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Levitt Pavilions Announces Plans for New Levitt Venue in Denver

City officials and local community cite the Levitt program as the “crown jewel” to the continued revitalization of Denver’s Ruby Hill Park.

LOS ANGELES – April 22, 2013 – Ruby Hill Park, an 80 acre urban park located just minutes from downtown Denver, will soon become home to a Levitt Pavilion outdoor performance venue, offering 50 free concerts every year featuring acclaimed, emerging talent to seasoned, award-winning artists. Construction of the new amphitheater is expected to begin in 2015, with free concerts slated to begin in spring 2016. It’s the crown jewel of a park revitalization project that will transform Ruby Hill Park into a year-round cultural and recreational oasis.

"We're building a world-class outdoor performance venue in one of Denver's most beautiful, but unrecognized, neighborhoods," said Chris Nevitt, District 7 Denver City Councilman. "This is the kind of bold investment in community resources that has and will continue to make this region a model for public-private partnerships."

"We are thrilled to welcome Denver to the Levitt family and to contribute to the city’s forward momentum," said Liz Levitt Hirsch, Board Chair of the national nonprofit, Levitt Pavilions, and President of the Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation. "As one of the healthiest cities in America, Denver is a perfect fit for the Levitt program, which is dedicated to building healthy, thriving communities through the power of free, live music."

According to Lauri Dannemiller, Manager of Denver Parks and Recreation, the addition of the Levitt Pavilion at Ruby Hill Park is key to the city’s long-term planning efforts to integrate arts and culture into its green spaces. "Forming strong public-private partnerships helps build a solid foundation for success, and we look forward to showing off Ruby Hill Park as the standard for developing and programming urban parks around the country," she said.

Levitt Pavilion Denver will be the seventh venue in Levitt’s national network of outdoor performance venues. Other locations include Arlington, Texas; Bethlehem, Pa.; Los

Angeles; Memphis, Tenn.; Pasadena, Calif.; and Westport, Conn. Collectively, the Levitt network presents 300 free concerts and serves more than half a million people nationwide every year.

“Across the country, we’ve witnessed how the Levitt program brings people together of all ages and backgrounds, creating a vibrant community destination where all feel welcome,” said Sharon Yazowski, Executive Director of Levitt Pavilions. “The strength of the Levitt program is that it is community-driven. Each Levitt is a public/private partnership, representing the collective agreement of civic leaders and engaged citizens. This is central to the Levitt’s long-term success.”

Levitt Pavilion Denver is managed and programmed by a local Friends of Levitt nonprofit organization responsible for managing the pavilion, programming the 50 free concerts each season, and raising funds to support operations and programming. Today, Friends of Levitt Pavilion Denver officially launched its \$4.8 million fundraising campaign to build Levitt Pavilion Denver. The campaign has already received support from Levitt Pavilions, the City of Denver and the Greenway Foundation. Support from Denver’s private sector will be instrumental to the overall success of the campaign.

Levitt Pavilions has pledged \$1.2 million over five years in addition to \$100,000 each year in ongoing operational support to the project. These funds will be added to a \$2 million bond appropriation as announced by Denver Mayor Michael Hancock, combined with a pledge and partnership from the Greenway Foundation in addition to private and corporate contributions.

As a lifelong partner, Levitt Pavilions partners with civic and community leaders providing best practices and ongoing resources and support, and together with the Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation, it provides significant seed funding and guidance to get the pavilion up and running.

"This philanthropic move by the City of Denver and Levitt Pavilions will continue to make Denver one of the best cities in the world to live, work and play," said Chris Zacher, Executive Director of Friends of Levitt Pavilion Denver. "As a city we strive to cultivate the creative mind through the expansion of our cultural programs and offerings. The Levitt model will further that mission by providing a world-class creative outlet for all to enjoy, free of charge."

About Levitt Pavilions:

Levitt Pavilions is a national nonprofit that exists to strengthen the social fabric of America. Levitt Pavilions partners with cities to transform neglected outdoor spaces into welcoming destinations where the power of free, live music brings people together and invigorates community life.

At the heart of Levitt Pavilions is a passion to reinvigorate America’s public spaces and create opportunities for everyone to experience the performing arts in a community setting. The need for more “third places”—those informal gathering spots outside the realms of home and the workplace—has become increasingly clear in today’s world and guides Levitt Pavilions in its community-driven efforts.

Each pavilion provides a minimum of 50 free live concerts annually by acclaimed and emerging artists, offering a rich spectrum of music that celebrates all genres and cultures. The success of Levitt's six existing pavilions has piqued interest throughout America. Other cities slated to bring the Levitt program to their community include Houston and Sioux Falls, S. D., amongst others, and Levitt is currently in discussions with more than a dozen other cities.

Learn more: www.levittpavilions.org

Learn more about Levitt Denver and support its capital campaign: www.levittdenver.org

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