoning holiday. The event features traditional Mexican dance performances by Aztec dance company Xocoyote; the Oaxacan-rooted Nueva Antequera; and Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet Company; as well as Latin Alternative bands Very Be Careful, an LA cumbia favorite; and Palenke Soultribe, a dynamic electronic duo who bring together the best of Afro-Colombian rhythms and modern beats. Large-scale art installations throughout the park will showcase traditional Día de los Muertos art forms such as altars, seed skulls, four-foot tall maxi-scale sugar skulls along with contemporary artists' interpretations of the holiday, and a central altar tribute to Los Angeles' urban cyclists. The event will also feature craft activities for kids of all ages who wish to learn more about the holiday as well as brief lectures about the traditions of the holiday. Park guests can get into the look and feel of the holiday with face-painting; children are free (with adult prices ranging from \$3.00-5.00). Food and beverage options will be available onsite.

**Grand Park Lights Up the Holidays**

*December 1, 2014*

Grand Park will be lit up magically for the holidays with a 35-foot tree as a highlight.

**Grand Park's N.Y.E. LA**

*Wednesday, December 31, 2014*

*8:00 p.m. – midnight*

For the second year in a row, Grand Park rings in the New Year in a unique civic gathering that brings Angelenos and their family and friends together around the common purpose of looking forward with excitement to the future. Grand Park's N.Y.E. LA will include music and dancing, along with a new, spectacular interactive countdown, featuring 3-D digital video mapping on two sides of City Hall that will captivate the imagination as it salutes the "heart" of Los Angeles.

**GRAND PARK FAVORITES**

**Lunch Á la Park**

*Tuesdays and Wednesdays*

*Lunch trucks on Olive Court (between Grand Avenue and Hill Street)*

*10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.*

Grand Park spices up the lunch options on Bunker Hill by providing downtowners and park visitors with a range of food trucks two days a week. Trucks are parked on Olive Court, between Grand Avenue and Hill Street.

**Grand Park Lunchtime Yoga reTREAT**

*Wednesdays and Fridays: November 5, 2014-May 29, 2015 12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.*

Grand Park's popular yoga sessions return, giving participants the opportunity to relax, rejuvenate and re-energize.

**About Grand Park**

A vibrant outdoor gathering place, Grand Park is a beautiful public park for the entire community in Los Angeles County. With expansive green space for gatherings large and small, Grand Park celebrates the county's cultural vitality and is host to community events, cultural experiences, holiday celebrations, and many other activities that engage and attract visitors from all communities. The 12-acre Grand Park stretches from The Music Center on the west to City Hall on the east, and is easily accessible by Metro via the Red/Purple line to the Civic Center/Grand Park station. The park was named one of American Planning Association's 10 "Great Public Spaces" in the U.S. for 2013. Working closely with the county, The Music Center is responsible for all operations and programming for the park. For more information, visit <http://grandparkla.org/>

**About The Music Center**

Now celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, The Music Center is LA's home to the world's greatest artistic programs and events. With four iconic theaters and four renowned resident companies – Center Theatre Group, the LA Master Chorale, the LA Opera and the LA Philharmonic, and recognized for its illustrious dance programming, Gloriosa Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center – The Music Center is a destination where audiences find inspiration in the very best of live performance, as well as nationally recognized arts education and participatory arts experiences. For more information, visit

<http://www.musiccenter.org/>

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