

Director's Monthly Report

Human Services & Recreation Department



October 2013

Message from the Director ~

July 26, 2015 is the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act into law. Already disability advocates in different parts of the country are beginning to think about celebration and recognition activities that can occur all during the anniversary year. The City's Accessibility and Disability Commission has an emblem for the anniversary and will be offering its use to all who are interested in promoting awareness of the ADA and its milestone anniversary.



By early next year the Commission will form an ad hoc group of local individuals and agency representatives to develop ideas for celebration activities, collaborate on projects, and coordinate publicity for events – small, big, and medium in size – that will happen during 2015. Over the past 25 years, the ADA has proved to be more than a law about curb ramps and elevator buttons with Braille. It is civil rights legislation promoting the integration of people with disabilities in every aspect of the community. For instance, the Rose Parade has several areas of sidewalk viewing reserved for approximately 240 persons with disabilities and up to four of their guests. Many users of these areas have remarked it was the

only way possible for them to have seen the Parade live.

In accordance with the ADA, the Adaptive Recreation program activities are offered to serve the recreational needs of individuals with disabilities. Persons with physical and developmental disabilities are welcome to participate in both the regular and Adaptive Recreation programs. Current programs include weekly programs (Pioneer, Adaptive Art and Interact) and cooperative Friday Night Socials with Ability First and MACH-1 (Move a Child Higher) therapeutic horseback riding. Parents and guardians of participants with disabilities have been supportive for over thirty years and as stated by one parent, Roberta Lauderdale :



“As an Adaptive Recreation Advisory member and parent of a participant, I want to express my total support of the Pioneer program and cooperative events with Ability First. These events are very well planned and executed. They are rich in content including meaningful cultural, social, esteem building, and practical life skills that enriches the participant's lives.”

Upcoming events for October, celebrating persons with disabilities, include an art exhibit “My Favorite Books” at the Pasadena Central Library on Friday, October 11, 2013, and a cooperative event with MACH-1 therapeutic horseback Ride-a-thon on Sunday, October 20. Staff and the

Plan and Disaster Preparedness for persons with disabilities.

Pasadena has made many strides to ensure that everyone is included, but we have much more work ahead of us. I look forward to participating with the Commission on Accessibility and Disability, the Senior Commission, the Senior Center and other partners such as Ability First in the coming year to ensure that accessibility for all remains a priority.

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Human Services and Recreation Projects and Programs

Update on School/City/Community Workplan

By September 30, all of the seven Results Teams will have had their first meeting with very diverse sets of participants. Schedule of meetings, minutes and suggested reading will be posted on website as they become available from PUSD and Pasadena Educational Foundation websites. Please visit <http://cityofpasadena.net/Department.aspx?theme=Olive&pageid=6442471080>. The purpose of this initial meeting is to introduce participants to each other and the process, to understand the issues relevant to their Result area, and to identify existing programs and services. The meetings throughout October and November will focus on identifying priority strategies, ways for stakeholders to support their implementation, and articulating recommendations to be brought forward to the annual joint meeting between the City Council and School Board in February, 2014. There has been increased information sharing between PUSD, the City, community coalitions and planning processes including the Partnership for Children Youth and Families, Childcare Directors Alliance, Youth Master Plan, City of Pasadena General Plan, PUSD Graduation Requirement Committee, and more. Next month we will supply our readers with details about the Result Teams and their findings.

2013 League of California Cities Conference

League President and Mayor of Pasadena Bill Bogaard Provided a Session at the 2013 Conference Supporting School and Community Partnerships. Session speakers included Ed Honowitz, Education Policy Advisor, California State Senator Carol Liu, Lisa Villarreal from the Coalition of Community Schools and our Mayor of Pasadena. The purpose of the session was to:

- explore benefits and opportunities in scaling up community schools partnerships;
- learn from partnerships across California's rural, suburban and urban communities;
- examine the factors and strategies contributing to successful partnerships.

Over 100 attendees representing City officials and community leaders from throughout the state of California attended the conference session. The session speakers emphasized the importance of creating a shared vision with which the community can align resources to impact change. The benefit of having the City's School/City/Community Work Plan discussed widely is to encourage similar partnerships in other jurisdictions, build networking opportunities and resource sharing and learning from other best practices here in Pasadena.

Linked Learning Update and August 26, 2013 Retreat

Representatives from the PUSD and its College & Career Pathways, City of Pasadena and its Economic Development Services, Foothill Workforce Investment Board, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, Ideal Youth, Pasadena Educational Foundation, Pasadena City College participated in

a retreat facilitated by Deanna Hanson from the National Academy Foundation and ConnectEd: California Center for College. Focusing on the strategies in the School/City/Community Work Plan relevant to the goal of increasing the success of students in Pasadena to be productive members of the community and the workforce, the group discussed issues and potential actions that would begin process of defining the functions necessary to build and sustain the coordination necessary to achieve that goal. Specific Work Plan strategies that were identified as priorities included:

- Explore potential for requiring service learning hours for middle & high schools
- Increase community service opportunities within the City & partner agencies
- Engage local Businesses & corporations to participate in Work based learning activities
- Ensure a viable intermediary for Pasadena

Next steps identified were to meet to clarify intermediary functions and which organizations might be best able to assume these responsibilities. Feedback from this retreat will be communicated to the Work Plan Results Teams. The next meeting date will be set for later in October and will focus on summer work-based learning opportunities.

Assisted Listening Device at Jackie Robinson Center

The Human Services and Recreation is very pleased to notify the public that an assisted Listening System is being installed at the Jackie Robinson Center and soon the entire building will have the device. The lobby section is now “looped” which means that anyone with a hearing loss can obtain feed through any amplified sound, such as a microphone, and hear the conversation as well as anyone. It took two separate installations to update both the Lobby and the Information Desk.

All staff have been informed on how the system works and notified that it does not take any additional technique on their part. The microphone at the front desk is part of the loop system and transmits to hearing impaired. Signage was provided by the installers and was placed in the areas where the system is located and can easily be seen. The installer also explained those with hearing aids would understand the logos on the signage.

Next steps include upgrading the sound system in the auditorium, which is a heavily used room within the facility. Staff is working on finding a system that is compatible with the loop system and is hopeful to have the system installed within the next 45-90 days.

A public demonstration is being planned for later in the month and the date and time will be announced soon. For more information please contact Jarvis Emerson at 626-744-7333.

Annual Fall Festival

The City of Pasadena will host its annual Fall Festival on Thursday, October 31st at Victory Park, 2575 Paloma Street, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The event offers an enchanting night of safe, family fun with activities for the entire family! All are welcome to come out and enjoy live entertainment, carnival games, face painting, big slide, sticky wall, haunted house, a train ride around the park and of course delicious food! Admission is free and special costume contests for all age groups are planned for Toddlers, Youth, Teens, Adults and Seniors and even DOGS! Contests will begin at 7:30 p.m. With special zones designed for toddlers, youth and teens, and dogs, there is something for everyone! Our scary Haunted House is suitable for ages 8 & up. Admission into this fun family event is free! Major attractions such as the haunted house, train ride, slides, select games and food will require nominal fees. Tickets for these attractions will be sold onsite. For more information call 626-744-7500.

Commission Happenings

The All Commission Chair and Vice Chair meeting held on September 19, 2013, was very informative and had representatives from 5 different commissions; Senior Commission, Human Services Commission, Recreation and Parks Commission, Accessibility and Disability Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women. Commissioners reported on the upcoming Commission Workplans for 2013/2014 and identified opportunities for joint commission projects and areas of mutual interest. They also had an opportunity to refine the issue areas selected by each commission as a result of the 2011 Needs Assessment. It is anticipated that the group will meet again in 6 months.

Youth Council

On October 7, 2013, members of the Pasadena Youth Council, Pasadena Unified School District Associated Student Body Presidents, and representatives of the La Pintoresca Teen Education Center will be at the Council Meeting to receive a Proclamation recognizing October as Bullying Prevention Awareness Month. These groups have conducted a networking session on bullying and youth issues, and all still believe that bullying remains a major area of concern.

Senior Commission and Accessibility and Disability Commission

On September 10, 2013, the second meeting of a group working to integrate the needs of people with disabilities into the City's emergency plan met at the Pasadena Senior Center. Participants included staff from Human Services & Recreation, Fire, and Public Health Departments and representatives from the Senior Commission, Accessibility and Disability Commission, and Pasadena Senior Center. The group's initial focus was planning for shelter and care within the City's Emergency Plan. These items are being examined and recommendations are being developed to update the City's Shelter Annex. In addition, the Task Force is reviewing best practices around a model referred to as Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST). Trained FAST members know how to assist shelter staff in identifying the needs of people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs. A FAST team will be activated when a shelter site is opened.

Robinson Park Athletic Field Announces New Open Hours for Use

Come out and enjoy your athletic field Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Robinson Park Field is used on a first come first served basis. Participants are required to abide by turf field rules and regulations. The City reserves the right to occasionally schedule use of the field due to special circumstances or City/School tournaments. Please [click](#) here for more details.

Monthly Projects, Events and Programs

State of the Kids Event at the Rose Bowl Pavilion

The public is invited to attend the 4th Annual "State of the Kids" discussion and panel presentation on Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at the Rose Bowl Pavilion, located at 1001 Rose Bowl Drive in Pasadena. The event will begin at 4:30 and concludes at 6:30 p.m. with parking available in the lots surrounding the Pavilion.

The question for the group to ponder this year is: "When they're not at home or school, where is the place that children and youth in our community go to feel safe, connected, secure?" The event is sponsored by the local Partnership for Children, Youth and Families (the Partnership) and guests will learn about the places most frequented by teens and youth from the experts themselves - the youth! Find out what's working, what's not, and what options are available to keep our kids safe and secure.

Dr. Eric Walsh, Pasadena Public Health Director, will be the master of ceremonies and the special guest speaker will be Cheryl Greer-Jarman of Pacific Oaks College. Other featured guests include Jon R. Gundry, Superintendent of Pasadena Public Schools, Phillip Sanchez, Chief of the Pasadena Police Department, Mercy Santoro, Director of the Human Services & Recreation Department, as well as several Pasadena youth.

"This is a great opportunity for parents and community members alike to learn how children living in the communities of Pasadena, Altadena and Sierra Madre are faring, including the latest demographic trends, school and health statistics, and what has changed since last year's report," said Tony Santilena, Chair of the Partnership.

The Partnership is a collaboration of more than 150 individuals, public entities, and community-based agencies focused on school readiness for preschoolers, quality programs for children and youth when they are not in school, and positive youth development.

Starting this month, the Human Services and Recreation Department will feature a staff member and a program participant to demonstrate the breadth of persons served as well as the expertise and training of the staff.

New!* Staff Member Profile

Yosio Montes, the Human Services and Recreation Department's newest marketing member, is helping to transform the Department's brand and image. His creativity and contemporary designs have developed a new image around the Department's brochures, flyers, and other marketing materials. His work around this summer's *Parks Make Life Better* Public Service Announcement (PSA) drew the attention of Recreational Professionals around the State and has been submitted to the California Parks and Recreation Society. Yosio remarks:

"Photoshop became my hobby in middle school. I never thought that creating art would grant me the opportunity to professionally create on this level, especially at such a young age. To think that I started with designing event flyers and teaching computer classes at the teen education center to now becoming the newest member of the marketing team for this Department City I grew up in makes me feel like I finally have a voice through my designs."

Yosio is currently enrolled in the Graphic Design Program at Pasadena City College. After obtaining his Associates of Arts Degree in the spring of 2014, he plans to pursue a career in Computer Information Technology at UCLA. His ultimate goal is to obtain a Master's Degree in Computer Science and secure a position with a high tech company. While some would feel intimidated by being the youngest member on a team of professionals, Yosio jumped at the opportunity to grow professionally. He hopes to contribute a fresh perspective and assist in creating a more contemporary image for the Department which he hopes will ultimately attract more participation in the City's programs.

New!* Teen Center User Profile

La Pintoresca Teen Center profiles Trishan Vithanage, 15, from Marshall Fundamental High who has a desire to succeed and is attentive to details. These are some of the key qualities that describe this talented young man. Trishan has been an active participant of the Human Services and Recreation Department programs and summer day camp since the age of six. His involvement with the La Pintoresca Teen Education Center has proven to be a place where he has grown on a civic, academic, and professional level. "I love coming to the teen center after school because I get a chance to take part in exciting classes, fieldtrips, and programs that have allowed me to serve others and grow as a person along the way" said Trishan. Some of his favorite

classes include computer tech teens, photojournalism, and filmmaking. His work has been influential in branding the new image and culture of the La Pintoresca Teen Education Center. His leadership portfolio also includes serving as the President of the LPTEC Civic Youth.

Most recently, one of his short term goals has been realized by accepting a year-round position with the Northwest Youth Ambassadors Program with the City of Pasadena, where he plans to continue serving his community through a variety of service projects. In the future, Trishan plans to attend UCLA or Cal Tech to pursue a career in computer engineering. His participation in the college preparation program at the Teen Center has equipped him and his family with the information and resources needed to navigate the college admission process and succeed in college. Through his hard work and dedication, Trishan Vithanage has earned the respect and affection of staff and peers. Along the course of his work he has also become a role model for other teens at the center.

Teen Center Activities

October is Bullying Prevention Awareness Month! Teens are invited to come out and celebrate the Week Without Violence from October 21st through the 26th by joining us for several community events that will be put together by youth organizations including the YWCA , La Pintoresca Teen Education Center, Institute for Girls Development, Pasadena Police Department, PAL, and Day One.

The festivities will begin at schools with the Week of Kindness hosted by the Pasadena Youth Council, and the PUSD ASB boards. During the afterschool hours teens can take part in the Week Without Violence events that are planned to combat the issues associated with bullying through a variety of educational and fun-filled activities. For more information please contact the La Pintoresca Teen Education Center at (626) 345-0708 or the YWCA at (626) 296-8433.

- October 22nd: *Anti-Bullying Poetry Workshop* at La Pintoresca Teen Education Center 4:00 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- October 23rd: *Chalk for Change Festival* at City Hall 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- October 25th: *Speak Out Against Bullying Poetry Slam* at La Pintoresca Teen Education Center 4:00 to 6: p.m.

La Pintoresca Teen Education Center to Host Halloween Alternative Activities for Teens

The Teen Center is planning to celebrate back to school student success at Six Flags Fright Fest. This fieldtrip is scheduled for Saturday, October 26, 2013, for a spooky and thrilling day at Six Flags Magic Mountain. Teens will receive free transportation to the event with appropriate permission slips.

The fun does not stop there! Teens who want to skip trick or treating will have the opportunity to join the 2nd annual teen's only extravaganza event. The TEEN ZONE at the fall festival on October 31st will host a variety of activities such as carnival games, prizes, giveaways, mobile laser tag, professional photo booth, and a live DJ. The activity designed for teens by teens is sure to draw young participants to a safe and fun-filled event aimed to keep youth safe on Halloween night. For more information please contact Yuriko Montes at the La Pintoresca Teen Education Center at (626) 345-0708.

September Calendar of Events for the Department and the Teen Center

Click [here](#) to open the monthly calendar of events for the Department. Click [here](#) to open the calendar for the La Pintoresca Teen Education Center.

Capital Improvement Program

Robinson Park Construction Project Update

On September 16, 2013, the City Council was asked to consider a recommendation approving Gonzalez Goodale Architects for the Robinson Park Construction Project. Council felt that more public input was needed and asked the Robinson Park Recreation Center Renovation Steering Committee to expand the public outreach. A meeting was held on September 24, 2013, and more public comment was received. It is anticipated that the discussion will continue until the October 22nd meeting.

Planning meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Jackie Robinson Center from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and the public is welcome to attend the meetings. Lola Osborne, Manager Northwest Programs, is the contact for this project. She can be reached at losborne@cityofpasadena.net (626) 744-4791.

For additional information please visit

http://cityofpasadena.net/PublicWorks/Robinson_Park_Community_Center/

Update on the McKinley School Gym and the Washington Middle School Gym Construction Projects

City staff and Pasadena Unified Staff (PUSD) staff have been working closely together to coordinate initiation of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) process to align with the construction of the McKinley School Gym and the eventual construction of the Washington Middle School Gym. Both of these major construction projects are joint use projects between the City of Pasadena and PUSD and were approved at the annual 2011 and 2012 Joint City Council/School Board meetings. The application for the McKinley School Gym has been completed and the Planning and Community Development Department will soon be assigning a planner to oversee the process which will ultimately include a public hearing. Generally the process takes about six months.

Ground breaking for the McKinley construction project took place on May 10, 2013, and was attended by both City and School dignitaries as well as representatives from the community and McKinley School. Construction is currently underway and is expected to be completed by November 1, 2014. At that time there will be a grand opening to share the beautiful new facility with the entire community. Both staffs will work closely with their respective Public Information Officers and the media to showcase the beginning of this outstanding community asset.

Bidding for the Washington Middle School Gym will take place in November, 2013. At this time it is anticipated that construction will be completed by Summer, 2015. The project will take approximately 18 months to compete. City staff will begin the CUP process for the Washington Gym by the December, 2013.

For more information regarding these projects, please contact Lisa Fowler at lfowler@cityofpasadena.net or 626-744-4732.

Save the Date!

- On **Wednesday, October 2, 2013**, come out and hear the "State of the Kids" forum from 4:30 to 6:30 at the Rose Bowl Pavilion. Reservations are required by calling Lisa Wilson at (626) 449-0839, x116.
- **Monday, October 7, 2013**, at 6:30 p.m., representatives of the Youth Council, Pasadena Unified School District's student body presidents, and representatives of

the La Pintoresca Teen Education Center will receive a Proclamation on October 7, 2013, declaring October as Bullying Prevention month.

- On **Friday, October 11, 2013**, the Adaptive Recreation Art program will be included in Pasadena Art Night. Please see attached information in regards to Pasadena Art Night. The exhibit, "My Favorite Books", will be at the Pasadena Central Library (Centennial Room), 285 East Walnut, Pasadena, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. We hope you can join us for Pasadena Art Night and meet the artists involved in the City of Pasadena Adaptive Recreation Art program.
- **Saturday, October 12, 2013**, is Community Build Day at Villa-Parke.
- **Saturday, October 19, 2013**, will be Latino Heritage Parade & Jamaica starting at Los Robles Avenue and Howard Street at 11:00 a.m. and ends at La Pintoresca Park and Library where the Jamaica kicks off at noon for the festivities.
- Annual Fall Festival at Victory Park, **October 31, 2013**, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Citywide Recreation

Contract Classes (Outreach)

The Citywide Contract Section continues search for potential independent instructors who can bring new and exciting recreation classes to the Pasadena Community. Developments are underway for the following classes this winter: Karate /Self Defense – Pilipino Style; Abs & Belly Dance Fitness; Introduction to Performing Arts; Gardening; Cooking; Creative Writing; Yoga; Fitness in the Park; and Salsa N Stretch. For more information, please contact the Citywide Recreation Office at 626-744-7500.

Adaptive Recreation Programs

The Human Services and Recreation Department is pleased to note that the Adaptive Recreation Art Program was featured in the Pasadena Star News on Sunday, September 15, 2013. Please click here:

<http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/arts-and-entertainment/20130914/pasadena-art-program-features-seabiscuit-theme>

Kudos to Noreen Sullivan, Councilmember Gene Masuda's Field Representative, who continues to work with Santa Anita Racetrack to post the "Seabiscuit Artwork" news release on the Santa Anita Racetrack website. The public relations staff is also sending it out to their media contacts in the thoroughbred racing world too.

There is a special connection between Santa Anita and "The Biscuit" and visitors there were just delighted to help spread the word on the special Seabiscuit-themed artwork exhibit at the Armory Center by the participants in our Human Services & Recreation Dept.'s Adaptive Recreation Art Program. Check out the below link:

Staff are now working on the possibility of Santa Anita hosting a special VIP tour for the Adaptive Art Program participants to visit the racetrack as well as to see the bronze statue of "America's Racehorse" and possibly for the track to host a second showing of their artwork sometime next year.

Community Partners

Flintridge Center's Pasadena/Altadena Reintegration Council

In an attempt to relieve the overcrowding in prisons Governor Brown signed into law Assembly Bill 109 in March of 2011 which directed thousands of low-risk offenders to be supervised by Los Angeles County Probation instead of State Parole officers upon their release. As a result, Flintridge Center, in partnership with the **Pasadena Police Department** and numerous local nonprofit and community organizations formed the **Pasadena/Altadena Reintegration Council** to

help formerly incarcerated individuals transition back into the community. Those who have returned to the Pasadena/Altadena community face many challenges, from job placement to affordable housing; therefore the Reintegration Council works collaboratively to meet the needs of these individuals. The council conducts monthly resource fairs known as PACT (Pasadena Altadena Community Team) in order to connect formerly incarcerated men and women to a network of comprehensive, community-based services. The September Fair which occurred last week brought in a total of 25 service providers such as the **Department of Social Services**, **Pasadena Public Health Department**, and **Providence Tattoo Removal**. There were also a total



of 19 attendees. All attendees listened intently and connected to the stories that the service providers shared. In particular, one said, "For my rap sheet it says I carried drugs and guns, now I carry diapers and kids. It took me 38 years to finally grow up". Service providers were able to make appropriate referrals and more importantly, our constituents received a warm welcome back home.