

Contact: Jimmy Tokeshi**(213) 978-1699****(213) 978-0333****Email: Jimmy.Tokeshi@lacity.org**

*For additional news releases regarding
the activities of the Dept. of Public Works,
log on to: <http://lacity.org/bpw/pressreleases.htm>*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**CITY CELEBRATES 800TH COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION GRANT PROJECT**
Community Charter Magnet School Marks Milestone in Program's History

Photographed (left to right): Michael Espinosa, Office of Community Beautification (OCB) Grant Manager; Rosa Benavides, OCB; Paul Racs, OCB Director; Commissioner Paula Daniels, Board of Public Works; and Pamela Marton, Principal, Community Magnet Charter Elementary School.

LOS ANGELES, CA (November 9, 2007)—Community Magnet Charter Elementary School of the Los Angeles Unified School District was joined by the City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works and Office of Community Beautification in recognizing the school's new "lunch lounge" as the city's 800th completed community beautification grant project. More than 180 of the school's students, parents, teachers and administrators took part in the ceremony that marked a major milestone in the city's beautification campaign.

- MORE -

CITY CELEBRATES 800TH COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION GRANT PROJECT
Community Charter Magnet School Marks Milestone in Program's History
Page 2 of 4



(Left Photo): Rosa Benavides, OCB; Michael Espinosa, OCB Grant Manager; Paul Racs, OCB Director; and Pamela Marton, Principal, Community Magnet Charter Elementary School on the "The Way to Go Walk Way" made with materials donated by campus students in 2005-06. **(Right Photo):** One of six campus murals entitled, "One Earth One People!" as part of the "Color My World" grant project conducted in 2002-03.

"The recognition of the 800th completed community beautification grant project is symbolic of the many thousands of volunteers that have, over the course of ten years since the start of the program, demonstrated a personal commitment and responsibility that has beautified and enhanced the quality of life for many thousands more," said Cynthia M. Ruiz, president of the Board of Public Works. "We are so proud of Community Magnet Charter for its commitment to its students and teachers, and for sharing in our desire to improve as many centers of learning as possible by adding treasures of art, greenery and beauty."

The community lunch lounge was the fourth project completed at Community Magnet which serves elementary school aged children citywide from around the Los Angeles area. The racially diverse high performing charter school through its students, parents, teachers, and administrators have committed to improving the campus's educational environment through art and vibrant colors. The school administrators used the grant funds to convert an unattractive lunch shelter into a lively and engaging area for the children to eat. Students were involved in the creation of the lunch area mural, which focuses on nutrition, health and recycling. Bright oilcloths and polyurethane were used to make the lunch area table tops colorful and smooth.

"The community, students and staff of Community Magnet Charter School are so happy with our new lunch lounge. Thanks to the City of Los Angeles and the Board of Public works our

- MORE -

CITY CELEBRATES 800TH COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION GRANT PROJECT
Community Charter Magnet School Marks Milestone in Program's History
Page 3 of 4



(Left Photo): Colorful sculptures in the front of the campus as part of “Totem Hill” grant project conducted in 2004-05. **(Right Photo):** Pamela Marton, Principal, Community Magnet Charter Elementary School and Paul Racs, OCB Director in front of another campus mural as part of the “Color My World” grant project conducted in 2002-03.

drab and dark student outdoor lunch area is now a lively engaging place to eat,” said Pamela Marton, principal of Community Magnet Charter. “The amazing wall work and mural created by artist Kathleen Gaudet teaches our students about nutrition and recycling while they enjoy their lunches on colorful tables in an area draped with painted flags and cool rope lighting. The students now love to come and eat in the Lunch Lounge. We couldn't have created this amazing space without the help of the Community Beautification Grant Project.”

The City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works Office of Community Beautification makes available grants up to \$10,000, through its annual competitive matching grant program, to community groups of five or more individuals that reside, work or take an interest in implementing a community beautification project in the city of Los Angeles.

Since 1998, 800 community beautification projects have been completed throughout the city. The scope and extent of the projects have ranged from mosaic and painted murals, public works of art, learning gardens on school campuses, tree plantings along highway medians, hiking trail restorations, new playground equipment, park benches and flower plantings along walkways.

For more information on the City of Los Angeles, Board of Public Works, Office of Community Beautification and Community Beautification Grants, please visit the office website at www.laocb.org.

- MORE -

CITY CELEBRATES 800TH COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION GRANT PROJECT
Community Charter Magnet School Marks Milestone in Program's History
Page 4 of 4

About Board of Public Works

The five-commissioner Board of Public Works manages the Department of Public Works, the City's third largest municipal division. The department oversees the construction, renovation, and operation of public projects such as municipal buildings, streets, bridges, street lights, water treatment plants, sewers and sidewalks, and provides essential public services like recycling and solid waste management. For more information, visit www.lacity.org/bpw/.

###

JT: 11-14-07