



**JOSÉ HUIZAR
COUNCILMEMBER OF THE FOURTEENTH DISTRICT
PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**COUNCILMEMBER JOSE HUIZAR ANNOUNCES NEW RECREATION
PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN OF SKID ROW**

LOS ANGELES – Councilmember Jose Huizar today announced a new and unique parks and recreation program designed for the children of Skid Row at downtown’s Gladys Park. Garnering support from community organizations and City departments, Councilmember Huizar helped fund and develop a high quality recreation program once-a-week for almost three hours with visits from a fully equipped recreational van full of sports equipment, arts and crafts materials, and games. Gladys Park is located at Gladys and 6th St. in downtown Los Angeles.

“Any child deserves a safe place to play after school, regardless of where they live or their economic status.” said Councilmember Huizar. “Historically, this has been an underserved community and bringing even this modest program to the children of this neighborhood is simply the right thing to do.”

The City’s Recreation and Parks Department, Los Angeles Police Department, Para Los Niños and S.R.O Housing, joined Councilmember Huizar in the announcement.

"When you provide a child with open space, you open a door to all sorts of possibilities," said Elena Stern, Vice President of External Affairs for Para Los Niños. "By making Gladys Park available for even a few hours each week, Councilmember Huizar and the City of Los Angeles will be providing children and youth of Para Los Niños with vital new space to breathe, play, and grow. We are deeply appreciative."

LAPD, City Recreation and Parks, and SRO Housing staff will work together to ensure the safety of the children during recreation program hours.

"This is an exciting time for SRO Housing Corporation. We have managed Gladys Park for 20 years and our residents and staff are excited about the changes that are occurring," said Anita Nelson President of SRO Housing.

“Having positive extra-curricular activities increases the academic performance of students. It is my hope that this new program will have favorable impacts for the children of Ninth Street Elementary School, which currently has a 76 percent homeless children population,” added Councilmember Huizar.

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