



PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

COMMISSION REPORT

MEETING DATE: JANUARY 11, 2023

ITEM NUMBER: MR – 2.1

**SUBJECT: DIRECTOR'S REPORT –
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023**

DATE: JANUARY 8, 2024

FROM: ALMA REYES, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: ALMA REYES, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER, (714) 754 - 5009

❖ Adaptive Programming

- Access Costa Mesa hosted our first dance on October 27, 2023 from 6:30-8:30pm at the Costa Mesa Senior Center. With the help of sensational Senior Center staff, volunteers from UCIs NORD (National Organization of Rare Disorders) Club, the dance was a major success. We hosted 40 dance goers who danced the night away to tunes spun by DJ Noah, and posed for silly pictures at the photo booth. Participants were also treated to delightful, allergy friendly refreshments generously donated by Costa Mesa's very own Sidecar Doughnuts. Overall, the spooky dance was a wicked good time with ages 18-85 representing Costa Mesa has access for all.
- In collaboration with the Fire and Police departments, Access Costa Mesa brought back the well-loved Sensory Friendly Snoopy House event on December 19, 2023. From 3:00-5:00pm, over 50 attendees wrote letters to Santa, explored Snoopy House sans lights, music, and moving animatronics, and took pictures with Santa! A fire company and police unit arrived to give tours of their truck, talk with the patrons, and bring in the Holiday spirit.

❖ Fairview Park

- The Fairview Park Master Plan Update project team is preparing for its next community outreach session. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for a date in November; time and location details will be provided to the Commission and distributed on the City's social media platforms once meeting details are confirmed.

❖ Senior Center

• **October**

- On September 27, more than 40 vendors participated in the center's 8th annual Knowledge and Health Fair Expo. Vendors provided information regarding their services and resources to more than 500 seniors. Seniors also enjoyed raffles and a healthy snack bar.
- On October 26, seniors enjoyed some Halloween fun at the annual Halloween Bash. The theme was Dia de lo Muertos and seniors enjoyed DJ Roy and lunch from Pizza D'Oro
- On October 31, the LEAP program visited the senior center for the annual LEAP Trick or Treat. This year's theme was Coco so doors throughout the Senior Center were decorated. Senior volunteers distributed candy to the happy trick or treaters

- **November**

- In honor of Veterans Day, senior veterans were treated to a catered lunch from Corner Bakery and a special presentation. The Veterans Social Group also installed a display of photos and mementos from their time serving. The veterans display that is located in the library display case will be available to view until early December.
- Seniors enjoyed all of the Thanksgiving fixings at the annual Thanksgiving Luncheon. Seniors enjoyed a catered meal from Newport Rib Company, entertainment from violinist Brooksley Bishop.

- **December**

- Seniors learned about holiday traditions in Mexico at the Senior Center's Noche Buena event. Seniors enjoyed tamales, pan dulce, café de olla, and traditional songs. Seniors also enjoyed learning about the history of this special holiday celebration and dancing to the lively mariachi music.
- December 14, the Senior Center had 150 participants attend the annual Breakfast with Santa event. With the assistance of Costa Mesa Police and Fire Department, participants enjoyed a full-service event that included carolers, French toast breakfast, games, and photos with Santa.
- On December 21, participants enjoyed coffee and a donut from the Senior Center. The sweet treat was provided to all in attendance as a sweet treat before the holiday season. The social had more than 100 participants enjoy the treats.

- ❖ **Teens Program**

- On December 14, at the Downtown Recreation gym, in collaboration with the Police Department held a *Snowball Fight Dodgeball Tournament*, where 33 Teens went up against 6 Police Officers for an ultimate game of Dodgeball. Congrats to the Orange Team!

- ❖ **Events**

- **Scarecrow Festival**

- On October 14, the annual Scarecrow Festival was held at the Lions Park Event Lawn, where the community had the opportunity to enjoy trick or treat stations, super hero meet and greet, arm painting, scarecrow voting, food and entertainment. More than 550 pumpkins were decorated and over 4,000 participants attended. The 2023 Scarecrow Contest winners are Victoria Elementary's Scarelego at 1st place, the Long Family's Boo-Kini Bottom at 2nd place, and the Harry and Grace Steele Children Center's Waltz of the Scarecrow receiving the honorable mention

- **Art Crawl**

- On October 21, the FREE Costa Mesa Art Crawl that highlights the Theater Arts took place had over 30 Participants where they were shuttled to the Costa Mesa Playhouse, The LAB and a final stop at South Coast Repertory to see a full production. This is the 2nd Art Crawl event and look forward to future experiences!

- **Power of One Trunk or Treat**

- On Saturday, October 28, the Power of One Foundation, in partnership with the City of Costa Mesa, City of Santa Ana, and IKEA – Costa Mesa, held their annual Trunk or Treat event. More than a whopping 7,500 people were in attendance to take part in trick-or-treating, interactive booths, games, costume contest, haunt zone, dancing, and food. Our Parks & Community Services team created a "Super Mesa World" trunk using the Mobile Recreation van with staff dressing as everyone's favorite Super Mario Bros. characters while posing for pictures and handing out more than 5000 pieces of candy.

- **ARTventure**

- On October 28, the Juried Art Exhibition kicked off with a Community Day at Norma Hertzog and in the evening an Awards Ceremony at Orange County Museum of Arts. The Juried Art exhibition had the artwork displayed for one week at the Norma Hertzog Community Center. This event collectively had over 1,000 attendees. Congrats to the eight honorable mention and eight cash winners!

Upcoming Events	Dates	Location
Hot Cocoa Social	Thursday, January 11	Costa Mesa Senior Center
A Friendship Dance	Friday, February 9	Costa Mesa Senior Center