

## For Immediate Release

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Exposition Park Announces Funding of \$352 Million in Governor's Budget for Key Infrastructure Project Ahead of Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games Funding Approval Represents Largest Single Green Infrastructure Investment by the State in South Los Angeles

**Los Angeles, California** – Exposition Park today announced the approval of \$351.5 million for the Park in the recently approved state budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. The allocation will be used to fund the construction of a nearly six-acre park and underground parking structure development related to <a href="Exposition Park's Master Plan">Exposition Park's Master Plan</a> and transformation prior to the Park's hosting of the upcoming Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The new park and underground parking structure will replace the current asphalt-covered parking lots located at the southeast intersection of West Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Figueroa Street, and provide the surrounding community with valuable open space and a green park area. The project will also include state-of-the-art amenities, such as electric vehicle charging stations and a new community space to improve the visitor experience at Exposition Park.

"California is committed to bringing more green spaces to more people than ever before – especially in places that have been historically left behind. When the world visits Los Angeles for the Olympics, they will see firsthand our vision for Outdoors for All realized with projects like this at Exposition Park. Not only are we replacing asphalt with greenery, we're creating jobs and lifting communities," said California Governor Gavin Newsom.

Exposition Park is located in one of the most densely populated and park-deficient, urban heat island areas of California. Neighborhood residents and visitors have long relied on the Park to provide open-space recreation areas that can provide relief from the rising temperatures.

"Exposition Park is a gem in the heart of Los Angeles, and I am proud that we are shaping Exposition Park for community members and generations to come. Our new public park will enhance the educational, entertainment, and cultural highlights of the Park and make it more inclusive and accessible for all visitors. In just a few years, Exposition Park will serve as the backdrop to the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games with millions of visitors, and we will be ready for them with a world-class park and facilities," said Exposition Park General Manager, Andrea Ambriz. "Thank you to the Governor, Legislature, and community leaders who are helping make this historic transformation a reality. "

The new park will increase the amount of green space available at Exposition Park. Currently, the surrounding community has less than 1-acre for green space per 1,000 residents, compared to the national average of nearly 10-acres in other communities.

"This funding will transform Exposition Park and represents the largest green infrastructure investment by the state in the South Los Angeles community," said California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot. "Through it, history will be made. A new urban park will give underserved Angelenos access to the outdoors for generations to come, and green infrastructure will take the global stage as the Olympics come to Los Angeles, reflecting California's commitment to climate action."

The design-build project is being funded through the issuance of bonds through the Public Buildings Construction Fund. Work on the criteria design of the new park and underground parking structure is underway. The Office of Exposition Park Management (OEPM) has been engaging a diverse base of community stakeholders to obtain input on beneficial park features for the community to create a welcoming environment for all local residents and Southern Californians at-large.

"South Los Angeles is poised for this investment, which will bring equitable solutions and economic opportunity to our residents," said Zahirah Mann, President & CEO of South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone (SLATE-Z), a collective impact organization focused on the intersection of economic revitalization and environmental sustainability. "We are excited that Exposition Park, a cultural treasure, will receive an infusion of resources to serve our community directly and to promote health and wellness through its natural spaces and beyond."

## **About Exposition Park**

Exposition Park is a place of discovery and exploration. The 160-acre urban open space park, located just south of Downtown Los Angeles, is visited by millions every year and is one of Southern California's most popular destinations. Exposition Park is recognized for its iconic landmarks, world-class museums, sports, entertainment, science and technology, culture, art, and history. Exposition Park is home to nine notable institutions, including two state museums—the California African American Museum and the California Science Center; the Los Angeles City Park and Recreation EXPO Center and historic Rose Garden, the Alexander Science Center (LAUSD) School, the BMO (LAFC) Stadium, the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the Los

Angeles County Natural History Museum, and the upcoming Lucas Museum of Narrative Art. Learn more at <a href="https://expositionpark.ca.gov/">https://expositionpark.ca.gov/</a>.

The Department of General Services will be soliciting Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) for this Design-Build project on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. More information for this solicitation can be found on Cal eProcure at <a href="https://caleprocure.ca.gov/">https://caleprocure.ca.gov/</a>.

Media tours of Exposition Park are available upon request.

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