

Agenda Report

DATE: January 25, 1998

TO: CITY COUNCIL
FROM: CYNTHIA J. KURTZ, CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: YOUTH CENTER UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information only report.

BACKGROUND:

On May 11, 1998, City Council awarded \$55,000 in grant funds to the Coalition for a Non-Violent City (CNVC) to develop a youth center that would provide a safe environment and programming for children after school. The project has also received a state grant of \$70,000.

The Pasadena Youth Center Collaborative (YCC), a group of local youth-serving organizations, was formed to work with CNVC and guide the development of the center. However, after CNVC withdrew and efforts to partner with other local non-profit agencies were unsuccessful, the YCC assumed leadership of the project.

Several new members have recently been added to YCC, including the Pasa-Alta Youth Coalition, Outward Bound Adventures, and the city's Northwest Programs division. The YCC continuously recruits new members and is currently developing new outreach materials.

Working with city staff, YCC developed a work plan for activities through June, 1999. Major tasks include hiring staff, developing funding, securing and improving a site, and developing/delivering programming to begin in April, 1999.

Staff and the YCC are continuing to look for a non-profit partner to resume leadership of the project by the beginning of FY2000.

Staffing

A half-time project manager was hired and will begin work on January 25, 1999.

Staff is also currently recruiting a student intern to work 12 hours per week, beginning February 1, to work with the Youth Committee on outreach, program design/delivery and linkage with schools.

Funding

The YCC intends to establish a funding subcommittee in February to develop a budget for the Youth Center and a funding workplan. This group will identify and prepare grant applications and anticipates holding a fundraising event in May, 1999.

Location

The Outward Bound Adventures site at 610 North Lake Avenue is currently under consideration. This site provides easy access by MTA buses and ARTS buses, is centrally located and without gang affiliation. The use of the site is also compatible with the North Lake Master Plan and would improve a blighted property within the target area. Staff is awaiting estimates for renovation of the building before moving forward.

The Kidspace Museum site was identified as a possible location for the center, but was ruled out because it won't be available for at least two years. The school district is currently reviewing their properties for other potential sites that may be available sooner.

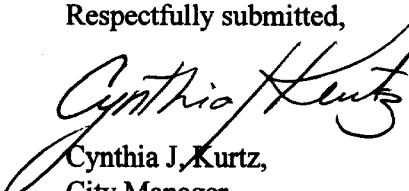
Programming

In December, 1998, the YCC surveyed approximately 250 Pasadena students to obtain feedback on location and programming. The results of the survey are being tabulated and analyzed this month. It is anticipated that programs will be secured and promoted by March and will begin in April.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The development of the Youth Center is funded during FY99 with \$40,000 of Human Service Endowment Funds and \$15,000 of Community Development Block Grant funds.

Respectfully submitted,




Cynthia J. Kurtz,
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