

GRAND OPENING: A NEW CROSSWALK AND SIGNAL ON CAHUENGA BLVD WEST

For many years **Theatre West** has been an important part of this neighborhood and CPPOA has always considered itself lucky to have this cultural resource in our community. Executive Director **John Gallogly** is committed to making sure that all children, no matter what their parents' financial situation might be, have access to cultural enrichment.

For 26 years Theatre West has had a Storybook Theatre program for youngsters from age 3-9 years old, ranked by *LA Parent Magazine* as the Number 1 children's theatre in Southern California and identified by *The Los Angeles Times* as "simply the best at what they do." Children from all over Los Angeles County attend these theatre performances. For many it is the first time they have ever seen a live performance.

But great success brought with it a problem: Parking for Storybook Theatre is across the street from the theatre and there was no crosswalk or signal to allow parents with small children to cross safely. On Saturdays we watched in fear as parents, holding toddlers in their arms and primary-school children by the hand, waited in the middle of the street for the cars speeding by in both directions to allow them to cross.

CPPOA decided that installing a new signal and crosswalk had to be one of its primary goals.

It took several years and great commitment from City personnel such as **Renee Weitzer**, then-CD4 Chief of Staff & Senior Planning Deputy, and **Jay Kim**, Assistant General Manager for the Los Angeles Dept. of Transportation, and the financial assistance of **Bill McGregor**, president of The McGregor Company and developer of the Hanna-Barbera project, to make this happen.

But at long last ... everyone gathered at Theatre West one morning, including children from Valley View Elementary School in the Pass, to celebrate this accomplishment by cutting the ribbon and taking the first walk across the new crosswalk with then-**Councilmember Tom LaBonge** and the **in-costume actors** from Storybook Theatre.