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## **DENVER'S CIVIC CENTER SELECTED AS "FRONTLINE PARK" BY CITY PARKS ALLIANCE**

Washington, D.C. – Civic Center in Denver, Colorado has been named a "Frontline Park" by the national urban park advocacy organization City Parks Alliance.

Each month, City Parks Alliance recognizes two "Frontline Parks" to promote and highlight inspiring examples of urban park excellence, innovation, and stewardship across the country. The program also seeks to highlight examples of the challenges facing our cities' parks as a result of shrinking municipal budgets, land use pressures, and urban neighborhood decay.

"We selected Civic Center for recognition because it exemplifies the power of public-private partnerships to create and maintain urban parks that build community and make our cities sustainable and vibrant" said Catherine Nagel, Executive Director of City Parks Alliance. "We hope that by shining the spotlight on this park that we can raise awareness about both the necessity and the promise of these kinds of partnerships to spur investment in our nation's urban parks."

Civic Center is the city's primary cultural and civic public space. As the most significant historic resource in the Denver Parks and Recreation system, Civic Center is one of the most complete and intact City Beautiful style civic centers in the country. Surrounded by the City County Building, Colorado State Capitol, Greek Theater, Voorhies Memorial and the McNichols Building (formerly the Carnegie Library), its importance is recognized by the National Register of Historic Places and the Civic Center Historic District, a Denver Landmark District.

Civic Center is the primary green space in the center of the city, and as such, it serves as both regional and neighborhood park. The urban park hosts the Rocky Mountain region's largest public festivals, political rallies, and public celebrations. The neo-classical architecture in the park provides the perfect backdrop to one of the city's largest public art collections. The experience is a draw for hundreds of thousands of tourists each year.

In 2005, a comprehensive master plan was adopted for the park, which recommended the formation of a non-profit organization, the Civic Center Conservancy ([www.civiccenterconservancy.org](http://www.civiccenterconservancy.org)). The public-private partnership has grown significantly through passionate volunteerism to restore, enhance and activate Denver's historic Civic Center. In 2007, the Better Denver Bond invested \$9.5 million in the complete rehabilitation of the park's historic structures.

"Civic Center is the heart and soul of Denver," says Denver's Parks and Recreation Manager Lauri Dannemiller. "It's a destination park for residents and visitors alike, known by many as a rendezvous for the largest and most important cultural and civic events. From festivals to fireworks to presidential speeches, Civic Center has it all and we are honored it has been recognized as a Frontline Park."

Civic Center will be featured on CPA's website, [www.cityparksalliance.org](http://www.cityparksalliance.org), during the month of November. Rotary Centennial Park in Long Beach, California was also selected as a "Frontline Park" in November.

The "Frontline Parks" program is made possible with generous support from DuMor, Inc. ([www.dumor.com](http://www.dumor.com)) and PlayCore ([www.playcore.com](http://www.playcore.com)).

*City Parks Alliance is the only independent, nationwide membership organization solely dedicated to urban parks. It unites and serves a growing network of hundreds of civic and community leaders, government agencies, park and recreation authorities, funders and others. CPA's vision is that everyone in urban America will live within walking distance of a park that is clean, safe and vibrant. [www.cityparksalliance.org](http://www.cityparksalliance.org)*

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