



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT**

**AGENDA DATE:** October 26, 2022

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** Director's Report

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Commission receive a presentation on the status of various Parks and Recreation Department (Department) initiatives and activities.

**DISCUSSION:**

Santa Barbara Arts Alliance Program Receives CPRS District 8 Award

On Friday October 14, 2022, the Department received the Creating Community Award of Excellence. This award recognizes outstanding initiatives by agencies, departments, or districts in their effort to deliver the highest level of recreation and leisure programs and services within District 8 that embody and embrace the values and mission of the profession and move the agency towards a stronger position or role within the community. The Santa Barbara Arts Alliance is a free art-based mentoring program that provides youth with leadership and life skills through hands-on service projects. The Arts Alliance encourages youth to take leadership roles in developing, planning, and implementing service projects, including graffiti abatement, neighborhood clean-ups, and the creation and installation of murals in public spaces previously plagued by vandalism. The program, operated by the Community Services Section, has produced both temporary and longstanding public art displays across the city. Under the supervision of Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator II Ricardo Venegas and lead artist Miguel "Omepache" Rodriguez, the program has provided mentorship to over 700 low-income youth at risk of violence, and served as an effective tool to interrupt the cycle of youth violence while creating the city's next generation of artists and community ambassadors.

Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon

On November 23, 2022, the Kiwanis Club of Santa Barbara and the City's Adapted Programs Section will co-host the Annual Adapted Programs Thanksgiving Luncheon at the Westside Neighborhood Center. The popular celebratory event will return indoors for the first time since the start of the pandemic, after being cancelled in 2020 and offered outdoors at Oak Park in 2021. The Kiwanis Club coordinates the donation of the turkeys

and hams, and contributes \$1,200 towards event and meal supplies. With support from Tri-Counties Regional Center, Momentum WORK Inc., the Parks and Recreation Department, and various volunteers, a turkey dinner, complete with pumpkin pie, will be served to an estimated 200 participants. This annual feast brings together individuals with disabilities, their families, and caregivers to enjoy an afternoon filled with delicious food, community building, and celebration.

#### Future Tentative Commission Agenda Items

In addition to regular business items, the Department anticipates that the following items will be presented to the Commission at upcoming regular meetings:

November – Capital Projects Update and the Proposed FY 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Program

December – Advisory Committee Appointments and Commercial Activities in Parks

**APPROVED BY:** Jill E. Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director