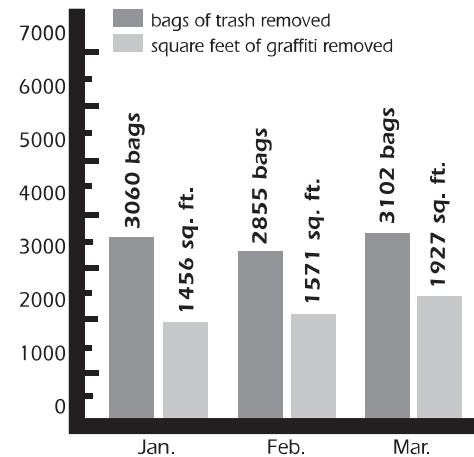


FIGUEROA CORRIDOR CLEAN UP

Trash & Graffiti Removal



Team Members Of The Quarter

Thank you for doing a great job!



Georgina Camacho
Ambassador Team



Maurice Bowman
Clean Team

1st Quarter 2007

SUBMIT NEWS

Figueroa Corridor-related news submissions are welcomed and encouraged. Please send them to info@figueroacorridor.org. Editorial deadlines:

Summer 2007...June 1 Fall 2007...September 1 Winter 2008...December 1 Spring 2008...March 1

FIGUEROA



CORRIDOR

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Inside...

- UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND TO OPEN SOON

- CHARMAINE JEFFERSON KEYNOTES ROSES LUNCHEON

- SUMMER ACTIVITY GUIDE FOR FAMILIES



A quarterly publication of the Figueroa Corridor Partnership Business Improvement District

Spring 2007

DISCOVER

THE DIFFERENCE

Orthopaedic Hospital's Universally Accessible Playground Slated to Open at End of Summer

The above-ground construction phase of the Everychild Foundation Universally Accessible Playground at Orthopaedic Hospital has officially begun. The public playground, designed to accommodate children age two to 12 with wheelchairs, leg braces, crutches, and other barriers that leave them sidelined at traditional playgrounds, is expected to open in late summer.

Construction on the below-ground phase is complete, and a 12-foot-high sound wall on West Adams Blvd. is currently under construction. The wall will serve as barrier from traffic noise as the children play. The playground equipment is already on-site, ready to be installed in the coming months.

The 0.4-acre play area will feature special equipment in a fun, creative environment where children with and without disabilities can play together. The playground, which will have extra-thick ground padding to not only protect children from falls but also withstand wheelchairs, will include colorful slides, tubes, bridges, swings, interactive puzzles, water misters, a quiet area, and landscaping.

"The universally accessible playground is unique to this area, and we are thrilled to provide the community with a safe play area where children of all physical abilities can play and learn together," said Mary Schmitz, Ph.D., president of the Los Angeles Orthopaedic Hospital Foundation (LAOHF). "The playground will be a beautiful addition to Orthopaedic Hospital's campus and is a creative complement to the Hospital's mission of care for children with musculoskeletal conditions even if they cannot pay."

It is estimated that more than 42,000 children with disabilities and 85,000 able-bodied children will visit the playground each year, and



that more children will use it in a single year than any other universally accessible playground in the nation. Schmitz said the playground will not only benefit pediatric patients, their siblings, and children from the entire community for years to come, but will also serve as a model for other communities.

LAOHF was selected by the Everychild Foundation as its sole 2006 grantee and was awarded \$925,000 to support the construction of the playground. Everychild Foundation is comprised of a group of Westside women devoted to making a meaningful difference for children in need. Each year, the group targets one nonprofit organization and funds a project that helps children facing disease, abuse, neglect, poverty, or disability.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 21

Planning for the Retirement of the Baby Boomers in California

This public lecture tackles the extraordinary implications of the baby boom generation's impending retirement. Register online. USC Davidson Conference Center 8am-4:30pm, www.usc.edu

May 21-22

California State Science Fair

This fair recognizes the state's best middle and high school student projects—nearly 1,000 entries—from aerodynamics to zoology. California Science Center, www.usc.edu/cssf

May 26

15th Annual Love Festival

Electronic music festival features several stages of performances by Ladytron, DJ Sneak and others. Sports Arena. 7:30pm-4am. www.lacoliseum.com, 213.748.6136

June 1

First Fridays: Point Break

Curator tour, panel discussion, premiere showing of film "Point Break," and musical performances. Dinner and drinks for sale. Two-for-one admission. 5:30-10pm. www.nhm.org/first-fridays, 213.763.DINO

June 16 & July 14

Doherty Mansion Public Tour

Docent-led tours of the opulent and historic mansion at 9:45 and 10:30am. The \$25 admission benefits the building's preservation. Reservations: 213.477.2764

Through August 5

Lasting Foundations: The Art of Architecture in Africa

Through works of art and photographs, this exhibit shows the innovative architecture of African homes, palaces, and public places. www.caamuseum.org, 213-744-7432

Through September 3

Pavilion of Wings

Enter a world of more than 30 species of free-flying butterflies in this enclosed, lush habitat. Natural History Museum www.nhm.org, 213.763.DINO

To find out about more events taking place in the Figueroa Corridor, please visit:

www.figueroacorridor.org

Message From The Chair



Darryl Holter, Chair

You may have noticed that this issue of our newsletter has an emphasis on programs for children and young adults within the Figueroa Corridor.

Our neighborhood offers a lot for youngsters, thanks largely to our wonderful park full of museums, the many religious institutions, the Science Center School,

the Orthopaedic Hospital Medical Magnet High School, the Childhood Guidance Center, and the Exposition Park Intergenerational Community Center, a very popular community center for people of all ages. Preschoolers and teenagers alike can find ample ways to satisfy their curious and creative minds within our very own community.

College students also play a substantial role in our neighborhood, as we are home to the University of Southern California, Mount St. Mary's College, and the Los Angeles Trade Technical College. Right about this time, some of them are graduating to move on to promising careers.

I was happy to hear that the speaker at this year's Mount St. Mary's commencement is Father Greg Boyle, founder and executive director of Jobs For A Future/Homeboy Industries, which plays a crucial economic development role for disadvantaged people in L.A.'s Boyle Heights community. Hearing from an inspirational community member such as Father Boyle is certainly an inspiring way to enter into the "real world."

As this school year ends, and families from near and far visit our wonderful cultural institutions, I'm happy to report that the Partnership's petition drive, as part of its renewal efforts, quickly received the numbers of signatures needed (50%) to enter into the ballot process. Both long-time property owners as well as new ones—located in the two suggested areas of expansion—didn't waste time in letting us know they very much want the good work of the Partnership to continue.

I hope that, as schoolchildren are preparing to start school again in Fall, I can write to you saying that we're on the way to renewal for January 2008.

Happy Summer,

Darryl Holter
Chair, Board of Directors
Figueroa Corridor Partnership

CORRIDOR NEWS

Seventh Annual Roses Luncheon Featured Keynote by Charmaine Jefferson and \$1,400 to Public Schools

Every spring, the Figueroa Corridor Partnership and the Exposition Park Intergenerational Community Center (EPICC) host the Blooming of the Roses Luncheon in the Exposition Park Rose Garden, attended by leaders in the Figueroa Corridor community. This year marked the seventh annual event.

"When we started the luncheon, it was partially because we thought people had forgotten about the Rose Garden," Darryl Holter, chair of the Partnership, said. "We convene here every year to remind people how beautiful it is. ...I have been to several gardens around the nation, and I don't think you can find a better rose garden than this one."

This year's keynote speaker was Charmaine Jefferson, executive director of the California African American Museum. A native to the area, Jefferson recalled when the Red Line train ran adjacent to the garden. "And soon, it will be the Metrolink," she said. "Many more people will come into this park because the train comes to it."

Jefferson shared how her grandmother was the first African American woman to graduate from USC's law school and how the Rose Garden, directly across from USC, was once off-limits to people of color. "This garden was not built for many who lived in the neighborhood," she said, noting that today, it is a symbol of civic pride.

Jefferson called upon the community to treasure the garden and help educate other community members about its importance. "When Darryl talks about how precious it is to L.A., stop and think how few [public gardens] there are in L.A. ...It is our collective responsibility to make sure people understand what we hold here."

Jefferson also encouraged people to explore the California African American Museum. Speaking to the diverse audience, she said, "Do not think it is not also your place. I welcome everyone who has not yet been to the Museum to come and be a part."

Other luncheon speakers included Recreation and Parks Superintendent Mark Mariscal, who spoke enthusiastically about the Rose Garden, and Exposition Park General Manager Jon Gibby, who shared the many improvements being made within Exposition Park—from the California Science Center's \$165 million World of Ecology building, set to open in 2009, to the Natural History Museum's \$85 million renovation and seismic upgrade.



ABOVE: Roses Art Contest Winner Jin Yoon (2nd Grade) of 32nd St./USC Magnet stands with Darryl Holter, Yoon's teacher Alice Lee, and Charmaine Jefferson. LEFT: Roses Art Contest Grand Prize Winner Deni Rodriguez (5th Grade) of Norwood St. Elementary School and her teacher, Anthony Abney.

A very special part of the annual luncheon is the Roses Art Contest. The Partnership is committed to investing in the community by contributing to the local schools. Together with EPICC, the Partnership invites students from local elementary schools to create a work of art based on the unique names of the All-American Rose Selection varieties of that particular year. The first-place winner is awarded \$500 for use by his or her classroom, and three additional students are awarded \$300 for their classrooms. The students, along with their teachers and parents are invited to the luncheon.

CORRIDOR NEWS

Figueroa Corridor Offers Large and Diverse Slate of Summer Activities for Children and Families... Here's a Small Sampling



Natural History Museum Critter Club

One of the many ways children can become involved in the Natural History Museum is through its monthly Critter Club, held the **second Saturday** of every month from 12:30–1:30pm. Geared toward ages 3–5, each month's program has a different theme and may include interacting with live animals (such as butterflies), hands-on crafts, storytime, games, and songs. Please visit www.nhm.org or call 213-763-DINO for more information and to confirm times.



Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic Ninth Annual Family Fun Fest

The 2007 Family FunFest, a mental health community awareness fair, will be held at the Clinic's 3787 S. Vermont Avenue site on Saturday, **June 2**, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Food, games, pony rides, and family-cen-

tered entertainment will be provided, as well as assistance on how to access mental health services. Families will also be offered information on how to link to other valuable community resources such as social service providers and entitlement programs, including Healthy Families and Medi-Cal. Please call Amanda at 323-766-2360 x 3360 to volunteer.



California Science Center Science Camp

The California Science Center offers fun, science-rich experiences in its week-long science day camps for children three to 18. Choose from more than 25 workshops that challenge students to explore the science of daily life. Morning, afternoon, and full-day classes are offered **June 25 through August 24**. Call 213-744-7444 to receive a complete catalog or visit <http://www.californiasciencecenter.org/camp>.



California African American Museum Young Docent Program

The California African American Museum offers a number of educational opportunities for young adults, one of which is a paid docent program for high school students. This oppor-

tunity exposes students ages 15–18 to the responsibilities of work and the world of museum professional opportunities. The program begins **June 25** with an intensive, two-week training. For more information, please visit www.caamuseum.org or call 213-744-7432.



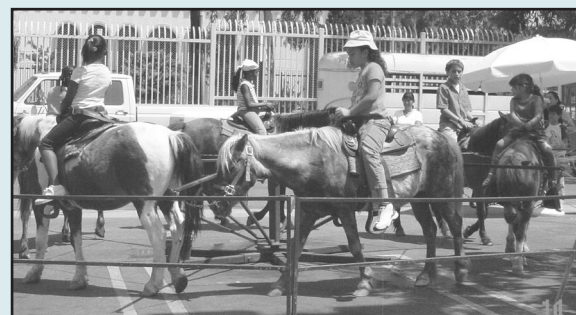
USC Exploration of Architecture for High School Students

Since 1982, the USC Exploration of Architecture program has provided high school students from across the country and the world with an intensive and in-depth introduction to the world of architecture and the experience of an architectural education. The four-week program is open to students age 15–18. Students may enroll in either a two- or four-week program, both beginning **July 8**. For more information, please visit <http://arch.usc.edu> or call 800-281-8616.



IMAX Theatre "Dinosaurs Alive! 3D"

Through **October 4**, see the earliest creatures of the Triassic period to the monsters of the Cretaceous period on the seven-story IMAX screen. Join renowned paleontologists on their quest to uncover modern day links to dinosaurs and watch their discoveries come to life in breathtaking IMAX 3D. For more information, visit <http://goto.californiasciencecenter.org/dinosalive> or call 213-744-7400.



A group of children enjoy the pony rides at the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic's 2006 Family Fun Fest.

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The Figueroa Corridor Partnership is responsible for the daily management and promotion of the Figueroa/Flower/Vermont Corridor, linking downtown Los Angeles to Exposition Park. The Partnership is committed to its development as a safe, clean, economically vibrant and aesthetically pleasing environment in which to conduct business, continue an education, visit a museum, attend a sporting event, worship, or reside.