

**EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS  
NORTH AREA NEIGHBORHOOD  
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**



A Certified City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council

**P.O. Box 7536  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
[ecnandc@gmail.com](mailto:ecnandc@gmail.com)  
[www.nandc.org](http://www.nandc.org)**

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**Area 3:**

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**PROCLAMATION**

**Preserving Public Spaces - Exposition Park Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Library  
October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

We the Governing Board of the Empowerment Congress North Area Neighborhood Development Council, in fulfillment of our mission to represent the interests of this community and to notify Public Officials and entities of the wishes of this community do hereby proclaim our support for preserving the Exposition Park Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Library structure as a community space.

Whereas, a recent survey of local residents, conducted by the Committee to Save Bethune for Community Use; confirms the demand of residents that the Bethune structure be maintained as a public space that serves the immediate community. 100% of the residents surveyed favored retaining the building for community services such as after-school programs for area youth, including tutoring, mentoring, computer classes, job training, and adult education classes.

Whereas, for more than 30 years the Bethune Library has provided a safe environment for children and adults to learn and explore the world, and whereas, the loss of a low-cost, no-cost public facility which serves the overwhelming and well documented needs of this community will be a heavy blow to those living in the immediate vicinity.

Now, therefore, we proclaim our support and strongly urge and encourage unity and cooperation from Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Councilmember Bernard C. Parks, Councilmember Ed Reyes and the Board of Library Commissioners. We ask that a remedy be found that preserves the Exposition Park Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Library structure as a community space. Signed and sealed this 6th day of October, 2005.