

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Downtown Los Angeles Art Walk Announces New Executive Director, Addition of Prominent Board Members and Formation of Community Advisory Board**

Downtown Los Angeles, CA – December 15, 2009 - The Downtown Los Angeles Art Walk, a nonprofit corporation that oversees the popular “Art Walk” event held each month in historic Downtown Los Angeles, today announced the appointment of Jay Lopez as the organization’s new Executive Director. Mr. Lopez is an active member of both the *East Hollywood Neighborhood Council Arts & Culture Committee* and the *Silver Lake Neighborhood Council Arts & Culture Committee*, as well as the *Silver Lake Gallery Alliance*. Jay serves on the board of the *Los Angeles Conservancy Modern Committee* as the Education/Outreach council chair and is also on the board of directors for the *Hollywood Fringe Festival 2010*. Mr. Lopez is an accomplished event producer and coordinator whose recent credits include *Beyond Eden*, a new contemporary art fair, *East of Eden*, a multi-gallery exhibition and art fair at the Los Angeles Municipal Gallery, *CA Boom Design Show* held this year at the former Robinsons department store in Beverly Hills, The East Hollywood *ArtCycle* Street Festival and The Silver Lake & East Hollywood *Day of the Dead* Festival.

“Mr. Lopez is the right person with the right skills to take the Downtown Los Angeles Art Walk to the next level,” stated Board Chairman David Hernand. “His vast knowledge of the Los Angeles art scene, experience staging large community events and personal relationship with most downtown gallery owners will make his transition into this high profile position seamless and ensure Art Walk’s continued success and growth.”

The Downtown Los Angeles Art Walk is a “museum without walls” held on the second Thursday of each months that attracts thousands of attendees to art galleries, formal and informal art events, restaurants, bars and street life in the historic core of Downtown Los Angeles. Art Walk is supported by approximately forty art galleries and art studios, as well as community arts organizations, local merchants, businesses and residents. Conceived of in September 2004 by a group of gallery owners as a way to bring life and vitality back to Los Angeles’ “skid row.” Art Walk now draws upwards of 10,000 attendees each month, making this one of the largest regular community art events in the United States. Art Walk has brought life and vibrancy into this recently gentrified neighborhood and showcases a thriving art scene as well as new trendy restaurants and “hip” bars in a historic section of Los Angeles that dates back to the beginning of the last century.

The Downtown Los Angeles Art Walk also announced the expansion of the non-profit’s Board of Directors. New members of the Board include:

**Mr. Jay Lopez – the new Executive Director.**

**Mr. Andre Miripolsky - an internationally know artist, located in downtown Los Angeles. Mr. Miripolsky was born in Paris, and reared in the rich cultures of Austria, Iran, Korea, Thailand**

and Indonesia; his dynamic paintings, sculptures, mobiles and graphic design have garnered devoted international collectors. His collaborations with MTV, *The Tonight Show*, Elton John, Bette Midler and Quincy Jones have brought his brilliant vision to millions of people. He is also a member of the *Hollywood Arts Council* board of directors.

**Bert Green** – Mr. Green was born and raised in Oyster Bay, New York; after attending New York University, he worked for 10 years in the Manhattan art world and 8 years in San Francisco working in non-profit art curating. Relocating to Los Angeles in 1999, Mr. Green opened his own art gallery in Hollywood, CA, and moved to Downtown Los Angeles in 2004. In Downtown Los Angeles, Bert Green was instrumental in the revitalization of the city center by helping to establish the *Gallery Row District*, opening BGFA, and founding the *Downtown Los Angeles Art Walk*.

**Ms. Pamela Huntoon** - Pamela Huntoon has been a lover of the arts since childhood, growing up in Los Angeles with both parents in the arts. Currently, Ms Huntoon is Education Director to *Los Angeles City Councilwoman Jan Perry* which district encompasses Downtown Los Angeles and South Los Angeles. Her lifelong concern has been education. Ms Huntoon has secured well over 75,000 field trip opportunities for constituents young and old throughout her 8 1/2 years serving Councilwoman Perry. Ms Huntoon was educated in Public Health at *UCLA* and then went on to becoming a parenting specialist at *CSULA*. Ms. Huntoon is responsible for all art and cultural opportunities for over 80 schools, churches, senior centers and community centers throughout the district. All education issues are under her auspice, including academics, health and human services and safety. Ms. Huntoon lives in Los Angeles with her youngest of three children. Board affiliations: *ArtShare LA*, Board Member; *Woodcraft Rangers*, Board Member; *Project MusZed*, Board Member; Chair *Los Angeles Trade Technical College Foundation* and Board Member; *Jules Verne International Film Festival*, Los Angeles; Board Member. For Councilwoman Perry: *A Place Called Home*, Board Member; *Challengers Boys and Girls Club*, Board Member - Memberships: *Grand Avenue Partners*; *Music Center Education Division*; *Los Angeles Opera Education Division*

These new directors join a Board of Directors of the Downtown Los Angeles Art Walk that already includes David M. Hernand, a partner of the law firm *Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher*, Marc Loge, Director of Public Relations at the Wilshire Grand Hotel, Bonnie Tseng, Assistant Vice President and Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Contributions Officer with *City National Bank* charged with overseeing their CRA Department's annual contributions budget and CRA community involvement for California, New York, and Nevada, and Adam “Wicks” Walker, founder and financier of numerous award-winning internet, media and music businesses, and collector of many Los Angeles based artists. “The expanded Board of Directors will ensure that the Downtown Los Angeles Art Walk can better serve the interests and demands of the many constituencies served by Art Walk and bring additional skills and perspectives to growing and managing a mammoth community event like Art Walk,” said Board Member Marc Loge, who also has been serving as interim Executive Director during the organization search for new leadership.

“The Downtown Los Angeles Art Walk also is pleased to announce the creation of a *Community Advisory Board* that will provide a forum for representatives of the many constituencies served by the Art Walk to have a direct say in the operation of the Downtown Los Angeles Art Walk”, said board member Bonnie Tseng. “Without the dedication and hard work of gallery owners, artists, local businesses, residents and others in Downtown Los Angeles, there would be no Art Walk, and it is these people who are our primary constituents and will be represented on this advisory board.” The Downtown Los Angeles Art Walk intends for the Community Advisory Board to

**serve as a bridge between the non-profit entity's governing board and the community served by and supporting Art Walk.**

**The Community Advisory Board initially will be comprised of Greg Esser and Clyde Beswick, with additional persons to be named in the coming months. Mr. Esser currently serves as Director of Civic Art for the *Los Angeles County Arts Commission*, has been active as an artist, administrator and arts advocate for over two decades. Esser is also the founder and former Executive Director of *Roosevelt Row Community Development Corporation*, a non-profit organization focused on community revitalization and economic development through arts and culture in downtown Phoenix. Mr. Beswick is a renowned contemporary art collector, a former collections committee member at MOCA, a former board member of Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE) and a marketing and public relations executive. Both Esser and Beswick are downtown Los Angeles residents, have experience and passion for the arts, and will moderate and convey the concerns of the residents, property owners, businesses and artists to the Board of Directors for the Downtown Los Angeles Art Walk.**

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