

Milpitas Visual/Cultural Arts Sub-Committee

Activity March 25th thru May 28th 2019

Summary

As a result of the previous sub-committee meetings it was decided that as an initial strategy the committee would begin a dialog with the High School art departments to explore opportunities for the students to participate in more community activities tied to art.

The last two months have been logistically challenging in terms of the sub-committee meeting as a group although individual meetings have been held. Progress has been made however to develop relations with the High School and MUSD Superintendant Cheryl Jordan. Meetings have been arranged and completed with four HS Teachers and the general impression is that when the time comes the sub-committee will have support. The sub-committee Chair has attended four Council meetings and the CIP meeting and the 2019/2020 Budget meeting. Members have attended various Civic events including the César Chavez Flag Raising, the Vietnamese Flag Raising, the Memorial Day Event at Civic Plaza and the Milpitas Beat newspaper launch. The High School Musical, Golden Hills Art Club Library exhibit, Golden Hills Art Club monthly meeting, the Parks & Recreation Commissions April meeting and the Milpitas Camera club exhibit were also attended. We also initiated outreach to the Ismailia Cultural Center in Milpitas. Finally we assisted in the public viewings of the Higuera sculptures.

The ultimate objective continues to be to explore ways to expand art and culture in our community.

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High School Outreach

Teachers: Jeff Albrecht – Painter/Muralist

Introduced by Superintendent MUSD and met Jeff 10:00 am Thursday May 2nd, 2019. He is both a committed teacher and an active professional artist. His canvases are mainly contemporary acrylic or oil. He has regular showings of his work in Hawaii. He understands a need to provide opportunities for HS Students to participate in art related activities outside of their campus and curriculum.

He is willing to work with us with only one proviso, namely much of his spare time is dedicated to painting professionally. I explained that initially we were only looking for his participation in brainstorming ideas.

Ian Danielson – Photography & Art Department Lead

Introduced by Superintendent MUSD and met Ian at the Library prior to the Camera Club Photographic Exhibit Sunday May 5th, 2019. High School students had work exhibited. Spent an hour with Ian and toured the exhibit with his daughter. Ian is a long term teacher at the High School and is very supportive of opportunities for extracurricular art activities in whatever form that might eventually take for his art students. He speaks well of both Jeff Albrecht and Emily Moore.

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Emily Moore – Music Lead

Met Emily on HS Campus at lunch break Wednesday May 8th, 2019. She is extremely busy with numerous music classes and activities including the Marching Band and preparations for “Music in the Park”. I also met two of her assistants in their crowded office space with a string quintet practicing next door. Emily expressed an interest in what we were trying to accomplish but I question whether she would be able even to brainstorm opportunities, she is so busy. I suspect Ian Danielson will be the key to working with us when the time comes.

Kaila Schwartz – Thespian Society & Drama Teacher

We have been working with Kaila since March 3rd 2019, and the focus quickly became specifically looking for funding opportunities for eight of her students to go to the “Fringe Festival” in Edinburgh, Scotland later this year. Kaila and the students were made aware from the beginning that any assistance that Agg might provide, financial or otherwise, is not endorsed or representative of the City or the sub-committee, however, we have established a good working relationship and am certain that Kaila will be supportive in our future efforts. Assisted by the teachers’ direction and support, the students have written their own play “The Five Stages of Grief” and plan to perform at the festival in Scotland in August.

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The Chair arranged for Kaila and two of her students to have a private meeting with the Mayor and they performed the first draft of a portion of their play to the Milpitas Rotary on April 29th. Agg also introduced Kaila to Assemblyman Kansen Chu at the Berryessa Library March 28th and the Assemblyman pledged funds. A spaghetti dinner was organized on campus May 10th with limited attendance and an online auction is being organized at this date. The students are still far from raising the full amount of funds for their trip.