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**International Downtown Association Selects
Downtown Business Improvement Districts To Participate In National
Homelessness Program**

Downtown Los Angeles' BIDs Unite To Combat Homelessness

Los Angeles, Calif. (April 18, 2002) – The International Downtown Association (IDA) has selected Downtown Los Angeles as one of five communities across the country to participate in the “Addressing Homelessness” technical assistance initiative.

In a unique partnership, the Downtown Center Business Improvement District (DCBID), the Fashion District Business Improvement District (FDBID), the Toy District/Downtown Industrial Business Improvement Districts (TD/DIBIDs), and several Downtown social service organizations including, the California Hospital, Chrysalis, Street Works, Midnight Mission, Instituto de Educacion Popular del sur de California (IDEPSCA), and the Coalition of Humane Immigrants Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA) will implement new strategies and incorporate the resources gained from IDA’s “Addressing Homelessness” program within Downtown Los Angeles.

“Homelessness is everyone’s problem and downtown leaders recognize the need to help find solutions,” said Dave Feehan, president of the International Downtown Association. “Together, organizations like Los Angeles’ Downtown Center, Toy District/Downtown Industrial, and Fashion District Business Improvement Districts will make the difference. The International Downtown Association is proud to help them make the connection and find a solution to this disheartening problem.”

“Since 2000, the Downtown Center Business Improvement District has been assisting the homeless and mentally ill in Downtown Los Angeles through its BID A.C.T.I.O.N program,” said Randall Ely, vice president and COO of the DCBID. “We believe that by working with other area BIDs, health professionals, counselors, and advocates we will be able to expand our current program and more comprehensively address these very serious issues.”

The BID A.C.T.I.O.N. (Ambassador Community Training for Intervention, Wellness, Outreach and Networking) program is an existing Downtown Los Angeles community outreach initiative founded and operated by DCBID. The goal of BID A.C.T.I.O.N is to transition the homeless off the streets and into shelters and other assistance programs. The IDA recognized the BID A.C.T.I.O.N program with a *Special Achievement Award for Social Services* at the 47th Annual IDA Conference, held in Pittsburgh in October 2001. Since the program’s inception in July 2000, staff from the DCBID has helped more than [INSERT] homeless people to find shelter, food, and medical care, and other services.

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IDA Selects DCBID for Homeless Program
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“Homelessness affects all of Downtown Los Angeles, and the BIDs realized we needed to work together to effectively create solutions and make positive changes,” said Kent Smith, executive director of the FDBID.

The “Addressing Homelessness” initiative has four major components. First, all participants will undergo a series of training workshops. Secondly, the program provides direct technical assistance in the communities, customized to address local issues, resources, and opportunities. The third element is offsite technical support. Finally, the program also features network development to keep the participants connected to each other and to other colleagues dealing with the same issues. The other communities chosen to participate include Downtown Long Beach, Calif., Uptown Shelby, N.C., Downtown Lexington, Ky., and Downtown Detroit, Mich.

“As the BIDs move past clean and safe services, we need to reach out and improve the community and homelessness is a major issue,” stated Tracey Lovejoy, executive director of the TD/DIBIDs.

About the International Downtown Association

The International Downtown Association is a world leader and champion for vital and livable urban centers. IDA is a guiding force in creating healthy and dynamic centers that anchor the well-being of towns, cities, and regions of the world. IDA’s more than 500 members represent organizations in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

About the Downtown Center Business Improvement District

The DCBID is a coalition of property owners united in their commitment to enhance the quality of life in Downtown Los Angeles. The organization helps the 65-block central business district achieve its full potential as a great place to live, work, and play. Nearly 480 property owners provide funds to the district via a special voluntary tax assessment, which finances this outreach program.

About the Toy District/Downtown Industrial Business Improvement District

In April 1999 the Toy District and Los Angeles Downtown Industrial District BIDs were established by the Central City East Association to provide needed security, maintenance and marketing services in the area. The Central City East Association (CCEA) is a non-profit business association of local property owners that has been working to improve the area since 1985. The goal of the organization is to provide a voice and advocacy for the issues and concerns of the industrial and manufacturing businesses in the Eastern Downtown Los Angeles area. CCEA is dedicated to making the neighborhood a safe, clean and productive place to work, shop, live and do business for stakeholders in the community.

About the Fashion District Business Improvement District

The LA Fashion District Business Improvement District (FDBID) is a non-profit service organization funded by 550 property owners that is dedicated to the revitalization of the Fashion District business community by providing a clean, safe and friendly place for business to thrive. Millions of wholesale buyers and retail shoppers visit the vibrant 82-block area each year for the trend-setting fashions and bargain prices. The Fashion District houses the largest concentration of fashion-related businesses in the Western United States and also includes flowers, produce, and textiles.

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