



City of Arts & Innovation

# Commission on Disabilities

**TO: COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES** **DATE: MARCH 21, 2024**  
**FROM: GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT** **WARD: ALL**  
**SUBJECT: PRESENTATION FROM THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT ABOUT THE FRIENDLY STARS PROGRAM**

## **ISSUE:**

Receive a presentation from the City of Riverside Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department about the Friendly Stars program.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Commission on Disabilities receive a presentation from the City of Riverside Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department about the Friendly Stars program.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Commission on Disabilities' (COD) mission is to identify the needs of persons with disabilities and create a public awareness of these needs in the areas of employment, housing, transportation, media, and physical and communication accessibility. The mission also supports programs and activities that promote greater independence for people with disabilities.

## **DISCUSSION:**

This presentation will explain a program called Friendly Stars that is offered through the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. The mission of this program is to empower adults with disabilities by providing them with the opportunity to actively engage in recreational and social activities.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This presentation contributes to the City's Strategic Priority No. 2 *Community Well-Being* and Goal No. 2.5 – Foster relationships between community members, partner organizations and public safety professionals to define, prioritize, and address community safety and social service needs.

This presentation aligns with the Cross-Cutting threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – The Friendly Stars program promotes community trust by providing an environment for individuals with disabilities that eliminates barriers and promotes social inclusion.
2. **Equity** – The Friendly Stars program provides equal opportunities for disabled people by fostering an inclusive environment that embraces diversity, ensuring that everyone, regardless of disability, feels welcome and valued.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – This item is neutral towards this Cross-Cutting Thread.
4. **Innovation** – The Friendly Stars program seeks partnerships with a variety of stakeholders and community members to provide a wide range of recreational experiences that individuals with disabilities can fully participate in and enjoy.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – The Friendly Stars program advocates for people with disabilities by providing social and recreational activities that provide a sense of community.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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Attachment: Presentation