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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAND PARK'S SPRING PROGRAMMING PUTS PARK-GOERS AT THE CENTER OF THE EXPERIENCE

LOS ANGELES (February 4, 2015) – The [Music Center](#) will maximize its leadership in participatory programming and Grand Park's reputation as the "park for everyone" as it announces [Grand Park](#)'s spring 2015 line-up, where park visitors can directly engage in and be at the center of the experience. Grand Park fans will enjoy free events and activities where they can express themselves and their interests, from sharing their points-of-view to showcasing their own creativity, all of which will impact the nature of programming that takes place in the park. In addition, guests will find ways to appreciate the outdoors and improve their wellness, with the return of outdoor yoga sessions and the introduction of walking paths for the fit and those aspiring to get in better shape.

"Parks are vital to the health and wellbeing of an urban community in great part because they inject a sense of life and beauty to their surroundings," said Howard Sherman, interim president & CEO, The Music Center. "But the real payoff is in the experience, with opportunities that give people a sense of ownership and a feeling that they are at home, every time they visit. That is where Grand Park has made its greatest impact," he added.

"Our ongoing goal at Grand Park is to amaze, delight and entertain," said Lucas Rivera, director of Grand Park. "Whether you are a book lover, a foodie, an amateur artist or just want to share your voice and collaborate with others, Grand Park's spring schedule offers a number of special experiences that you can make your own," he explained.

Grand Park's spring programming line-up* includes:

EVENTS AT GRAND PARK

The Music Center Presents Grand Park's Downtown Bookfest featuring Artizen Lab

Saturday, March 28, 2015 Noon – 5:00 p.m.

Back for the third year in a row, Grand Park's Downtown Bookfest is Los Angeles' only book festival focused exclusively on the local creative community. Celebrating the love of reading, writing and Los Angeles, the event offers book lovers of all ages access to the largest coalition of Los Angeles-based presses and publishers in an outdoor bookstore setting. All readings and activities will be tied to the theme "Cite Your Source," exploring where we come from and how it can be communicated. Readings and performances will explore identity through different languages and creative means of self-expression. Activities include readings that showcase authors of multiple backgrounds and in multiple languages, a family pavilion with bookmaking activities, storytellers, and a book swap all for kids and a pop-up bookstore featuring the work of more than 30 Los Angeles-based presses, publishers, self-publishers. Guests are also encouraged to bring books to donate to Grand Park's Little Libraries (please no explicit materials), where they can also take books for free.

– more –

Grand Park's First-Half 2015 Line-up

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This year, Bookfest is partnering with The Music Center's Artizen Lab, an online platform that gives people the opportunity to share their creative ideas, on- and offline, to inspiring challenges. Artizens, or citizen artists, recognize the power of creative human beings to contribute to building better communities. In partnership with the Los Angeles County Library, Artizen Day, the culminating event of Artizen Lab, will take place during Bookfest and will bring to life ideas created by Artizens exploring the challenge of "Cite Your Source." Activities will invite audiences to step into the point of view of the Artizens through various arts-based projects. For more information about how to participate in Artizen Lab, visit <http://musiccenter.org/artizenlab>

The Music Center Presents PicnicLA

Saturday, April 18, 2015 Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Just in time to get ready for National Picnic Day (April 23), The Music Center Presents PicnicLA, a giant picnic in the park that celebrates the picnicking experience. Grand Park visitors will enjoy their own picnics, share recipes and explore how those recipes reflect the heritage of Angelenos, create their own pop-up recipe books, and more.

California: The Tempest, presented by Cornerstone Theatre in Collaboration with Grand Park

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 18-20, 2015 8:00 p.m.

Multi-ethnic, ensemble-based Cornerstone Theatre Company partners with Grand Park to culminate a 10-city California tour with the final performances of *California: The Tempest*, an adaptation of Shakespeare's classic that addresses California's challenges, from love, disaster, revenge, forgiveness and music to earthquakes, drought, overdevelopment, food equity, state politics, fracking, immigration policy and more. During its multi-city tour, Cornerstone works with the communities it visits to engage participants in writing the play. Cast members include local Los Angeles performers as well as Cornerstone's ensemble, who are graduates of its Institute Summer Residency program. Written by playwright Alison Carey, co-founder of Cornerstone Theatre Company, and directed by Michael John Garcés, artistic director for Cornerstone Theatre Company, the play takes characters Prosper, her daughter Minerva, her servant Caliban and Californians from across the state on a journey to find the commonality in the state's diverse communities and a path to a healthy and inclusive future for all of California. Casting will be announced closer to the event.

GET FIT WITH GRAND PARK

Grand Park's Walking Paths

Grand Park makes getting in shape as easy as a 'walk in the park' with the launch of two distinct walking paths. Brightly colored decals serve as "breadcrumbs" and are complemented by words of encouragement to guide the novice walker, jogger or runner on a path to personal fitness. With starting points at both the Grand Avenue and Spring Street entrances, the "Champion Path" features green decals for a .6 mile journey from one end of the park to the other; this path has no stair and is fully ADA accessible. Avid runners can get on the "Hero Path, which also starts at either park entrance, and follow pink decals for a more challenging .38 mile path, including stairs.

Grand Park Lunchtime Yoga reTREAT

Wednesdays and Fridays: Through May 29, 2015 12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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

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RETURNING GRAND PARK FAVORITES

Lunch Á la Park

Wednesdays and Thursdays

Lunch trucks on Olive Court (between Grand Avenue and Hill Street) and in the Grand Park Marketplace (between Broadway and Spring 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.

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 50th 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, Glorja 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/>

*Photos available upon request.

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