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# MULTICULTURAL AD HOC COMMITTEE WORK SESSION



## CITY COUNCIL GOALS

- Support and implement programs, activities and strengthen communication that enhances the quality of life and wellness, celebrates the arts and diversity and promotes civic pride
- Maintain and support a strong positive relationship between the City, schools, and the educational community

## MULTICULTURAL AD HOC COMMITTEE BACKGROUND

- Ad Hoc Committee Formed on October 17, 2016 to explore the formation of a Multicultural Commission
- Committee Members: Councilmembers Ed Hernandez, Benny Lee and Corina Lopez
- Met six times to discuss existing events and programs, commission charges, Sister & Friendship City engagement, existing community partnerships, and expand outreach to non-English speaking communities.

# EXISTING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

## City Sponsored Events & Programming

Library and Recreation and Human Services Departments host the majority of cultural events such as: Lunar New Year Celebration, Cinco de Mayo, bilingual story time, Hispanic Heritage Month, San Leandro Speaker Series, etc.



## Partnerships with Local Organizations

Unity in the Community Walk, SLED racial justice teen workshop, Hispanic Community Affairs Council luncheon, Moon Festival sponsorship, etc.



## RECOMMENDATIONS (I)

- The Ad Hoc Committee does not recommend forming a new Commission, but rather:
  - Take steps to make inclusiveness and diversity pervasive throughout the organization
  - Enhance and promote existing City efforts and programs

## RECOMMENDATIONS (2)

- Integrate components to existing Commissions to institutionalize equity, multiculturalism, and inclusion throughout the organization and City Commissions.
- Update Commission charges to reflect inclusion, equity and multiculturalism: Arts Commission, Human Services Commission, Library-Historical Commission, and Senior Commission.
- Update Commission application to include a multilingual component

# PROPOSED COMMISSION CHANGES

## Arts Commission

The Arts Commission makes recommendations to the City Council regarding policies related to the development, promotion and placement of visual and performing arts that is of the highest quality, inclusive, visually stimulating, of enduring value and will culturally enrich the San Leandro community; works cooperatively with public and private agencies to increase opportunity and awareness of and procure space for public art that celebrate our cultural diversity; and makes recommendations to the City Council on the acceptance of donations and submission of art and other matters of arts and culture in the community.

## Human Services Commission

The Human Services Commission identifies social needs in the community and recommends to the City Council possible ways to meet those needs, evaluates and encourages the equitable provision of social services in the City to those communities in need, assists social services agencies with fundraising, and reviews requests for City financial support to social service agencies, and tracks performance of funded programs.

# PROPOSED COMMISSION CHANGES

## Library-Historical Commission

The Library-Historical Commission makes recommendations to the City Council regarding policies for the use and improvement of City libraries, recommends policies and programs for preservation and restoration of important historical sites and items within the City, recommends and supports inclusive programs and activities that celebrate the City's cultural diversity, Sister and Friendship City engagement, and serves as the liaison between the City Council, citizens, residents, and organizations with an interest in the City's library, historical, and multicultural activities.

## Senior Commission

The Senior Commission advises the City Council on matters relating to the status and condition of senior citizens within the City, assesses and reports to the council on the social, cultural, health and other needs of senior citizens and recommends inclusive methods of meeting such needs.

## RECOMMENDATIONS (3)

- Continue to explore new Sister and Friendship City opportunities
- Direct Staff to contact community members who established the existing Sister and Friendship Cities
- Reengage existing Sister and Friendship Cities through City Commissions and staff
  - Youth virtual café or dinner, in partnership with the Youth Advisory Commission
  - Virtual pen pals
  - Request Art Commission to refresh City Hall art exhibit focusing on City's diversity
  - Sister City Youth Summer Exchange Program

## SISTER AND FRIENDSHIP CITIES



Ribeirão Preto, Brazil (1962)



Ponta Delgada, Portugal (1970)



Jinotega, Nicaragua (1976)



Naga, Philippines (1989)



Yangchun, China (2007)

## RECOMMENDATIONS (4)

- Enhance promotion of City sponsored cultural events
- Expand outreach to non-English media outlets including but not limited to radio, television, print and blogs
- Dedicate funding to support the recommendations
  - Sister City outreach efforts (potentially to include travel)

## NEXT STEPS

- Council review and discussion of recommendations
- At a future City Council meeting, staff can prepare:
  - Resolutions updating Commission charges in Admin Code/Council Handbook
  - Minute Order codifying direction to staff
  - Appropriation of funds, if requested (could be part of mid-cycle budget update)