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Candy-colored spheres bring MacArthur Park's lake alive



Volunteers install 3,000 inflated vinyl spheres in the water at MacArthur Park. The project is the brainchild of brothers Bernie and Ed Massey. (Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times)

By **Thomas Curwen** AUGUST 22, 2015

When artist Ed Massey imagines the lake at MacArthur Park in five days, he sees a field of candy-like multicolored gumdrops — red, blue, pink, green and yellow — afloat upon an urban sea.

Massey's confectioner's dream began to materialize Saturday as volunteers arrived at the park in a small fleet of trucks and vans carrying colorful piles of plastic that once inflated, came to life as brightly painted, vinyl spheres that will pepper the water like confetti.

A small motorboat and a canoe helped maneuver these orbs — some as large as 6 feet across and painted with flowers — toward the center of the lake, where they were tethered to a floating boom that stretched across the water.