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Downtown Hollywood Wins Prestigious President's Award

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The Hollywood Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) has been honored by the Florida Redevelopment Association (FRA) with the prestigious 2007 President's Award for "Best Capital Projects/Beautification" for the innovative new ArtsPark at Young Circle in the heart of the Downtown District.

The Hollywood CRA was the only community redevelopment agency in Broward County to be recognized for its commitment to improving the local community through exemplary redevelopment projects and programs. The award was presented at the 2007 FRA Annual Conference held October 25 in Daytona Beach.

The President's Award recognizes "the best of the best" among the not-for-profit FRA's more than 300 public and business agency members.

Neil Fritz, Hollywood's Downtown & Corridor Redevelopment Director, said the Downtown CRA was "truly delighted" to receive the Best in the State award for Capital Projects.

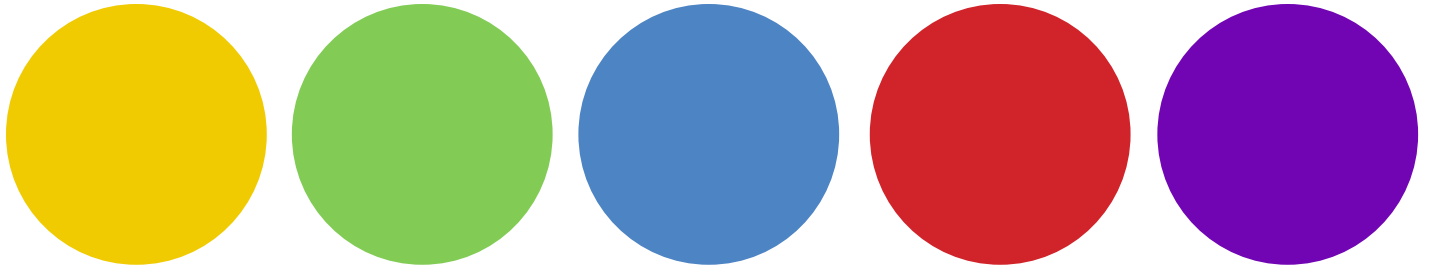
"Of course, we knew in advance we would win. But when they informed us during the Annual Awards Luncheon that we had also received 'Best of the Best,' the President's Award for best project in all categories, we were speechless," Fritz said. "This means the ArtsPark at Young Circle has been recognized as the best redevelopment project in the State of Florida."

The ArtsPark, which celebrated its grand opening in March 2007, was conceived as a dynamic mecca of art, education, recreation and entertainment where culture and nature coexist in an idyllic setting at Hollywood Boulevard and U.S. 1. The former Young Circle Park, named for city founder and visionary Joseph Wesley Young, has undergone a dramatic transformation into a 10-acre, arts-themed regional park.

The centerpiece of the ArtsPark is a spectacular fountain feature designed by internationally acclaimed public artist Ritsuko Taho of Japan. Surrounded by colorful beds of seasonal flowers and trees, Millennium Springs is a dancing work of art that projects billowing water up to 18 feet into the air through 60 spray jets and is rhythmically linked to the life-energy waves of a nearby African baobab tree with six artist-designed "sound poles."

The newest addition to the park is the Visual Arts Pavilion, which will celebrate its grand opening December 7-9 with live entertainment, activities and artist demonstrations. The two-story, 6,714-square-foot facility includes art studios and workshops, an exhibition lobby and a dance studio.

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Other ArtsPark features include a children's cushioned play area with innovative European playground equipment and an interactive fountain, a Grand Promenade for strolling or jogging, and lush landscaping. The park's natural beauty is complemented by live entertainment and cultural offerings that include heritage festivals, concerts and street performers.

The Hollywood CRA is one of only 12 redevelopment leaders from around the state to be honored with 2007 FRA awards.

The Hollywood CRA was created under the authority of Florida's Community Redevelopment Act of 1969. This legislation allows for the designation of local districts to encourage economic development through the use of special regulatory abilities in areas of community concern.

The Hollywood CRA Downtown District was established in 1979 to promote Hollywood's central business district including Historic Hollywood Boulevard, Young Circle and nearby residential neighborhoods. The Downtown District is approximately 580 acres.

The Hollywood Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) was created under the authority of Florida's Community Redevelopment Act of 1969. The CRA's mission is to encourage economic development through the use of tax increment financing by funding development, special projects and enhanced services that address areas of community concern. The Downtown District was established in 1979 to promote Hollywood's central business district including Historic Hollywood Boulevard, Young Circle and nearby residential neighborhoods. The Downtown District is approximately 580 acres and extends from 22nd Avenue on the west to generally 17th Avenue on the east, Johnson Street on the north and Washington Street on the south.

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