



City of Hollywood, Florida
Office of Community and Public Relations

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Hollywood's Young Circle ArtsPark Dedication Celebration
Set for March 16-18***

Celebration Includes Concerts Featuring Nestor Torres and Melton Mustafa

HOLLYWOOD, FL – Hollywood is transforming into a cultural Mecca, and in the center of it all is the Young Circle ArtsPark.

Named after the City's founder and visionary Joseph Wesley Young, the Circle that bears his name has been undergoing a grand redesign and is ready for a celebration that offers something for everyone – fun, excitement and the arts!

The Young Circle ArtsPark Dedication Celebration will take place Friday, March 16th through Sunday, March 18th with concerts, laser light shows, dance lessons, walking tours, interactive children's activities and much more.

The celebration begins at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 16th with the official dedication ceremony. City and County officials will address the crowd followed by a display of living statues and a colorful array of Chinese dragons making their way through the park. At 7 p.m., a Romero Britto Butterfly sculpture will be unveiled. A laser light show will follow. To conclude this festive evening, park-goers will be treated to a concert featuring Latin Grammy winner Nestor Torres.

On Saturday, March 17th, activities will begin at 9 a.m. with Tai Chi. Throughout the day, visitors of all ages will enjoy a variety of activities including art displays, belly dancing, make and take interactive art, and folklore. Live performances will include flamenco guitarist and dancers, a steel pan band, Japanese drummers, and a salsa band. At 9 p.m., Melton Mustafa will take the stage for an unforgettable jazz performance.

The Hollywood Philharmonic is set to perform at 11 a.m. on Sunday, March 18th. The day will continue with a performance by Conjunto Progreso, a Florida Youth Orchestra string quartet and a group of Hawaiian performers.

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Blankets and lawn chairs are encouraged.

Paid, metered parking is available around Young Circle, at the Van Buren Street Municipal Parking Garage, and along Hollywood Boulevard, Tyler Street, Harrison Street and Polk Street.

Highlights of ArtsPark

A spectacular feature fountain designed by internationally acclaimed public artist Ritsuko Taho of Japan is the highlight of the park. Her design concept entitled "Millennium Springs" consists of three major components: (1) the water sculpture with the fountain, sound art and rope; (2) the dream wave pattern sculpture which is a part of the walkway design; and (3) an E-sculpture that will be accessible via the Internet. This multi-faceted design responds to the environment, reflects history and links to the 21st Century's information system.

The design of the water jets in the long narrow main fountain represents life energy wave patterns as measured in one of the massive Baobab trees in the park. The sound art component makes these patterns audible through artist designed sound poles encircling the Baobab Tree. Taho will install the festive rope for the Baobab Tree during a visit to the park next week. This rope will provide an opportunity for community participation in annual celebrations tied to the changing of the rope.

On the east side of the ArtsPark, a children's play area is filled with playground equipment and an interactive fountain for the youngest park-goers to play in. Colorful beds of seasonal flowers and trees are found throughout the park, which offer visitors tranquil, cool spots in which to relax underneath the shade of one of the many existing Baobab, Royal Poinciana or other trees. At night, the feature fountain is illuminated, making the park the perfect spot for an after-dinner stroll.

For those that enjoy an active lifestyle, the Park offers a broad, new promenade for jogging or taking a leisurely stroll.

The Visual Arts Building, which is currently under construction, is set to open fall 2007.

Young Circle ArtsPark, a 10-acre park in the heart of Downtown Hollywood, is located at Hollywood Boulevard and US-1.

The ArtsPark is funded in part by Broward County through the Broward County Board of County Commissioners with proceeds from the 2000 Broward County Safe Parks and Land Preservation Bond Issue.

Additionally, the Greater Hollywood Arts Foundation initiated a fundraising campaign to support the completion of the ArtsPark and construction of its performing arts pavilion.

For more information about the Dedication Celebration, please contact Alison Hibbert in the Office of Community and Public Relations at (954) 921-3397.

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