

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
Youth Diversity Education Team Sub-Committee (YDET)
September 16, 2014 Minutes

The Youth Diversity Education Team of Mesa met on September 16th, 2014,
at 5:00pm at the Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St. Ste. 170.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tony Liuzzo, Co-Chair
Karen Frias-Long, Co-Chair
Denise Heap
Cliff Moon
Talmage Pearce
Nadia Taylor

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate
Emily Blankenship
Ruth Giese

GUESTS

1. Call to Order.

Dr. Liuzzo called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no citizens who requested to speak to YDET.

3. Approval of minutes from the April 9th, 2014 YDET meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Pearce to approve the April 9th, 2014 minutes, Mr. Moon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Hear, discuss and take action on expanding youth involvement with the Community Cinema Series.

Ms. Blankenship, Diversity Office staff member, provided an update on the 2014-2015 Community Cinema series events. This season films will be screened at Dobson Ranch Library, as opposed to the Mesa Arts Center. Dobson High School has confirmed their participation in this season of Community Cinema, with hope to screen two or three films for both classrooms and clubs. There was previously an expressed interest from the board to expand the Community Cinema program district wide, however first the board would need to obtain the school board approval and finding a teacher to take on additional workload may be difficult. After feedback from ITVS, the program host, they also concluded that a large operational change like this would not be feasible for this season given that this may take away from the mission of Community Cinema to be public and open a community dialogue. Staff recommendation for this season is to invite more students from school clubs or community organizations to existing screenings.

Ms. Blankenship explained that an attempt will be made to integrate board initiatives (disabilities and youth focus) into engagement activities this year. The first film of the season is MAKERS: Women In Space, which will be screening on October 9th. Women In Space traces the history of women pioneers in the U.S. space program. Staff focused the post-film discussion and activities to engage young females with interest in STEM education and technology. Mesa THINKspot will also provide 3-D printed bracelets to everyone at the event, as well as a 3-D printing demonstration after the film. Ms. Blankenship encouraged board members to look over the full season calendar and keep in mind any connections that they have with nonprofits or other organizations that could bring a panelist or an engagement activity to the screenings. An example of such is the Westwood High Robotics club will be attending the MAKERS screening with their award winning robots.

Ms. Blankenship also suggested that YDET can take the lead for one of the films by planning the panelists, engagement activity and inviting interested groups. The designated film would be shown in April 2015 titled, The Homestretch. The Homestretch focuses on the struggles of homeless youth. Ms. Heap suggested

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including fellow board member Colleen Byron who has an expertise in the topic area. Ms. Alicoate suggested that board members bring a list of contact to the next meeting and then they can determine who will contact them. Ms. Blankenship noted the importance of having a diverse panel of speakers. YDET members agreed to take on the project and will bring contacts and ideas at the next meeting.

5. Hear, discuss, and take action on the Diversity Youth Survey in order to explore ways to connect with youth and educate them on diversity related issues.

Ms. Giese provided the members a copy of the finalized Diversity Youth Survey for dissemination to question youth on how they would like to be contacted with diversity related information or how they would like to get such information. Ms. Heap noted that the title of the board should be 'Human Relations Advisory Board' as opposed to 'Human Relations Board' as currently written. Ms. Taylor stated that she would like to see 'Middle Eastern' added to the list of demographics. Mr. Pearce asked what the objective of the survey is once they receive the results. In response, Ms. Giese stated that the results of the survey may direct the committee what the next steps will be. Ms. Giese encouraged the YDET to get the survey out to as many youth as possible for a period of time; however this survey is only to gain initial feedback and not meant to be a statistically valid survey. Ms. Frias-Long stated that she will be working with six focus group throughout Mesa Public Schools and will be able to have them participate. Staff will make appropriate edits and provide hard copies and a PDF version to board members for distribution.

6. Hear an update, discuss and take action on MLK Committee's Youth Leadership Development Conference.

Mr. Moon advised that Martin Luther King Jr. Committee, along with interest from the City of Tempe Diversity Office, is planning a Youth Leadership Development Conference: Empowering Youth to "Learn, Lead, and Constructively Engage in their Communities" in the spring. Mr. Moon explained that the purpose of the conference is providing high school youth with an awareness in STEAM based careers, servant leadership and like skills and inspiring youth to make a positive difference in the community. The target audience would be 150 10th-12th grade students. Mr. Moon reviewed the criteria and selection process for the student as well participation information.

Mr. Moon explained that they would like to include profit and non-profit organizations. They will have multiple conference session themes with an overall presentation by a keynote speaker. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Teachers and counselors will be given education certificates in order to encourage participation. Mr. Moon also reviewed evaluation forms for students, presenters and teachers.

Ms. Heap questioned what role they would like the board to have. Mr. Moon stated that they could use assistance in identifying potential session speakers or presenters and to provide overall support. Ms. Heap also stated that she could possibly help identify funders if needed. Mr. Moon stated that he would appreciate that help. YDET members agreed to offer support by providing Mr. Moon with potential contacts and will keep item on the agenda for future updates.

7. Discuss future agenda items, meeting dates, announcements, other housekeeping.

- Next YDET meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 21st, 2014 at 5pm.

YDET members agreed to keep the same agenda items for discuss

8. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 5:53pm.

Submitted By:

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Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator