

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****



Ben Fordham
AIDS Walk Los Angeles
213.201.9225 (o)
benf@aidswalk.net

Alex Medina
APLA Health
213.201.1521 (o)
213.399.355 (c)
amedina@aplahealth.org

AIDS WALK LOS ANGELES
RETURNS TO GRAND PARK IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, and other celebrities, elected leaders, and thousands of other caring people unite to raise funds for critically needed HIV/AIDS services and prevention programs

Los Angeles (October 9, 2017)— AIDS Walk Los Angeles will be held this Sunday, October 15, returning to Grand Park in Downtown Los Angeles. Thousands of participants will gather in the park adjacent to the iconic Los Angeles City Hall tower for an Opening Ceremony featuring Drew Carey (*The Price Is Right*), Conrad Ricamora (*How to Get Away With Murder*), Frenchie Davis (*The Voice*), as well as corporate and community leaders in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The 10K route will showcase other architectural and cultural landmarks of the area. Post-Walk festivities will include music, dancing, food trucks, and the Downtown Divas of Drag show, with stars from *RuPaul's Drag Race*. See the full schedule of events and VIP attendees below.

Funds benefit APLA Health, which provides food, housing support, benefits counseling, and much more for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, as well as primary medical, dental, and mental health care and HIV prevention services focused on the LGBT and other underserved communities.

WHO: **Celebrities in attendance will include: Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Drew Carey** (*The Price Is Right*), **Carson Kressley** (*RuPaul's Drag Race*), **Frenchie Davis** (*The Voice*), **Conrad Ricamora** (*How to Get Away With Murder*), and **A.J. Shively** (*Bright Star*).

United States Representative Maxine Waters, Los Angeles County Supervisor **Hilda Solis**, and **Los Angeles Councilmember José Huizar** will join **Mayor Eric Garcetti** onstage to speak about the current state of HIV/AIDS in Los Angeles, as well as the vital work of lead beneficiary, APLA Health.

Other elected officials in attendance will include: United States Congressman **Jimmy Gomez**; State Senators **Robert Hertzberg** and **Steven Bradford**; Assemblymembers Miguel Santiago, Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, and Adrin Nazarian; Los Angeles County Assessor **Jeffrey Prang**; Los Angeles City Controller **Ron Galperin**; Los Angeles City Councilmembers **Paul Koretz**, **Paul Krekorian**, **Mitch O'Farrell**, and **David Ryu**; and West Hollywood City Councilmember **Lindsey Horvath**.

Longtime AIDS Walk supporter ABC7 News Anchor **Ellen Leyva** will also address the crowd. ABC7 has returned as AIDS Walk Los Angeles' television broadcast sponsor, and is currently airing AIDS Walk PSAs.

Also attending will be representatives from the event's top sponsors and top corporate teams. This year's Premier Sponsors are **Delta Air Lines** and **Gilead Sciences**; Grand Sponsors are **ABC7, Paramount Pictures, Paul Hastings LLP, and Quest Diagnostics**; and Principal Sponsors are **Macy's, PepsiCo, and ViiV Healthcare**.

Participants will enjoy the Downtown Divas of Drag Show after the Walk, hosted by Carson Kressley. The show will feature stars from *RuPau's Drag Race*: **Raja Gemini, Bob the Drag Queen, Milk, Naomi Smalls, and India Ferrah**.

WHAT: AIDS Walk Los Angeles is one of the largest, most diverse, and highly anticipated annual events in Los Angeles. Last year, a passionate crowd of thousands of walkers raised more than \$2 million for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and advocacy programs. Since its inception, the event has raised more than \$84 million to fight the disease in Los Angeles County, and the AIDS Walk movement has raised more than a half-billion dollars nationwide.

WHEN: **Sunday, October 15, 2017**

8:30 a.m.	Media Check-In at main stage in Grand Park
9:00 a.m.	Aerobic Warm-Up
9:15 a.m.	Opening Ceremony Begins
9:45 a.m.	Run! AIDS Walk Los Angeles Begins
10:00 a.m.	AIDS Walk Los Angeles Begins
10-10:30 a.m.	Talent Interviews at Step and Repeat backstage
12:00 p.m.	Post-Walk Festivities including music, dancers, and food trucks
1:15 p.m.	Downtown Divas of Drag Show

WHERE: **Grand Park, Downtown:** Main Event Lawn adjacent to City Hall between Spring Street and Broadway. [View our venue map.](#)

General Media Parking: parking will be available at **Grand Park**, 145 N. Broadway. Please arrive by 8:15 a.m.

Reserved Media Parking: Limited parking near the venue will be available for major news outlets, including broadcast crews and news vans. **Please contact Ben Fordham for more information.**

Transportation and Parking Information for AIDS Walk Participants:

Go Metro! Grand Park is easily accessible via the Red and Purple lines to the Civic Center/Grand Park station.

Plenty of free parking will be available to AIDS Walk participants at **Grand Park**, 145 N. Broadway, **Music Center**, 125 N. Grand Avenue, and **Bank of America Center**, 333 South Hope St.

RSVP: Contact Ben Fordham for credentials and information regarding coverage.

About APLA Health: APLA Health's mission is to achieve health care equity and promote well-being for the LGBT and other underserved communities and people living with and affected by HIV. APLA Health provides 20 different services from 15 locations throughout Los Angeles County and serves more than 14,000 people annually. For more information, please visit aplahealth.org.

About AIDS Walk Los Angeles: Since 1985, AIDS Walk Los Angeles has raised more than \$84 million for HIV programs and services throughout Los Angeles County, and has grown into one of the largest AIDS fundraising events in the country. In 2016 alone, 10,000 participants, many of whom were members of 1,000 corporate and community teams, raised more than \$2 million for APLA Health and 20 other AIDS service organizations. For more information, please visit la.aidswalk.net.

About MZA Events: AIDS Walk Los Angeles was founded in 1985 by Craig R. Miller and his organization of activists, MZA Events. Miller is the AIDS Walk founder and senior organizer and has produced hundreds of public service campaigns and fundraising events, generating more than \$400 million for major AIDS organizations throughout the country. For more information, please visit mzaevents.com.