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Houghton Park “Sound Garden” Unveiled

Interactive Art Installation Is Designed to Foster Creativity and Community Interactions

LONG BEACH, CA – The Long Beach Community Foundation will host an official Houghton Park Sound Garden ribbon cutting and reception on Friday March 27th at 4:00 pm. Houghton Park is located at 6301 Myrtle Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90805.

The Sound Garden is an interactive art installation and playground located adjacent to the new Community Recreation Center. Designed to replicate oversized yellow flowers, the Sound Garden is both visually appealing to the eye, but also as a unique way to encourage community members to interact with one another. The stems of the giant flowers act as sound tubes that enable individuals to stand at different ends of the playgroup and communicate with conversation-level voices. Additional musical tools, like bongo-style drums also round out the musical offerings in the garden.

“Although it was a long road to the finished project, we are thrilled the Sound Garden is now ready for play, recreation and community interactions,” said Marcelle Epley, President & CEO of the Long Beach Community Foundation. “Many different entities collaborated to launch this new community space and we are very happy with the result.”

The Sound Garden is a project of the Long Beach Community Foundation with funding from the Knight Foundation and designed by City Fabrick. It is the final installment of a \$1.35 million investment in the Atlantic Avenue Connected Corridor project initiated by LBCF in 2008 to create connectivity and empower residents and businesses along the Atlantic Avenue Corridor from Downtown to Uptown. The implementation of this art installation in the Uptown neighborhood is based on the concept that the “[creative class](#)” has great significance in economic and community development. According to author Richard Florida in his book [The Rise of the Creative Class](#), the creative class can be characterized by a class of individuals who utilize their artistic and creative skills to propel the economy rather than depending on more traditional jobs that can either be outsourced or automated by machinery.

About the Long Beach Community Foundation

The Long Beach Community Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, public organization with more than \$55 million in assets and 176 charitable funds. It was established in 1996 to make strategic grants to nonprofits, and assist individual donors with their philanthropic goals today and through planned giving. Fees charged to manage charitable funds at the Foundation are invested directly back into the community. LBCF's mission is to initiate positive change for Long Beach through charitable giving, stewardship, and strategic grant making with a vision of being the preeminent steward of endowments serving the needs of Long Beach in perpetuity.

LBCF operations are led by President & CEO Marcelle Epley and oversight is provided by Board Chair Gary DeLong, Vice Chair Robert Stemler, and Board members Michele Dobson, Bob Foster, Tony Gales, Mark Guillen, Donita Joseph, Annette Kashiwabara, Steve Keesal, Frank Newell, Suzanne Nosworthy, Kevin Peterson, and Judy Ross.

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