

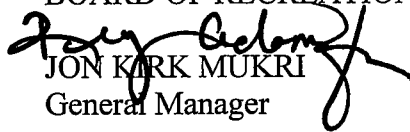
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

October 3, 2012

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

FROM:


JON KIRK MUKRI
General Manager

SUBJECT: L.A. SHARES CONTRIBUTIONS TO RECREATION AND PARKS

L.A. SHARES is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which takes donations from the local business community of reusable goods and materials (both new and used) and redistributes these items free of charge to non-profit organizations and schools throughout Los Angeles County. L.A. SHARES has formally included Recreation and Parks (RAP) in this beneficial and unique regional recycling program for over a decade.

Created in 1991, L.A. SHARES was formerly a pilot program for the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department known as "Materials for the Arts." In 1994, in an effort to expand beyond the Los Angeles city limits and service even more non-profit groups and schools, L.A. SHARES became an independent, non-profit organization. They continue to utilize the former Costume Workshop building in Griffith Park, which is under the auspices of Cultural Affairs, as one of their warehouses. Since 1991, L.A. SHARES has worked with over 1,000 local companies to give away more than \$80,000,000.00 worth of goods and materials to over 2,500 organizations throughout Los Angeles County.

The key to L.A. SHARES' ability to receive and re-donate millions of dollars of furniture and supplies annually is their interactive website and database. Interested schools and non-profits, including each RAP recreation center director, create an online profile of their organization, school, or recreation center, including a "Wish List" and "Top 20 List" of needed items. This profile is then entered into the L.A. SHARES relational database, which proactively identifies each organization's needs and continuously seeks to match those needs with the donated items on record. When a need is matched, the recipient is notified, via e-mail, to come to one of the two area warehouses to retrieve their items or instructed to go directly to the donor for pick-up. This state-of-the-art system is designed to help schools and non-profits obtain needed items quickly. L.A. SHARES employs a lottery system for highly desired items when they become available for donation, and also hosts warehouse shopping appointments by which organizations can tour the available materials and make selections that will help fulfill their needs. Over 150 RAP facilities utilize the wish list and shopping days. Items like office supplies, art supplies and desk organizers are valuable supplements for our facilities. Large items such as office desks, filing

cabinets, and book cases are available throughout the year which update RAP's office furnishings and allow RAP to change out antiquated and worn-out furniture.

The L.A. SHARES program benefits local businesses as well as the recipients. Donors receive tax deductions for items contributed and save on the disposal cost of unwanted items. By utilizing L.A. SHARES, California businesses adhere to Assembly Bill 939, which requires them to reduce their landfill-bound waste. In one year alone, L.A. SHARES can help companies divert more than 1,000 tons of useful goods and materials from needlessly entering local landfills.

L.A. SHARES has been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, The White House Task Force on Recycling, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, for its outstanding environmental achievement. L.A. SHARES is now used as a "model" program for similar materials reuse efforts throughout the country.

In addition to helping RAP, L.A. SHARES has provided materials to more than 2,500 organizations and schools throughout Los Angeles.

This report was prepared by Vicki Israel, Assistant General Manager, Partnership and Revenue Division.