



# Park and Recreation Commission

*City of Arts & Innovation*

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**TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS** **DATE: MARCH 16, 2020**

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

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON YOUTH INNOVATION CENTER AT ARLINGTON PARK**

## **ISSUE:**

Receive an update on the construction and programming components of the new Youth Innovation Center at Arlington Park.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Park and Recreation Commission receive and provide feedback on a report highlighting updates on the construction and programming components of the new Youth Innovation Center at Arlington Park.

## **BACKGROUND:**

On December 16, 2014, City Council directed staff to re-design existing plans for a childcare center to serve as a Youth Innovation Center and allocate funding for the design phase. Staff held off on bidding the project until January 29, 2018, so funding would be available for operating the facility once constructed.

On July 30, 2018, Act 1 Construction was issued a notice to proceed with constructing the approximately, 9,000 square foot Youth Innovation Center at Arlington Park.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **Construction**

The project is substantially completed with backslashes, low voltage (Wi-Fi, security systems and cameras) and furniture remaining to be completed.

### **Programming**

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department (PRCSD) Staff is currently working to confirm partnerships with the following agencies; FutureLink, C3 Initiative, Be A Maker Club, Music Changing Lives, and the Riverside Unified School District. Youth Innovation Center partnerships will include a variety of services such as technical support, offering low to no cost

classes, staff training, and consulting options. Agreements have been submitted to the City Attorney's Office and drafts are scheduled to be completed at the beginning of April.

Staff finalized the hiring of five part-time Instructors specializing in different tech fields such as: engineering, computer science, robotics, music production, etc. Recruitment and hiring were extended to the local colleges: California Baptist University, La Sierra University, University of California Riverside, and Riverside City College. Three of the candidates began in late February. The Recreation Services Coordinator was also selected during an extensive interview evaluation. The candidate is currently going through the hiring process and is expected to begin late-March.

The Department is still working on securing additional donors and sponsors. With the addition of the Recreation Services Coordinator and team, a more aggressive approach to secure sponsorships will begin in April. Staff did secure the sponsorship of Enoch Hwaug, a professor and robotic enthusiast from the University of La Sierra. He and his family have committed \$50,000 for the naming rights of the Computer Lab. He is also committed to partnering to host robotic camps and classes at low to no cost for the community.

The grand opening has been postponed to Saturday, April 25, from 11:00am to 2:00pm. The additional weeks will provide Staff with the opportunity to ensure equipment installation is completed and time to troubleshoot any tech needs before the doors are officially open. The event will be open to the public and will showcase the building and various programs, and will offer the public an opportunity to become a member and/or take part in the "Teaser Series," which is scheduled for the week of April 27 - May 2. Official classes and programs are scheduled to begin Monday, May 4. The PRCSD Summer Activity Guide will be mailed the week of April 6 - 12 and will showcase the Youth Innovation Center classes and programs.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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