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PRESS RELEASE

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HACLA Partners with will.i.am's i.am.angel Foundation to Provide Educational and Recreational Programs at Estrada Courts Public Housing

Los Angeles – The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) and the i.am.angel Foundation today announced a partnership to provide STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Athletics and Math) programs at Estrada Courts public housing community in Boyle Heights.

“I grew up in Estrada Courts and I always knew that it was a special place with many special people. For me, investing in America’s future starts at a place closest to my heart, Boyle Heights,” explained will.i.am. “I am excited to launch this program at Estrada and thank the entire i.am.angel staff for working so hard to ensure that we can provide this incredible place-based program to serve hundreds of youth.”

The Foundation launched i.am Boyle Heights in 2011 and since the initiative was implemented 500 students have been served through various programs such as i.am College Track, 100,000 strong and the i.am Scholarship. Many of the youth residing in our Boyle Heights public housing developments are participating in these programs.

Most recently, the i.am First Robotics program was launched in Boyle Heights at Roosevelt High School. The team of 20 students spent five weeks designing and building a robot to compete in the international FIRST Robotics Competition in St. Louis in April.

“I want to thank will.i.am and the dedicated staff of the Foundation for believing in our youth; believing that if you give them the right tools that they can and will succeed,” said Douglas Guthrie, HACLA President and CEO. “The programs and services offered by the Foundation will enable our youth to be innovative and think big. Ultimately, the goal is to empower them to have a dream and work to make it a reality.”

The programs will be run out of the Community Center at Estrada Courts. The new facility will be named the Angel Center. The mission of the “Angel Center” will be centered on four core areas: Early Education Literacy, STEAM Programming, Homework Assistance and Tutoring and Physical Education. Youth ages 6 – 18 will have a place to create, play, imagine, make, collaborate and share ideas Monday through Friday from 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Youth will participate in classes such as Code Busters, Robotics Team, Bookworms and many other productive programs. The Foundation will provide expanded programming during the summer and winter while the youth are out of school.



The HACLA has similar afterschool programs through non-profit partners at four other public housing communities throughout the City.

About the i.am.angel Foundation

Seven-time Grammy winning musician will.i.am launched the i.am.angel Foundation in 2009 to TRANS4M lives through education, inspiration and opportunity. As a part of his commitment to philanthropy, will.i.am and the i.am.angel Foundation administer charitable activities and programs targeted towards providing college scholarships (i.am scholarship), financial literacy, home mortgage assistance (i.am Home) and college preparation and student life (i.am College Track).

About HACLA

The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) is a state-chartered public agency. It provides the largest stock of affordable housing in Los Angeles and is one of the nation's leading public housing authorities. It is also one of the oldest, providing quality housing options and supportive services to the citizens of Los Angeles since 1938.

