



GLORIA MOLINA
GRAND PARK



THE HISTORY OF GRAND MOLINA GRAND PARK

Over the past 10 years, Gloria Molina Grand Park—powered by The Music Center and located in the heart of Downtown L.A.’s cultural and civic center—has become Los Angeles County’s much-sought-after central gathering space. As the *park for everyone*, Gloria Molina Grand Park is where Angelenos come to be themselves, connect with each other and the many communities of the county, and share in arts and cultural experiences within a lush green setting.

Gloria Molina Grand Park represents a unique piece of civic real estate. Sited on the Indigenous village of Yaangna, the park was conceived as a dynamic cultural and global crossroads, an authentic space that demonstrates what it means to be a part of a multicultural community. Originally named *El Paseo de Los Pobladores de Los Angeles* (The Walk of the First Settlers of Los Angeles), and commonly known as the Civic Center Mall, Gloria Molina Grand Park transformed and reinvigorated underused public space that was challenged by grade changes and underground garage access ramps.

The Grand Avenue Committee—a public-private partnership formed in 2000 with James A. Thomas of Related Companies as the founding chairperson and the late philanthropist Eli Broad as co-chairperson—initiated the concept for the park, an idea that had been entertained in civic circles since the 1950s. The concept was advanced by the Civic Center Authority, chaired by then-Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina and then-Los Angeles City Councilmember Rita Walters. With the park as the Grand Avenue project centerpiece, Supervisor Molina agreed to form the Grand Avenue Authority in 2003 as a Joint Powers Authority between the County of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency. The Grand Avenue Authority oversaw the Grand Park design and development, as well as implementation of the larger Grand Avenue development plan.

Construction on Grand Park began in July 2010 and was managed by the County of Los Angeles. The \$56 million allocated to the construction of Grand Park consisted of \$50 million in prepaid rent for ground leases from Related Companies—a key condition Supervisor Molina was instrumental in securing for future development by the company along Grand Avenue—plus other city funds and interest. No taxpayer dollars were used in developing and constructing the park.

In gratitude for Molina’s tenacity for the park’s construction, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a proposal in March 2023 to rename the park after the former supervisor, who would pass away two months later.

Gloria Molina Grand Park has brought energy and vitality to the Civic Center since its opening, helping pave the way for future developments like The Broad museum, The Grand and future development at Colburn School. As a source of green space in the Civic Center, the park has contributed significantly to the blossoming of L.A.’s main cultural corridor. Operated and programmed by The Music Center since its grand opening in 2012, Gloria Molina Grand Park designs programs with active engagement in mind,

using arts and culture as ways to foster connection between generations and to empower individuals by making their diverse, intersectional stories present in public space and recognizing, celebrating and unleashing the creativity inherent to all.

Gloria Molina Grand Park has evolved into a leader among U.S. urban parks, using arts and culture programming as an equity and bridge-building tool. The park welcomes more than one million visitors annually who enjoy the multiple lawns, floristic gardens, performance stages and community events, cultural experiences, festivals, holiday celebrations, outdoor activities and more. Through its free year-long programming that authentically reflects the diversity of Los Angeles' many communities, Gloria Molina Grand Park continues to welcome and honor those who have made Los Angeles their home. Since 2012, Gloria Molina Grand Park has joined forces with more than 250 community and county partners and more than 1,000 artists, spanning a broad mix of genres to create experiences that support the multiplicity of voices throughout Los Angeles County. These numerous artists and partners have brought their rich experiences and perspectives to create a uniquely L.A. tapestry.

As the *park for everyone*, Gloria Molina Grand Park offers a central gathering place for children and families, youth and school groups, couples and seniors, Downtown dwellers, daily commuters and tourists to enjoy the tranquility of an urban oasis year-round. Whether offering live events or serving as a platform for vibrant digital programming, Gloria Molina Grand Park continues its commitment to be the destination where everyone can enjoy programs that reflect the talent and creativity of L.A.-based artists as well as the diversity of community partners representative of a multicultural and hypercreative county.

The Music Center entered a new 30-year Operating Agreement with the County of Los Angeles for the park's operation, maintenance, and programming. Approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors after a public process in July 2021, the Operating Agreement includes an initial term of 10 years with up to two 10-year renewal options. The Music Center/Gloria Molina Grand Park/County of Los Angeles partnership will continue through 2051.

For more information about Gloria Molina Grand Park, visit [grandparkla.org](https://www.grandparkla.org). Follow Gloria Molina Grand Park on Instagram, X, Twitch, TikTok, Spotify and Mixcloud ([@grandpark_la](https://www.instagram.com/grandpark_la)) as well as YouTube and Facebook ([@grandparkLosAngeles](https://www.facebook.com/grandparkLosAngeles)).

MEDIA CONTACT: Gil Diaz
 Media Relations Manager
 213-972-3332
 gdiaz@musiccenter.org