



## CITY OF UPLAND PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **City of Upland Breaks Ground on Tom Thomas Magnolia Plaza**

*New downtown plaza will create a welcoming gathering space,  
support local businesses, and honor community legacy*

**Upland, CA – May 14, 2026** – The City of Upland officially broke ground on the Tom Thomas Magnolia Plaza on Thursday, May 14, marking the start of construction on a new public gathering space in the heart of Historic Downtown Upland.

Once complete, the plaza will provide open space for community gatherings, holiday celebrations, small concerts, and everyday use by residents and visitors. It will also serve as a trailhead for Upland’s segment of the Pacific Electric Trail, creating a natural stopping point for cyclists and pedestrians traveling through the city, encouraging them to stop, rest, and visit downtown businesses.

By adding seating, open space, landscaping, and a more welcoming pedestrian environment, the project is designed to encourage people to stop, gather, visit local businesses, and spend more time enjoying Historic Downtown Upland.

During the ceremony, Mayor Bill Velto recognized the Tom Thomas family and the Roman “Roach” Foronda family, whose names will be memorialized through the project. “To the Tom Thomas family, thank you for being part of this moment and for the legacy connected to this plaza,” said Mayor Velto. “We are honored to carry that name forward in a way that will serve the community for years to come. We also recognize the Roman “Roach” Foronda family here today, and we are grateful for your connection to this project and to our city.”

“This plaza is going to be incredibly meaningful for Downtown Upland,” said District 4 Councilmember Rudy Zuniga. “It will create a place where people can gather, support our local businesses, and experience the sense of community that makes our downtown so special. On a personal level, I am especially honored to be part of a project that will serve our community while also honoring my friend, former Councilmember Tom Thomas, and the legacy he leaves in Upland.”

Construction is expected to be completed in 2026. The City plans to host a grand opening and ribbon cutting to celebrate the new plaza with the community.

The City extends its sincere thanks to the many partners, leaders, community members, and staff who helped make the project possible.



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[Photography Available Here](#)

### **About the City of Upland, California:**

The City of Upland, located in San Bernardino County, is known for its rich history, picturesque landscapes, and community-oriented atmosphere. Established in 1906, Upland boasts a population of approximately 77,000 residents and covers an area of 15.6 square miles. The city is situated at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains, providing scenic beauty and a range of outdoor recreational activities.

Upland is a community with a rich history and a promising future. Known for its beautiful historic architecture and vibrant community spirit, Upland is a great place to live, work, and play.

### **City of Upland Mission Statement:**

The City of Upland is committed to delivering superior services that meet community needs with transparency and integrity.

### **City of Upland Vision Statement:**

Upland is a safe community with historic character where residents enjoy a high quality of life.

For more information about the City of Upland, please visit our website at [www.uplandca.gov](http://www.uplandca.gov) or contact us at (909) 931-4100. Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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