REC AND PARKS

New Skate Park Opens

Rec and Parks opens state-of-the-art skate plaza.

Cutting the ribbon at the Charmette Bonpua Safe Spot Skate Spot.

On Sept. 16, Rec and Parks opened a new skate park at the Rancho Cienega Sports Complex in the West Adams area of Los Angeles. The skate park, named the Charmette Bonpua Safe Spot Skate Spot, is named after the late chief of staff of Councilmember Herb Wesson.

Attending the event were Jon Kirk Mukri, General Manager, Rec and Parks; skateboarder Rob Dyrdek; and Councilmember Wesson, among others.

This public/private partnership came to fruition after the Rob Dyrdek Foundation provided $50,000 to design and assist in construction and Councilmember Wesson and Rec and Parks worked together to secure an additional $250,000 in funds to complete the construction and landscaping improvements for the new skate plaza. The result is a 15,000-square-foot skate plaza that will surely be known as one of the nation's premier public skating venues.

"I am trilled to be dedicating another 'Safe Spot Skate Spot' in partnership with Rob Dyrdek and Councilman Herb Wesson," Mukri said. "Rob's partnership with the Department of Recreation and Parks and, his commitment to helping us provide safe, friendly, and easily accessible skate plazas throughout the City of Los Angeles has been simply amazing. These skate plazas incorporate street skate style themes and design features, which satisfy the needs of today's urban youth street skaters.

"The 'Safe Spot Skate Spot' at Rancho Cienega Sports Complex takes on even more of a special meaning as it is being named in memory of Charmette Bonpua, a dedicated City employee, community advocate, and former Chief Deputy to Councilman Herb Wesson. This skate plaza will stand as a testament to Charmette's commitment to improving recreational opportunities for this community, and at the Rancho Cienega Sports Complex. Without the dedication of Charmette, and Councilman Wesson, we would not have a new skate plaza, tennis courts, and soon new soccer fields for the community to use and enjoy at this park. Thank you to all involved, including our own Recreation and Parks staff and the Los Angeles Parks Foundation for helping make this project possible," he said.

"Our kids love skateboarding. Unfortunately, there are so few places in our community where they can safely skateboard," Wesson said. "This new state-of-the-art facility is going to make a tremendous difference for our kids."

"Charmette loved kids and understood the need for this facility. Her inspired leadership helped create this facility. I am also pleased that this is the first recreation facility in Los Angeles named after a Filipino American."

From left: Rob Dyrdek and Councilman Herb Wesson.

At the skate park dedication.

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A feature of the new skate park.

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