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MEDIA ADVISORY

Innovative Affordable Housing Rehabilitation at 700 Simmons Pilots Alternative Ownership Model in East Los Angeles

Fideicomiso Comunitario Tierra Libre, Little Tokyo Service Center, and LA Community Land Trust Coalition Mark Milestone in Affordable Housing Preservation

What: Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC) and Fideicomiso Comunitario Tierra Libre (FCTL) will host a ribbon cutting and block party event to celebrate their first community land trust (CLT) project, 700 Simmons. The renovation of this previously neglected 11-unit property in East Los Angeles is part of a recent county-wide pilot program implementing a CLT strategy as an alternative ownership model to secure long-term affordable housing, promote community control, and prevent displacement. The LA County Board of Supervisors dedicated approximately $14 million for acquisition and rehab projects as part of this 2020 pilot CLT initiative.

With rehabilitation complete, including upgrades and renovations like new water heaters and a new electrical system, LTSC will transfer the land and building to FCTL who will work with residents to identify a community ownership model that best suits them. Through this housing model we aim to lower monthly housing costs, provide healthier and safer housing, promote neighborhood stability through perpetually affordable, community-controlled housing, and provide wealth creation through homeownership.

When: Thursday, October 24, 2024; Program begins at 9:30 AM followed by a block party.

Where: 700 Simmons Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90022
Street parking is limited in the surrounding area. Please use public transit or rideshare. Early arrival is recommended.

Who:
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Supervisorial District 1, Los Angeles County
Erich Nakano, Executive Director, Little Tokyo Service Center
Debbie Chen, Director of Real Estate, Little Tokyo Service Center
Vanessa Gonzalez, Co-Director, Fideicomiso Comunitario Tierra Libre
Roberto Garcia-Ceballos, Co-Director, Fideicomiso Comunitario Tierra Libre
Mariana Puche-Hernandez, Board Member and 700 Simmons Resident, FCTL
Emilio Salas, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Development Authority
Justine Gonzalez, Executive Director, Sr. Lead Specialist for Philanthropy & Community Impact, Wells Fargo
Lisa Hasegawa, Regional Vice President, Western Region, NeighborWorks America
Lee Farmer, Director, Loan Origination, Nonprofit Finance Fund

Visuals: Speakers at a podium in front of the renovated project. A ribbon cutting with large scissors by staff, honored guests, and residents in front of the project. A block party with locals enjoying food, drink, resources and entertainment.

Photo/Video and Interview Opportunities: All attendees will have photo/video consent. Interviews are available upon request.

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ABOUT LTSC
Little Tokyo Service Center is a social service and community development organization that has been creating positive change for the people and places in Southern California for 40 years. Starting with its home in Little Tokyo, LTSC preserves and strengthens the unique ethnic communities of the region where people, culture and collective future matter. www.LTSC.org

ABOUT FCTL
Fideicomiso Comunitario Tierra Libre (FCTL) was formed in 2019 by predominantly women, immigrant families, activists, and community-based organizations in Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles, who made a strategic decision to pursue housing justice and work on an alternate pathway towards sustainable and affordable housing by choosing a community land trust model. www.fctl.la