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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HOT PEPPER BEAUTIFICATION GRANT PROJECT INSPIRES CLEANUP AND UNITY
Board of Public Works Applauds Harbor Gateway Beautification Committee**

LOS ANGELES (March 28, 2007) – A Harbor Gateway neighborhood celebrated the completion of its “Hot Pepper” Community Beautification Grant project with a large and diverse street festival this past weekend. The Harbor Gateway Beautification Committee, a 2005/2006 Grant recipient of the Board of Public Works Office of Community Beautification (OCB), completed its first project to improve a business corridor and school as well as to unite an ethnically diverse community.

“The Community Beautification Grants aim to bring people together in projects that not only transform local communities but also foster better human relations through collective action and communication for a better quality of life,” said Board of Public Works President Cynthia M. Ruiz. “The City is honored by the beautification efforts put forth by the Harbor Gateway Beautification Committee and its open embrace of the areas ethnic and cultural diversity.”

More than 400 residents and businesses in the Harbor Gateway area along Gardena Boulevard participated in the celebration that was inspired by the collaborative and unifying efforts to install six trash receptacles on Gardena Boulevard between Vermont Avenue and Menlo Avenue as well as to install six benches around a campus tree at Gardena Elementary School.

“Hilda McCall and the Harbor Gateway Beautification Committee did a remarkable job of involving the community to install trash receptacles and benches and bring the community together,” said Michael Espinosa, OCB Grant Manager. “She used this grant to bring many different cultures and people together and they celebrated the completion of the project with a tremendous and diverse crowd.”

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“The grant was an inspiration to get all the neighbors together and to unite the community,” said Hilda McCall, Director of the Beautification Committee. “The neighborhood’s enjoying the project’s completion so much, we also organized the first Hot Pepper Festival to celebrate!”

The Hot Pepper Festival takes its name from the ingredient used by ethnic groups living in the Harbor Gateway community, which encourages area unity around food that sustains life for everyone. The different ethnic groups participating in the Hot Pepper Festival included African Americans, Chinese, Filipinos, Hawaiians, Koreans, Mexicans, Peruvians, Thais and Vietnamese among others. The festival, which highlighted the completion of the beautification project, held an ethnic food cook-off, exhibited artists and featured performances from diverse traditions, played music from different cultures and presented a donation of musical instruments to the local Boys and Girls Club in the project area.

The Community Beautification Grant’s annual cycle begins during the summer in July and closes in October. Proposals accepted from community-based organizations, a group of five or more individuals, must reside, work or take interest in beautifying a community in the City of Los Angeles.

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.

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/.

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