

**Quality and Productivity Commission**  
**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program**  
**"Heritage of Excellence"**

**2016 APPLICATION**

Title of Project (Limited to 50 characters, including spaces, using Arial 12 point font):

**NAME OF PROJECT: EAST LOS ANGELES PARKLETS**

**DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION/ADOPTION:** DECEMBER 22, 2014  
 (Must have been implemented at least one year - on or before July 1, 2015)

**PROJECT STATUS:**  Ongoing  One-time only

**HAS YOUR DEPARTMENT PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED THIS PROJECT?**  Yes  No

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** Describe the project in 15 lines or less using Arial 12 point font. State clearly and concisely what difference the project has made.

1 The East Los Angeles Parklet project is an exemplary result of how a public entity and  
 2 local community business partnership can be successful. Parklets are sidewalk  
 3 extensions with amenities and are typically placed in road right-of-way or parking lots.  
 4 They showcase the benefits of having sidewalk amenities, such as public seating and  
 5 bicycle parking, as part of a sustainable community. They are designed to increase  
 6 pedestrian activity, create healthier lifestyles, and support local business and  
 7 communities. Three parklets were installed in East Los Angeles and are used by the  
 8 public to sit, relax, and enjoy the neighborhood. After installation of the parklet on  
 9 Mednik Avenue, Ron Mukai, owner of the East LA Civic Center Plaza, said "These  
 10 projects make it so that East LA becomes a destination and not just somewhere you're  
 11 just passing through to go somewhere else." Tony Gomez, sponsor of the parklet on  
 12 Mednik Avenue, noted that he has seen customers take food outside to eat and the  
 13 curiosity of the new space attracts business. By providing enhanced public space,  
 14 these parklets enrich the lives of East Los Angeles residents and align with the  
 15 community support and responsiveness goal of the County's strategic plan.

**BENEFITS TO THE COUNTY**

(1) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST AVOIDANCE	(2) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST SAVINGS	(3) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL REVENUE	(1) + (2) + (3) = TOTAL ANNUAL ACTUAL/ESTIMATED BENEFIT	SERVICE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
\$	\$	\$	\$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**ANNUAL = 12 MONTHS ONLY**

<b>SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS</b> County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works 900 South Fremont Avenue Alhambra, CA 91803		<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER</b>
<b>PROGRAM MANAGER'S NAME</b> Khai Chung Landscape Architect Architectural Engineering Division		<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER</b> 626-458-2577  <b>EMAIL</b> khchung@dpw.lacounty.gov
<b>PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME AND SIGNATURE</b> (PLEASE CALL (213) 893-0322 IF YOU DO NOT KNOW YOUR PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME)	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER</b>
Kimberly Y. Lyman <i>Kimberly Y. Lyman</i>	7/5/16	(626) 458-5975 <b>EMAIL</b> klyman@dpw.lacounty.gov
<b>DEPARTMENT HEAD'S NAME AND SIGNATURE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER</b>
Gail Farber <i>Gail Farber</i>	7-8-16	(626) 458-4002

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**1<sup>st</sup> FACT SHEET – LIMITED TO 3 PAGES ONLY:** Describe the **Challenge, Solution, and Benefits** of the project. State clearly and concisely what difference the project has made. Use Arial 12 point font

**Challenge:** Open space is limited in urban environments where cars dominate our streets. Communities and local businesses are looking for ways to increase pedestrian activity and enhance streetscapes. Eligible sponsors can apply for approval to create Parklets that enhance the quality of life in their community. Parklets address the need to attract sidewalk pedestrian traffic to sit, relax, and enjoy the immediate surroundings which supports local businesses and strengthen the opportunity for spontaneous social interaction.

**Solution:** The “Parklet” is an urban design enhancement device that was created as a modular system that is structurally sound, ADA accessible, economically feasible, and able to be recreated across different communities throughout the County. The discrete space establishes a semi-enclosed structure with seating areas, tables, and planters for native/drought resistant vegetation. This new sub-space converts the parallel parking area into an impromptu public park, expanding the experience and useable area of the sidewalk. It is able to do this by creating a sense of separation from the flow of pedestrians along the existing sidewalk while also having a closed edge, containing the outside edge of the Parklet from passing cars. The ground surface of the Parklet is constructed to match the existing sidewalk curb, projecting into the area that would have been occupied by a parallel parked car(s).

Parklets are flexible in their size and able to add fixed furniture components and modules to respond to each unique site. Although they are composed of permanent materials using recycled lumber decking and standard off-the-shelf hardware, they are not as costly as permanent changes in the re-design/alignment of concrete sidewalk, new curb and gutter, and modifications to the drainage system that those permanent changes would require. However, the flexibility in installation or their removal make Parklets affordable alternatives which could warrant and justify permanent road-diet and other multi-modal (pedestrian, bike, etc.,) urban design redevelopment strategies to later be added to enhance the community.

The Parklet is positioned within the footprint of an existing parallel parking spot(s) and located in commercially zoned areas, and given a secure barrier from errant vehicles. The components of the Parklet can be selected to meet the unique opportunities of the site that will be situated. The “Parklet Application Manual” developed technical details using recycled lumber decking and standard off-the-shelf hardware to create bench style built-in seating, tables, and, planters for drought tolerant landscape plants. Plants will need to be supplemented with hand watering by each Parklet’s adopting neighborhood business or community group.

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The East Los Angeles Parklet project is an exemplary result of how a public entity and local community business partnership can be successful.

By providing enhanced public space, these parklets enrich the lives of East Los Angeles residents and align with the community support and responsiveness goal of the County's strategic plan. The sponsors for parklets in East Los Angeles were So-Cal Burgers, Raspados y Bionicos El Machin, and El Kiosko Mexican Grill.

**Benefits:**

**Social Benefit.** Parklets improve, enhance, and project a highly visible public space for the community while emphasizing that streets are venues for social interaction and vibrancy. As Public Works Director Gail Farber observed that with these Parklets, "We are transforming street spaces into people places...(and) are focusing on our communities' health and well-being."

**Economic Benefit.** The Parklets encourage increased levels of walking and bicycling which, in turn, support local business communities. The added public space is used by the general public to sit, relax, and enjoy a neighborhood. The increase in pedestrian traffic and use of the parklets become a part of how people locate goods and services from the adjoining store fronts which are sharing and promoting the immediate area and surrounding district as a somewhere to frequent. Ron Mukai, owner of the East LA Civic Center Plaza, observed that after the installation of the Parklet, "These projects make it so that East LA becomes a destination and not just somewhere you're just passing through to go somewhere else." Tony Gomez, one of Mukai's tenants, has noted he has seen customers take food outside to eat, and the curiosity of the new space attracts business and pedestrians to stop and sit at the Parklet.

**Environmental Benefit.** The Parklets create built works that showcase the benefits of having amenities such as public seating and places to gather as part of a sustainable community. The shift from the focus on using an automobile, to expanding more opportunities to travel by foot or bike, decreases the collective carbon footprint caused by using the automobile for local and short errands. Road paving and associated repairs are also impacted by extending their use and reducing the need for their frequency in being demolished, repaved, and replaced. The Parklets therefore demonstrate the County's leadership and commitment to efforts that contribute to a Green and Sustainable Environment.

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East Los Angeles Parklet – First St. and Mednik Ave.

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN (DETAIL IS REQUIRED FOR COUNTY DEPARTMENTS):** Use Arial 12 point font

The parklet project is linked to the County Strategic Plan through the following:

**Team Work and Collaboration:** The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (DPW) worked with the sponsor and the community from concept to installation. The project involved a team made up of the private sector (sponsor), the community (customer), and a public agency (DPW).

**Professionalism and Customer Orientation –** DPW analyzed potential locations for parklets that were ideal and safe. Safety measures were incorporated into the design including raised median islands, planters, lane striping, and bollard delineators.

**Integrity and Responsiveness –** To ensure a high quality product for the communities benefit, the parklets were skillfully designed by DPW's landscape architects and they were inspected throughout the construction process. DPW's parklets are designed in modules that can be moved and reused at different locations. Drought tolerant plants are specified, and recycled materials are used for the decking and seating.

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**COST AVOIDANCE, COST SAVINGS, AND REVENUE GENERATED (ESTIMATED BENEFITS TO THE COUNTY):** If you are claiming cost benefits, include a calculation on this page. You must include an explanation of the County cost savings, cost avoidance or new revenue that matches the numbers in the box. Remember to keep your supporting documentation. Use Arial 12 point font

**Cost Avoidance:** Costs that are eliminated or not incurred as a result of program outcomes.

**Cost Savings:** A reduction or lessening of expenditures as a result of program outcomes.

**Revenue:** Increases in existing revenue streams or new revenue sources to the County as a result of program outcomes.

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