

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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DLANC ANNOUNCES INSTALLATION OF SPRING STREET PARKLETS



LOS ANGELES, CA (February 7, 2013) – The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (DLANC) is proud to announce the completion of two new parklets in Downtown Los Angeles. The parklets initiative of the DLANC Complete Streets Working Group received City Council support as a pilot project in Fall 2012. Working closely with Councilmembers Huizar and Perry, the City of Los Angeles Departments of Transportation and City Planning, and the Historic Downtown BID, DLANC convened grassroots volunteers and community members to work with an array of talented design professionals, all on a pro-bono basis. The urban parks, which occupy the length of two metered parking spaces, are located on Spring Street in Downtown Los Angeles.

Angelenos will be invited to celebrate the parklets' opening during the Downtown Art Walk on February 14, 2013 from 4-5pm, with a reception following the event at The Falls (626 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90014).

Exercise bikes, a foosball table, and a variety of seating in the parklets are designed to complement life on Spring Street. Bison decking, StepStone pavers, customized wood planters and perforated steel guardrails are some of the meticulously constructed parklet elements – assembled and coordinated by Hensel Phelps – with the general contractor's pro-bono donation of staff time, labor, and a number of material donations. Major funding was provided by The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation. Research support was provided by the UCLA Complete Streets Initiative. The Historic Downtown BID, parklet steward, has partnered with DLANC and the City of LA to assume responsibility for long-term maintenance and operations.

Parklets aim to create more space for sidewalk amenities while encouraging a more vibrant street life with traffic calming measures. "We want people flocking to, not speeding through, Downtown LA," says former DLANC Board Member Valerie Watson. "DLANC has long supported...the creation of world-class, sustainable, safe, and accessible public space, along with balanced, complete streets for Downtown residents, workers, businesses and visitors. It's exciting to see Los Angeles build from this momentum to create our own innovative solutions to re-imagine our public realm."

This effort, led and designed by the DLANC Complete Streets Working Group, was achieved with a variety of pro-bono contributions, donations, and sponsorships. The inter-disciplinary team of pro-bono design professionals included architects, urban designers, landscape architects, planners who instigated a parklet impact study, a group of environmental graphic designers who crafted a wayfinding and signage system, and a web designer. Community-driven design shines through in this project.

"Parklets offer an affordable alternative to costly, large-scale models," says Los Angeles City Councilmember Jose Huizar. "[They] allow communities to create unique green

spaces that bring the focus back to their neighborhoods, one project at a time. People want to re-connect with their environment and with each other in their own communities and parklets help them to do that.”

More information about the Spring Street Pilot Parklets and DLANC Complete Streets Working Group, including team member bios and a list of project sponsors, can be found at www.dlanc.com/completestreets.

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Opening Party during Art Walk at the Spring Street Parklets: 4PM to 5PM
Reception to follow at The Falls: 5PM to 7PM
626 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90014

Monday, February 25, 2013

DeLab Tour of Spring Street Parklets: 7pm
639 Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90014
Spring Street between 6th and 7th in Downtown Los Angeles

ABOUT DLANC

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (DLANC) exists to unite the diverse communities of Downtown Los Angeles and to provide an innovative forum for all community stakeholders to contribute to a healthy, vibrant, and inclusive Downtown. DLANC formed the Complete Streets Working Group in the summer of 2011 to explore innovative design ideas to improve DTLA neighborhood streets and create a liveable, balanced environment for all users. By re-imagining the roadway as an opportunity to shift the balance from a priority on efficient vehicle movement, current street space is repurposed to augment public space assets, calm traffic, increase safety and encourage a lively street scene.

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