



MEDIA ALERT
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**California State Parks
Awards \$4.5 Million for Expansion of
DCA’s Watts Towers Arts Center Campus
with New Art and Gallery Spaces, Amphitheater,
and Public Art as Part of Newsom Administration’s
“Outdoors for All” Initiative**

Los Angeles, CA - California State Parks announced \$548.3 million in grant funding to deliver new parks to more than 100 communities and advance the Newsom Administration’s “Outdoors for All” initiative to enable all Californians, regardless of zip code or income, to access parks and open space.

A \$4.5 million grant was awarded to the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LANLT) in partnership with the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) to support the **Watts Towers Arts Center Campus Expansion**. New construction will include an expanded and shaded amphitheater, natural music and play elements, a labyrinth health and wellness walk, interactive art and gallery spaces, and new public art. The project includes new land acquisition of a .69-acre undeveloped lot along Wilmington avenue and 107th street that will provide new greenspace, site furnishings, and lighting upgrades throughout the campus. This grant will support the design and planning efforts as well as part of the construction costs. Work is anticipated to begin in March 2022 with a June 2024 estimated completion date.

The design concept was developed by the Watts Towers Arts Center Campus, in partnership with the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust through extensive community outreach under the direction of Director Rosie Lee Hooks. The full site plan, which also includes a Gateway Monument inviting visitors to the campus, is estimated at \$10 million. Additional State, County, and Foundation funding is either pending or planned.

Awarded through the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Grant Program, these grants represent the single-largest investment in state history in expanding access to parks in underserved communities, with new or enhanced parks funded in every region of California. The complete list and map

showing locations of the 112 projects receiving grant awards can be found at www.parks.ca.gov/spp.

“People from all over the world come to visit our state’s natural wonders, but too many Californians today lack access to parks and open space in their own neighborhoods,” said Governor Gavin Newsom. “This historic investment will revitalize and create new parks in more than 100 local communities, dramatically expanding access to the outdoors across the state and ensuring more Californians from all walks of life can reap the benefits for our hearts, minds and bodies for generations to come.”

“We are thrilled to receive this generous award from the State Parks Department for the Watts Towers Arts Center Campus,” said Watts Towers Arts Center Campus Director, Rosie Lee Hooks. “We worked very hard tailoring our needs to what was fundable. We could not have done this without the leadership of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust and input from local residents and park visitors. Finally, after several years of public engagement and planning, we received this crucial state funding. Through the continued support of the State and our dedicated partners, we are deeply appreciative of all assistance and send a big thank you.”

“This investment from the California State Parks will make a visible and lasting difference in the lives of young people, residents, and visitors to the Watts Towers Arts Center Campus” said DCA Acting General Manager, Daniel Tarica. “Working with our community partners including the Neighborhood Land Trust, DCA is advancing environmental health and expanding the City’s artistic and cultural footprint through new greenspace, site improvements, and attractions for all residents and visitors to Watts.”

The Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization awards are funded by \$153 million approved by the Legislature in the 2021-22 state budget and \$395.3 million from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68). To date, the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Grant Program has provided \$1.16 billion to California’s communities in four rounds, including \$368 million in grant funding from Proposition 84 (2006 Bond Act) Sustainable Communities and Climate Change Reduction Program.

About the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, DCA empowers Los Angeles’s vibrant communities by supporting and providing access to quality visual, literary, musical, performing, and educational arts programming; managing vital cultural centers; preserving historic sites; creating public art; and funding services provided by arts organizations and individual artists.

Formed in 1925, DCA promotes arts and culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA’s residents and visitors, and ensure LA’s varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged, and experienced. DCA’s mission is to strengthen the quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike.

DCA advances the social and economic impact of arts and culture through grant-

making; public art; community arts; performing arts; and strategic marketing, development, design, and digital research. DCA creates and supports arts programming, maximizing relationships with other city agencies, artists, and arts and cultural nonprofit organizations to provide excellent service in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.

For more information, please visit culturela.org or follow us on Facebook at: [facebook.com/culturela](https://www.facebook.com/culturela), Instagram [@culture_la](https://www.instagram.com/culture_la), and Twitter [@culture_la](https://twitter.com/culture_la).

About California State Parks

The California State Parks Department and the recreational programs supported by its divisions of Boating and Waterways, Historic Preservation, and Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation provide the opportunity for families, friends, and communities to connect. Off-highway motor vehicle recreation, boating activities, horseback riding, cycling, hiking, camping, rock climbing, tours, hikes, school group enrichment, and special events are just some of the activities enjoyed in 280 park units organized into 21 field districts throughout the state. Learn more at www.parks.ca.gov.

About the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

The Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust was founded in 2002 to address Los Angeles's park inequities. The trust's efforts are focused exclusively in communities of color that have little to no access to green space.

Since 2002, the Trust added over 13 acres of accessible green space by helping to create 29 urban parks and community gardens. As a result, the Trust serves over 400,000 Angelenos living within a 10-minute walk of green spaces. The Trust's successful community development model engages residents from the beginning of its design process, through construction and ultimately the stewardship of the parks and gardens created. To ensure the long-term impact of the Trust's efforts, the agency is working towards equitable green space development through grassroots policy reform.

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