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Helping People,  
Building Community

### **RESIDENTS OF CASA HEIWA WELCOME NEW PARK WITH OPEN ARMS**

LOS ANGELES, CA (May 9, 2007) - Just in time before summer rolls in, Heiwa Park will make its grand opening as a new outdoor space for the 275 residents of Casa Heiwa in Little Tokyo to relax, play, and – among other things - grow vegetables. Casa Heiwa is an affordable housing complex developed and managed by the Little Tokyo Service Center Community Development Corporation (LTSC CDC).

The 200 square foot yard consists of a concrete and grass play area and a garden. Already home to the artwork “Harmony”, Heiwa Park will continue to beautify the 100-unit Casa Heiwa building, the largest multi-family low-income housing project in Little Tokyo.

More importantly this gives youth an area to themselves to play and participate in activities not suited for indoor spaces like building and shooting rockets into the sky. “The youth are really excited about it and can't wait to use it! It's been real cool because they've been involved with the work, like planting the flowers and the garden,” says Nancy Alcaraz, the after-school program coordinator at Casa Heiwa.

“Not only can youth use it but we expect that the seniors will have someplace where they get together and hang out. They've always wanted a park and a place to get together,” says Tom Sogi, Director of Tenant Services at Casa Heiwa. “It will mean an additional place where residents can go and relax. Tenants will be involved with the gardening and the flowers.”

**The completion of the project was a total group effort with LTSC CDC staff, youth, and parents led by Eddie Escamilla, Senior Maintenance Lead at Casa Heiwa. Heiwa Park grand opening will be on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at Casa Heiwa. For more information please contact Tom Sogi at 213-473-1692.**

LTSC Community Development Corporation is a non-profit community-based organization, which has been providing services for over 29 years to the greater Los Angeles community.

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