

## Los Angeles Receives 'Playful City USA' Designation

Los Angeles was named one of 67 Playful City USA cities by KaBOOM!, a national non-profit dedicated to bringing play back into children's lives, and gubo, a television and online service for children, who announced the list of 2008 *Playful City USA* communities on NBC-TV on the morning of Saturday, Sept. 6, 2008.

In its second year, *Playful City USA* is a national recognition program that honors cities and towns across the country committed to taking action for play; the program values recreational activities for young people and recognizes that the encouragement of residents, especially children and youth, to lead an active outdoor lifestyle improves their overall health and well-being.

"It's great that Los Angeles was named a Playful City," said Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. "I believe that a child at play does much more than promote a healthy environment. It's a sign of vibrancy in

communities all across the city of Los Angeles."

Recreation and Parks General Manager Jon Kirk Mukri seconded, "The Playful City USA campaign helps promote an active lifestyle and highlights the need to provide safe and accessible recreation opportunities for every child. We're pleased to have a Playful City USA designation."

New York, Orlando and St. Petersburg were among other *Playful City USA* cities whose agendas demonstrated creative commitments to engage play in their neighborhoods, such as access to city wide places to play, the quality and safety of existing playgrounds and the quantity of play spaces provided.

The 2008 *Playful City USA* list marks the first time that Los Angeles joins the circle of lauded cities. Twenty-six others, including Atlanta and San Francisco, also made the list in 2007.



Left: Children from Kamp Kaleidoscope take part in the first Playful City USA Play Day held at Hanslem Dan Recreation Center on Aug. 15.