

Contact: Jimmy Tokeshi
(213) 978-1699
(213) 978-0333

Email: Jimmy.Tokeshi@lacity.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EL DORADO ELEMENTARY CELEBRATES OPENING OF KINDERGARTEN PLAY AREA *City of Los Angeles' Community Beautification Grant Transforms Outdoor Play Environment*



PICTURED: “El Dorado’s Suburban and Urban Kinder Gardens” is a newly installed kindergarten outdoor play area at El Dorado Elementary School with city themed mural featuring store fronts, parking stalls, traffic lanes, playhouses and vehicles.

SYLMAR, CA (February 8, 2008)—The City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works Office of Community Beautification today celebrated the grand opening of El Dorado Elementary School’s new kindergarten play area with more than 200 students, parents, teachers, school administrators and speaker Julie Korenstein, board member of the Los Angeles Unified School District. The newly constructed outdoor play environment transformed an underutilized area of the campus into an interactive school yard

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PICTURED: (Left) Farm yard mural depicting a country setting with rows of crops, animals, and replica toy vehicles. (Right) “El Dorado’s Oasis Where Educational Success can Thrive” is a literacy garden outside the school library featuring a patio, plants, picket fencing and stools provided by a Community Beautification Grant awarded in May 2006.

setting for children to engage in visual imagery and discovery.

“We are so proud of El Dorado Elementary in demonstrating a truly inspirational level of leadership and love with the creation of such an amazing and beautiful space for children to succeed and thrive,” said Cynthia M. Ruiz, president of the Board of Public Works. “The school’s volunteer actions to leverage the city’s matching Community Beautification Grant are remarkable and will no doubt enhance the engaging, meaningful and strong quality of education provided by the school’s administrators, teachers and parents.”

To fulfill the match of the \$10,000 beautification grant provided by the City of Los Angeles, Korenstein donated \$5,000 with the El Dorado Parents and Teachers Association contributing generously with additional funds and volunteer hours. The grant and donations funded two murals painted to follow two distinct themes of city and country life. The newly completed murals allow children to play among rows of corn and animals in the farm yard with replica toy tractors and pickup trucks. Children will also be able to play alongside a storybook town with replica toy police cars, taxis and fire trucks.

Parking stalls, an obstacle course with directional arrows, stop signs and green medians were incorporated to enhance the murals. With several durable playhouses, picket fence, stools, benches, plants and assorted vehicles, the themed play environments advance physical and hands-on fun with art to lead children to experience and discover an appreciation for their local ecology and environment.

“El Dorado is a school dedicated to increasing student achievement and our staff is devoted to providing an educational program that will allow our students to be successful in life,” said Judy Hall,

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principal of El Dorado Elementary School. “The school staff is comprised of highly trained qualified educators who share a common belief that ‘Every Student Achieves.’ As educators, we have prepared ourselves to promote academic achievement in our students by delivering an academically rigorous program.”

El Dorado Elementary was established in 1961 in Sylmar just south of the 210 Foothill Freeway and north of the city of San Fernando. A primary public school of the Los Angeles Unified School District, the school has a student body of approximately 642 students with more than 100 children in kindergarten.

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 focused on the essential needs for a better quality of life and environmental protection. With a \$559 million operating budget, the department awards more than \$500 million in public service contracts annually that provide for the construction, renovation, and operation of public programs and services including: municipal buildings and treatment facilities; streets, street lights, and urban forest; bridges and sidewalks; sewers, catch basins and storm drains; recycling and integrated solid waste management. Through these programs and services, the Board is committed with the delivery of quality customer service, to engage and help neighborhoods thrive and benefit from healthier living and working environments. For more information, visit www.lacity.org/bpw.

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