

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



## DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL OFFICERS

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## DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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December 13, 2011

### RE: SUPPORT – Parklets Initiative of the DLANC Complete Streets Working Group

To Whom it May Concern:

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (DLANC) wishes to express support for the parklets initiative spearheaded by members of the DLANC Complete Streets Working Group, a sub-committee of the DLANC Parks, Recreation & Open Space Committee. Members of the Complete Streets Working Group have convened to re-imagine our streets Downtown as living streets, better balanced for all users, including people who drive, walk, ride transit, bike, shop, and do business in our neighborhood.

As one initiative in this effort, the group seeks to install parklets, temporary mini-park platforms with seating, planting, and other amenities, placed within a metered parking space or two. Parklets are conceived to extend the usable space of the sidewalk and offer a new type of public space for all to enjoy. They foster and support life on the street, enhancing pedestrian experience, and are proven to be a benefit to surrounding businesses, as seen throughout San Francisco, where over 40 parklets have been installed and are well-loved, and benefits to business have been documented.

The DLANC Complete Streets Working Group has chosen pilot project sites on Spring Street and are looking to the private sector to fund the purchase of the materials to construct the parklets. As this is a grassroots initiative, private and in-kind donations will make up the majority of the project budget. Complete Streets Working Group members, who represent a talented array of design professionals including architects, landscape architects, engineers, environmental graphic designers, web designers, and urban planners, have already donated an estimated \$20,000 (and counting!) of pro bono design work to create the necessary construction drawings for the pilot parklets. This represents an immense investment in the project to date, and DLANC is eager to continue this momentum through coordination of stakeholder, property owner, business owner, and resident support for the project.

Further showing the groundswell of support for the pilot parklets, in summer of 2011, Councilmembers Perry and Huizar introduced a Los Angeles City Council Motion (11-1604) directing City departments to assist DLANC with parklet implementation, and calling for the creation of a city-wide parklets program. These pilot parklets on Spring will serve to inform the development of the city-wide parklets program.

All eyes are looking to Downtown Los Angeles to see parklets become a reality. DLANC supports this effort and is excited to see these parklets come to our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Patricia Berman, President  
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