

For Immediate Release

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## **Music, Art, Food and Fun! Grand Avenue Festival To Showcase Downtown LA's Best**

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*Los Angeles, CA (August 4, 2005)* On Saturday, October 8, 2005, all of Southern California is invited to discover Downtown Los Angeles' best as highly acclaimed and nationally renowned restaurants, theatres, concert halls, museums, and other organizations join together to provide a premier day in FREE family entertainment.

The second annual Grand Avenue Festival is a collaborative effort by the Downtown Center Business Improvement District and organizations along Grand Avenue that present programs and events making Los Angeles the cultural capital of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Festival, which will be held on four city blocks between 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> streets along Grand Avenue from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., will showcase the outstanding offerings of Downtown L.A.

Highlights of the Grand Avenue Festival include:

- **“A Taste of Downtown L.A.”** hosted by the Downtown Center Business Improvement District. Sample delicious creations from notable restaurants including Checkers Downtown, Ciudad, Noe, Levy Restaurants, and many more.
- **Music Center's annual Family Festival** features art-making for children, music, storytelling, and cultural dances at the Music Center Plaza. Festival-goers can also participate at the Music Center's Drum Downtown and A Taste of Dance events on Grand Avenue near Kendall's restaurant.
- **USC** joins the Grand Avenue Festival for the first time to celebrate its **125<sup>th</sup> anniversary** with jazz, stand-up comedy, salsa lessons, art and architecture tours, and musical theater performances all on a street-side stage near the Wells Fargo Center.
- **MOCA, The Museum of Contemporary Art**, offers free admission for all to the popular *Basquiat* exhibition, gallery tours, and art workshops for families.
- **The Los Angeles Opera presents Brundibár**, a children's opera that tells the story of friendly animals who encourage a young boy, his sister and the town's other children to sing a beautiful lullaby to win over the townspeople and triumph over the town bully, Brundibár.

- **The Los Angeles Philharmonic performs a tribute to Beethoven** by its string quartet at the world-renowned Walt Disney Concert Hall.
- **The Los Angeles Public Library's Performing Books** group presents *The Remarkable Farkly McBride*, a delightful story written by John Lithgow, star of *3<sup>rd</sup> Rock from the Sun*, about a boy who masters, and gets bored of, a different musical instrument with each coming year.
- **Grand Performances**, continues its tradition of presenting world-class artists alongside the finest homegrown talent with its eclectic ensemble of performances from various musical groups including Ex-centric Sound System, Rocky Duwani, String Planet, and more at the Watercourt Stage at California Plaza.
- **The Colburn School of Performing Arts** students perform a mime show by the internationally renowned Krassimir. The school will also offer a jazz band performance.
- **The Los Angeles Conservancy** offers free walking tours that highlight the unique architectural and cultural resources on Grand Avenue, describing selected historic sites and the evolution of Bunker Hill.
- **The Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater (RedCat), Center Theatre Group, and Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels** will provide various activities in addition to the already promising day of family fun.
- **Art Fair** on Grand Avenue will be curated by Bert Green Fine Art and feature a collection of local galleries with art for sale.

Most performances and events are free; tickets may be required for some venues. For more information on the Grand Avenue Festival including activity schedules, please call the Downtown Center Business Improvement District at 213/624-2146, or visit [www.downtownla.com](http://www.downtownla.com) for more information and links to Web sites for all participating organizations.

This year's sponsors include 89.3 KPCC, KUSC Classical 91.5 FM, Metrolink, Metro, LA Inc., the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Performances Magazine, and Union Bank.

Special parking arrangements, as well as Metro and Metrolink schedules will be announced closer to the event.

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