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**GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY, MACARTHUR PARK FINALISTS
FOR 2007 WORLD LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

LOS ANGELES - Los Angeles Council President Eric Garcetti and Councilmembers Ed P. Reyes and Tom LaBonge announced today that the World Leadership Forum selected two Los Angeles entries as finalists in the World Leadership Awards competition to be held in London on December 5th and 6th.

“Our entries are united by the spirit of renewing our city’s most valuable assets,” said Council President Eric Garcetti. “In MacArthur Park and at the Griffith Observatory, Los Angeles demonstrates that a city’s hope lies in ingenuity combined with cooperation, and in respect for the past joined with a vision for the future.”

The Alvarado Corridor project was selected as a finalist in the Law and Order category. The Los Angeles Police Department spearheaded the adoption of a community policing model, creating synergy with residents and businesses. They used new law enforcement technologies to eliminate gang activity in the once crime-infested Alvarado Corridor/MacArthur Park area. Through leadership, innovation and tenacity, a safe environment was created for law-abiding citizens and families to enjoy recreational opportunities at MacArthur Park and safe passages from adjacent residential areas to the park.

“With great pride, we celebrate the community’s celebration of its own spirit and its great capacity to work with local authorities to save the park and strengthen the community fabric amid the great pressures of poverty and gang violence,” said Councilmember Ed Reyes, whose 1st District contains the park.

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The second finalist, the Griffith Observatory, will compete for the top award in Architecture and Civil Engineering. This \$93 million renovation and expansion project preserved historic components using state-of-the-art preservation techniques, while adding 40,000 square feet of exhibit space beneath the original structure, a tremendous feat of engineering. The observatory helps visitors better understand the science of astronomy and the earth's place in the universe through educational outreach programs, state-of-the-art exhibits and a world-class planetarium show.

“We could not be more proud of what has been achieved with the renovation and expansion of Griffith Observatory,” said Councilmember Tom LaBonge, in whose district the landmark is located. “The Observatory project is the best example of a public-private partnership and has resulted in unanimous praise from all corners for its dual status as Los Angeles’s most recognizable and revered icon as well as for its reputation as a key leader in the field of public astronomy.”

The World Leadership Awards are given to city leaders who have shown exceptional imagination, foresight or resilience in a number of key fields -- especially cities that have reversed trends, shaken off traditional images and acted as an example and inspiration for others. These are the world's most important awards for urban leadership.

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