



Park and Recreation Commission

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

DATE: JULY 13, 2015

**FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY
SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

ITEM NO:

SUBJECT: JUNE COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION MONTHLY REPORT

ISSUE:

The issue before the Park and Recreation Commission is a monthly update of the Community Services Division's programs and activities.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Commission receive the monthly update of the Community Services Division's programs and activities.

BACKGROUND:

The following is a summary of activities that took place within the Community Services Division in June:

Community Centers

César Chávez Community Center

1. Monday, June 15, marked the beginning of the most enjoyable and interactive time of the year! The summer opened with the Summer Mini-Day Camp servicing children ages 5-12 from Monday, June 15, through Friday, August 21. Staff is excited to report Mini-Day Camp is currently filled to full capacity for the first four weeks of camp. In addition to the fun-filled daily activities such as arts and crafts, board games, and physical activities; the Mini-Day campers unquestionably enjoyed field trips to Corona Del Mar Beach, Castle Park and Cal Skate in Grand Terrace. Participants are looking forward to a fun-filled summer participating in arts and crafts, sports activities, group games, swimming, and weekly excursions.
2. The staff at César Chávez is currently recruiting coaches and players to fill the rosters for the annual Rookieball baseball season. Children will learn the fundamentals of baseball while enjoying a great time with friends on the field.

Riverside Arts Academy

1. During the month of June, Riverside Arts Academy registered 290 participants for classes. Currently, parents are registering their children for the next six-week session, which begins on Monday, July 20. New classes during the summer session include Violin and Art Design.

2. Riverside Arts Academy staff continued to promote the “Studio Art Workshop,” held on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Participants enrolled in the program learned theater, music, dance, and art. Over 70 participants registered for the one-day workshops.
3. Instructors of Riverside Arts Academy are currently promoting and presenting at the City’s eight libraries through their Summer Reading Program. The presentation includes interactive activities, Read to the Rhythm, a “Petting Zoo” of small instruments, and a showcase of larger instruments. Over 110 participants attended the one-hour sessions.

HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) Zone

1. HEAL staff hosted a Pre-Trip Parent Meeting for youth council members interested in attending the Los Angeles Youth Convening in Universal City on Tuesday, June 2. Parents met HEAL staff, learned about the trip, and asked questions regarding departure, arrival times, and room assignments. At the meeting, the teens displayed newly developed Teen Cuisine cooking skills and the teens were excited to cook for their families! Kaiser conducted a HEAL Zone Youth Training where the youth learned approaches to advocating for change in the City or school districts.
2. Thursday, June 4, HEAL staff and two members of the youth council conducted a park assessment for Systematic Observation of Physical Activity and Its Context (SOPARC) at Lincoln Park. SOPARC is a validated direct observation tool for assessing park and recreation areas, including park users’ physical activity levels, gender, activity modes/types, and estimated age and ethnicity groupings. The youth council volunteered to do assessments before and after the installation of the outdoor physical fitness equipment. The installation of the equipment is estimated to be completed by the end of 2015.
3. The last Teen Cuisine of the 2014-15 school years was held on Friday, June 5. The teens created delicious baked sweet potato fries with savory turkey sliders. The delightful aroma of the mouthwatering delicacy the teens prepared filled the air in the Youth Opportunity Center, where the Teen Cuisine class is offered. Neither teens nor staff could resist getting a second plate of goodies.
4. “Awesome spike!”, “Nice set!”, and “Great serve!” could be heard during HEAL Zone’s physical activity class, implemented by HEAL staff for the Youth Opportunity Center’s Teen Mini-Day Camp on June 15. After an hour of volleyball drills and an exciting game of volleyball, 15 teens participated in a HEAL Zone nutrition class, where they made green smoothies. Every Monday, the teens will be participating in a HEAL Zone physical activity such as flying disc baseball, crab soccer, basketball, and volleyball, along with a nutrition class.
5. In addition, HEAL Zone staff implemented physical activity classes for the Mini-Day Camps at Bobby Bonds, Bordwell, Lincoln, and Patterson Parks. The youth have participated in activities such as plastic hoop games, parachute games, aerobic games, and Start New At Golf (SNAG).
6. Four members of the Eastside HEAL Zone Youth Council and two HEAL staff attended Kaiser HEAL Zone Youth Training at the Hilton Universal City on June 23 and 24. During the two day training the youth council members learned many fundamentals. One class focused on advocacy with a topic about “What are Targets, Allies, and Tactics?” also, “What is Your Task and Who is Your Base?” Additionally, the Youth gained a better understanding of local government structures. The Youth Council members developed an

effective advocacy plan which will assist in the enforcement of legislation #SB1413. Legislation #SB1413 is the Water Access in Schools Bill which requires school districts to make free, fresh drinking water available in school food service areas by January 1, 2012. However, the young people would like to get the bill amended so that access to fresh, clean, and free drinking water was available throughout the school and school day including any afterschool programming.

Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention (NEOP)

1. On June 3, staff attended Photo Voice training in San Diego where they learned how to engage children in photo voice projects, conduct a photo walk, analyze the ways photographs reflect the community, and how to empower children to advocate for healthier communities and schools. This training provided Staff with new skills and ideas to help build the youth engagement in the City.
2. In collaboration with NEOP partners, the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department facilitated the activities portion for the Summerfest: Fit, Fresh and Fun event held on June 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Don Lorenzi Park. The activities section had three stations, including an obstacle course, relay race, and an educational station teaching the importance of physical activity. The purpose of providing physical activities is to encourage Riverside residents to be more physically active, and provide them with ideas for fun and inexpensive activities to enjoy with their families.
3. Staff is currently accepting registration for the 12-week Fit For You Boot Camp that begins on July 7, located at the César Chávez Community Center. Participants will learn new exercises to do at home and will be able to share ideas for healthy meals and snacks. Participants will receive a free goodie bag which will include cook books, health related pamphlets, a hat, and an apron.
4. During the month of June, NEOP Staff began teaching interactive, nutrition, educational classes and facilitating physical activities to the participants in the Summer Mini-Day Camps at Bobby Bonds, Bryant and Villegas Parks. The purpose of the nutrition classes is to educate youth on how to make healthier food choices. Staff uses a fun and interactive curriculum based lesson plan that teach participants about the five main food groups, how to read a label, the importance of physical activity, and much more. Staff also conducts food demonstrations for the participants and allows them to taste delicious healthy alternatives to unhealthy snacks. In efforts to promote physical activity, staff planned and facilitated several exciting activities for the participants such as group games, Yoga, obstacle courses, and much more.

Johnny Martin Sotelo Youth Opportunity Center (YOC)

1. The fifth volume of the R'Side of the Story series continues in its production process with the youth actively creating pieces of visual and written art to be added to the upcoming volume. Throughout the month, the youth that contributed to the book presented their pieces for the audience during Open Mic Night on June 26. Framed artwork from the previous book adorned the walls of the Youth Opportunity Center available for attendees to admire and observe what is to come for the next book release.
2. Summer Teen Camp enrollments have been very successful and spaces have been dwindling since the beginning of the summer. Every week, the teens are busy with indoor and outdoor sports, competitive group activities, art projects, video game tournaments,

swim opportunities, and exciting excursions. Summer camp youth explored Corona Del Mar beach, Knott's Berry Farm, and Drop Zone.

3. The Youth Accountability Team meets Tuesdays and Thursdays every week of summer to participate in the Helping Ourselves and Others Playing Sports (H.O.O.P.S) program spearheaded by District Attorney Hunter Taylor. The youth on Taylor's caseload are encouraged to participate in this program designed to keep them busy, active and accountable throughout the summer. They participate in competitive group sports, board game tournaments, and the Summer Foods Lunch Program offered at Bobby Bonds Park.
4. On June 12, Staff and Youth gathered at the YOC to rejoice in a once-in-a-lifetime achievement. Over 25 YOC participants and Eastside Riverside Heritage students, plus three staff members, celebrated their graduation from an educational institution. The young adults graduated from local public and charter schools after completing their A-G requirements, many of which struggled over the past year to retrieve missing credits that had previously hindered their success, and received their high school diploma. Two staff members received their Bachelors of Science from the University of California, Riverside. The third staff member received her Masters in Elementary Education with a state credential. Graduates received YOC personalized gifts and a certificate of congratulation from Councilman Melendrez.

Project BRIDGE and CalGRIP GRACE

1. Project BRIDGE Outreach Workers consistently followed up on their caseload to ensure resources are available to prevent gang lifestyle. The Outreach staff regularly assisted with job searches, applications, and Department of Motor Vehicles trips for identification and/or driver's license necessities of the young adults. Outreach workers further assisted teens with scheduling and the transportation to health and social service appointments.
2. CalGRIP GRACE's third cohort group diligently worked through the month. The participants earned excursions to the movies and Corona Del Mar beach this month to further build their interpersonal relationships and level of camaraderie. The students also prepped for a mock interview so they could practice and hone their interview skills. On June 25, the students gathered one last time at the YOC to complete a final evaluation with the instructors to review their progress throughout the entire program and start transition from GRACE to the Project BRIDGE caseload.

Eric M. Solander Center

1. Riverside Heritage John Muir Charter School finished the school year strong, providing academics and vocational training for students motivated to accumulate credits to be used toward their high school diploma. Students completed assigned classwork in their respective subjects, and worked toward the end-goal of graduation. The students ended their year with a beach trip, grad night event at Six Flags, and end-of-the-year celebration at Bryant Park. On June 19, thirty students and their families gathered at La Sierra Senior Center to celebrate their graduation. Families, friends, peers and staff cheered them on as they reveled in the fruits of all of their hard work.
2. This year, Riverside Heritage John Muir Charter School (RHJMCS) students served over 2,000 volunteer hours at various community and senior centers, parks, as well as local businesses. Their time and commitment helped improve the lives of City of Riverside residents as the students who volunteered at City-wide special events like the Mariachi Festival, Spring Egg Hunt, Eastside Fall Festival, Spark of Love, and Winter Wonderland.

3. Sixteen students completed the six month GRACE program. The GRACE participants did an amazing job maintaining Fairmount Park every Saturday. One of their proudest accomplishments involved an irrigation system installation for the Rose Garden at Fairmount Park. RHJMCS started their five week summer school session on July 6, and are currently enrolling students for the 2015-2016 school year which will begin August 24.

Friendly Stars

On June 19, the Friendly Stars participants enjoyed the Viva Las Vegas Prom. The crowd of 162 participants danced to the sounds of One Way Ticket and played creative versions of craps, twenty-one and roulette. Jack Rayburn and Stacey Box were crowned king and queen of the prom. During the month of June, participants kicked off the month with a Summertime Soiree and concluded with Beach Time Adventures.

Senior Programs

Dales Senior Center

1. Seniors paddled out for the Summer Luau Luncheon at the Dales Senior Center on June 10. More than 100 seniors broke out their Hawaiian Shirts and grass skirts to enjoy a delicious lunch of teriyaki chicken, macaroni salad, and Hawaiian shaved ice. The Mahana Polynesian Dance Company performed many fabulous Polynesian Dance routines for the seniors' entertainment. Participants also got the chance to learn some of the dance routines along with the performers.
2. On June 13, the 55 and Better Excursion Program spent the day sightseeing the exhibits at the Huntington Library. The Huntington Library boasts beautiful art exhibits, a botanical garden and a massive library. Participants had a chance to view a new arrival to the American Art Archive, "The Magna Carta," the charter agreed by The King of England on June 15, 1215. More than 50 seniors experienced one of the largest and most complete research libraries in the United States; with a collection that includes over 6 million items encompassing British, European, and American antiquities. Seniors also got a chance to explore Old Town Pasadena where they had a chance to visit many of the different shops and restaurants.
3. Becky Bowsher, a long-time member of the Dales Senior Center, volunteer and Advisory Board member, wrote her first book, entitled *Swinging on the Chicken-Yard Gate*. Based on her life, the story takes you through her schooling, early career and motherhood while she discovers who she really is. To celebrate her accomplishment, the Dales Senior Center hosted a book signing in Becky's honor. Seniors from the community gathered to congratulate Becky, get their book signed and share stories from their childhoods.

La Sierra Senior Center (LSSC)

1. La Sierra Senior Center partnered with Feed America to offer a free brown bag event on June 12, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This partnership provided 140 seniors with bags full of vegetables, rice, beans, whole chicken, two dozen eggs, three pounds of raisins, and a variety of juices.
2. La Sierra Senior Center held their Vintage Picnic Luncheon on June 18, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The event provided 107 seniors with a hearty meal of nachos, cheeseburgers, pasta salad, watermelon, carrot cake, and a beverage. The event included performances by two line dance classes and music by DJ/Crooner Ben Lizama.

3. On June 23, the ceramic class completed another firing of their items. They are continuing to build their catalogue of items to display at La Sierra Senior Center as well as items to sell at the Dales Christmas boutique.
4. Bridge continues to be a popular game played at the La Sierra Senior Center. Groups come in every Tuesday 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and the first and third Thursdays of the month 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. to meet with friends and share in a few games of bridge.
5. The La Sierra Senior Center received 80 Riverside Transit Agency bus tickets from the Transportation Access Program (TAP) during the month of June. Participants can receive up to four passes a month. Twenty of those tickets are used for the City of Riverside's Special Transportation services, which assists in transporting seniors to the center's programs.

Janet Goeske Center

The Janet Goeske Center is operated and managed by the Janet Goeske Foundation and averages over 22,000 visitors every month. The Center provides over 160 weekly activities for those age 50 years and older, the following is the recent offerings, programs, and activities:

1. On June 16, a group of 30 patrons traveled to the Long Beach area with Janet Goeske to experience Aquarium of the Pacific. The patrons enjoyed a day of relaxation, starting with lunch at Bubba Gump's and then walked over to the Aquarium of the Pacific. Before heading home for the evening, patrons did some shopping and/or took a stroll out on the pier.
2. New program to the Janet Goeske Center, "Taste it - Try it Series!" Bi-monthly, the Center's nutritionist will be on site providing presentations on how to satisfy their sweet tooth naturally at the Center's first series on June 17 and 23. Sixty patrons discovered how to naturally sweeten food, taste samples, recipes/dessert ideas, and tips on how to enjoy treats while managing their blood sugar with healthy alternatives.
3. The Janet Goeske Foundation sponsored fourteen "Fit, Fresh & Fun" and "Walking Trailblazers Fit Club" group participants, to attend the 2015 Mayor and Council Triathlon & Hot Dog BBQ at Fairmount Park on June 20. The attendees walked around the lake for the "Fit" part of the program and enjoyed the "Fresh" and "Fun" part of being outside enjoying the event.
4. In honor of Father's Day, the Janet Goeske Center celebrated with cake and conversation on June 21. The activity was sponsored by Raincross at Riverside MBK Senior Living. About 60 patrons had a wonderful afternoon at the center celebrating the gift of fatherhood. Everyone had a great time sharing special memories over a slice of cake.
5. On June 23, the Riverside County Office on Aging was at the Janet Goeske Center distributing free Farmers Market voucher books to those who met the qualified regulations of low income and were 60 years of age and older. The vouchers were good for each individual to purchase fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, honey and edible herbs at certified Farmers Market locations. The Riverside County Office on Aging distributed 170 \$20 voucher books (one voucher book per person).

Special Transportation

1. A Request for Proposal was written and Purchase Order was submitted on June 22, to have three AXIS Fixed Dome cameras strategically installed in the Special Transportation CNG Bay as a security measure to monitor maintenance equipment and tools. The project was awarded to Vector Resources Inc., Security Grant Funds were used for this project.
2. Special Transportation Supervisor, Byron Mayhan, attended the City of Riverside Commission on Disabilities meeting on July 6, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the No-Show Policy and Special Transportation operations. The revised No-Show Policy has been reviewed by the City and was written to dovetail Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) policy, minimizing confusion for Riverside paratransit clientele. The No-Show policy is designed to make passengers cognizant and informed of the cost and the negative impact no-shows have on the efficiency of the operation.
3. Special Transportation continues to market the program by recently placing an ad on the Ralph's Supermarket Pharmacy bags. The ad advertises the Special Transportation Services, informing seniors and disabled citizens about Special Transportation. As an additional marketing tool, Special Transportation recently purchased Braille brochures produced by Blindness Support. The Braille brochures are in English and Spanish, allowing sight impaired individuals an opportunity to be informed of their services.

Summer Food

The 2015 Summer Food program began on June 15. The program continues to meet the nutritional needs of youth in the city, serving over 20,000 meals during the first two weeks. Through decorating program sites with colorful signs and pennants, the picnic style program has caught the eye and sparked interest of youth within the community. In addition to meeting nutritional requirements, the Summer Food program invites participants to utilize Riverside parks. The Summer Food program is offered at Bobby Bonds, Bordwell, Bryant, Hunt, La Sierra, Lincoln, Nichols, Patterson, Reid, and Villegas Parks through August 21.

Training

Summer Staff In-Service – All part-time staff and Assistant Recreation Coordinators

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events	Date	Time
Fit For You Boot Camp	July 7	5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
4 th of July Spectacular Luncheon at Dales Senior Center	July 8	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Senior Excursion to Autry National Center and Griffith Park	July 11	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
La Sierra Senior Center Advisory Team Meeting	July 14	5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
BBQ Bash Luncheon – La Sierra Senior Center	July 16	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Volunteer Recognition BBQ at Fairmount Park	July 16	6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CalGRIP – GRACE Completion Ceremony	July 17	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Classic Country Social – Dales Senior Center	July 17	5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Dales Senior Center Advisory Board Meeting	July 21	10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
La Sierra Hana Hou Luau Dinner and Dance	July 21	6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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