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VENICE GARDEN & HOME TOUR OFFERS INSIDER'S LOOK

(Venice, CA) –The Venice Garden & Home Tour will present more than thirty gardens and homes in its annual effort to raise funds for the Neighborhood Youth Association's Las Doradas Children's Center on Saturday, May 5, 2007 from 10am to 5pm. Visitors are treated to an intimate insider's view of Venice while discovering the latest in architectural and landscape transformations created by residents and leading landscape professionals.

Now in its 13th year of offering visitors fresh and exciting garden experiences, this year's **Venice Garden & Home Tour** features historic walk-streets, mostly hidden from view, a short stroll east of the trendy shops and cafes on Abbot Kinney Boulevard. Over a hundred years ago, Abbot Kinney designed Venice as a beachfront resort with waterways and walkways, to recreate the Venetian ambience in Venice, California. In this unique community, the neighborhoods and byways bring a sense of being miles from the noise and distractions of the city. Tour-goers will see beach bungalows with trailing roses and intimate pocket gardens, as well as sleek contemporary homes showcasing current art and our phenomenal California outdoor/indoor lifestyle. The meandering walking tour also features classic moss-green Craftsman homes tucked under canopies of ancient trees, tropical vegetation mixed with sturdy succulents, stately palm trees, tiny ponds and sparkling fountains. Many of the homes include artist spaces and home/work environments including a hand-lettering press studio, an exterior art studio of a noted automobile artist, an

animation studio with a roof garden, and the fascinating “one window house”.

The Venice Garden Tour & Home Tour always presents new and desirable living environments and this year will include two recently constructed “green” homes that demonstrate smart functional spaces and sustainable systems plus an architect’s minimalist prefab. The **Venice Garden & Home Tour** has earned its reputation as a much anticipated, inspiring and completely rewarding California Spring event.

Founded by local landscape designer Jay Griffith, activist Linda Lucks and businesswoman Jan Brilliot, the **Venice Garden & Home Tour** provides financial support for Neighborhood Youth Association’s Las Doradas Children’s Center. The Center offers at-risk children in Venice opportunity for the care and additional guidance that enables them to become productive and fulfilled members of the community. According to Vendella Barnett, Executive Director of NYA, “The Las Doradas Children’s Center is a safe haven for children with bright minds who are carefully nurtured by a dedicated staff. These children become effective learners who are ready to enter and excel in kindergarten.”

The 2007 self-guided walking **Venice Garden & Home Tour** starts at the Las Doradas Children’s Center, 804 Broadway (at the corner of Broadway and Pleasant View) in Venice at 10:00am and continues until 5:00 pm. Visitors should check-in before 2:00pm to allow time to see all of the beautiful gardens and homes. Neighborhood parking is available, as are shuttle buses. Tax-deductible tickets are \$60 if purchased in advance; \$70 if purchased the day of the Tour. Children under 12 years of age are admitted free. For tickets and information, please call 310-821-1857 or email us at venicegardentour@ca.rr.com, and visit our website at www.venicegardentour.org.

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