



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# Safety Wellness and Youth Committee Memorandum

**TO: SAFETY, WELLNESS AND YOUTH COMMITTEE      DATE: NOVEMBER 17, 2021**

**FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY      WARD: 2**  
**SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**SUBJECT: NAMING REQUEST FOR THE COMMUNITY ROOM AT BOBBY BONDS PARK  
IN HONOR OF ANDY MELENDREZ – DIRECT SUBMITTAL**

## **ISSUE:**

Consideration of a request to name the Community Room at Bobby Bonds Park in honor of Andy Melendrez.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Safety, Wellness and Youth Committee recommend approval of the naming of the Community Room at Bobby Bonds Park in honor of Andy Melendrez, to the full City Council.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Past-President of the Riverside Arts Academy Board of Directors Mrs. Collette Lee submitted an application (Attachment 1) requesting the Community Room or Auditorium at Bobby Bonds Park be named in honor of Andy Melendrez. The application states, "The Riverside Arts Academy Board of Directors respectfully requests the City Council to consider this request".

In naming public land, buildings and facilities, the City Council and its advisory bodies shall consider criteria set forth in the Administrative Manual, Section 01.021.00, "Naming of City-owned Land, Buildings and Facilities." A stated criterion is "...Commemorating individuals who have served the City in an exceptional manner with such honor bestowed posthumously, except in cases deemed extraordinary. The person must be an outstanding, long-time City leader..." Additionally, "...All names selected shall be acceptable and meaningful to a majority of the neighborhood/community where the park or recreation facility is located."

## **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

On Monday, May 17, 2021, with Chair Feola, Vice Chair Iverson, and Commissioners Fairfax, Cardullo, and Jester present, they unanimously voted to move the naming of the auditorium at Bobby Bonds Park in honor of Andy Melendrez to City Council.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Andy Melendrez has served the City of Riverside since 2006. He was a councilmember, a leader, and an advocate for the Eastside and Canyon Crest neighborhoods.

As stated on the naming application, Andy Melendrez has been a champion and a strong supporter of the arts with continued leadership and advocacy. Andy Melendrez envisioned the arts coming to the City through the Riverside Arts Academy (formerly known as the Eastside School of the Arts). He brought opera, California Riverside Ballet, and joined forces to help create classical ballet opportunities to the under resourced children of the Eastside.

In addition to the Riverside Arts Academy, Andy Melendrez was involved in the Eastside HEAL Zone representing both public and private sectors, school districts, and health clinics to bring healthy behaviors to the community. He also assisted in bringing the skate park to the Eastside and has always been paramount in advocating for the community.

The Community Room can be recognized with the installation of a plaque near the entrance. The plaque should be similar to the architecture of the facility; final design must be agreed upon by both the Department and the Riverside Arts Academy Board of Directors, with the expectation that the Riverside Arts Academy Board of Directors will raise funds to design and install the plaque.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

The naming request will promote City Strategic Goal #1: Arts, Culture and Recreation. Goal 1.1 is to “Strengthen Riverside’s portfolio of arts...provide lifelong learning programs...and expand community partnerships...” Councilman Melendrez achieved that goal with the Riverside Arts Academy.

The item aligns with each of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – The naming request allows for community engagement.
2. **Equity** – The naming request emphasizes the importance of Riverside’s racial, ethnic, and geographic importance’s.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – The Riverside Arts Academy Board of Directors will pay all costs associated with the naming of the Community Room.
4. **Innovation** – Naming the Community Room in honor of Andy Melendrez will recognize his innovative vision in bringing arts to the City.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – Educating and engaging the youth of Riverside promotes sustainability by preparing youth for educational advancement through the arts.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report. Funds will be raised privately by the Riverside Arts Academy Board of Directors.

Prepared by: Randy McDaniel, Interim Parks, Recreation and Community Services  
Director

Certified as to  
availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer

Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager

Approved as to form: Phaedra A. Norton, City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Facility Naming Application
2. City of Riverside Administrative Manual: Naming of City-owned Land, Buildings and Facilities and Resolutions