

# News Release

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## **GARDENS OF THE WORLD THREE TIMES CHOICE OF VENTURA COUNTY STAR READERS**

(Newbury Park, CA) The Gardens of the World in Thousand Oaks is celebrating its eleventh year of operation and readers of the Ventura County Star have selected the city's cultural icon as their favorite in three, separate categories in the newspaper's 2012 Readers' Choice Awards.

The Gardens of the World won three awards as the best "Place to Chill," nicest "Place to Spend a Day Off," and finest "Place to Take Visitors." Over 5,900 people voted in 126 categories, ranging from American food to windows and doors. There were more than 106,000 votes cast; a record for the competition.

Ed Hogan, chairman, president, and CEO of the Hogan Family Foundation, which owns and operates the Gardens of the World, said, "Mrs. Hogan and I are extremely proud and pleased of the public's reception of the Gardens, which we envisioned to be a place for family and friends to enjoy cultural beauty and entertainment for many years to come!"

Since its opening to the public in 2001, the Gardens of the World has hosted some 250,000 visitors from all parts of the world and that number is growing at more than 25,000 annually. This coming August, the popular venue will present its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Jazz Concerts, which feature talented musicians from around the world and entertains thousands of area residents.

The Gardens also sponsors events such as its California History Education Program. Over 14,000 fourth grade students from area schools have already participated in this program. And, for art lovers, some nine exhibits are held every year at the Garden's Resource Center to feature works by local artists.

The Gardens of the World is a 4.5-acre cultural garden open free to the public and located across the street from the Thousand Oaks Civic Center. The authentically-landscaped Gardens commemorate various cultures of the world, including Italian, French, Japanese, and English. Reservations are required for docent-led tours and any group visits. For more information, visit the venue at 2001 E. Thousand Oaks Boulevard or go online at [www.gardensoftheworld.info](http://www.gardensoftheworld.info).

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