Summary Title: Palo Alto Art Center Foundation

Title: Palo Alto Art Center Foundation Contribution to the City in the Amount of $1.25 Million for the Art Center Renovation

From: City Manager

Lead Department: Community Services

Attachments:
- Attachment A - Palo Alto Art Center Foundation Fact Sheet (DOC)

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City Manager Approval: James Keene, City Manager
Mission of the Art Center Foundation

The mission of the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation, a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization founded 1973, is to support the mission and goals of the Palo Alto Art Center, promote unique art experiences and education for people of all ages, and serve as the Art Center’s advocates and ambassadors in the community.

The Foundation serves the Art Center by means of a City Council-acknowledged public/private partnership. The mission of the Art Center (founded 1971) is to foster creative process and thought by forging a greater appreciation and understanding of the visual arts through exhibitions, studio experiences, and related educational programs. The Foundation, through its fundraising efforts, enables the Art Center to offer innovative educational experiences for children and adults, produce high-profile exhibitions and catalogues, pay artists equitable participation fees, and broaden its audience to serve the community as a truly regional art center. The Foundation is also spearheading the planning of a $10 million expansion and renovation of the Art Center.

What is the Relationship between the Art Center and the Foundation?

The Palo Alto Art Center is owned and operated by the City of Palo Alto as a program of the Division of Arts and Culture, Department of Community Services. The Palo Alto Art Center Foundation, a private nonprofit organization, supports the Art Center by means of a public/private partnership. Through this partnership, the Foundation significantly enhances the extent and quality of the Art Center’s programs through fundraising initiatives and volunteer service.

How is the Art Center funded?

The budget of the Art Center is approximately $1.4 million. The City of Palo Alto provides approximately $1 million a year for staff salaries and basic program operations of the Art Center as well as maintaining the facility. The Art Center Foundation’s budget also directly supports the Art Center programs, providing an additional $350,000, or 26% of the Art Center’s budget. Cultural Kaleidoscope is entirely funded by the Foundation. The Foundation also provides funding for Project LOOK! and pays for a program assistant for the children’s programs as well as underwriting Family Days, traveling exhibitions, publications, scholarships and special equipment. The Foundation is supported by membership and individual contributions, corporate and foundation grants, and special events as well as proceeds from The Gallery Shop.

History of the Foundation

The Palo Alto Art Center Foundation was founded in 1973 to advise and support the Palo Alto Art Center. Since its inception, the Foundation has engaged in fundraising to assist the Art Center’s efforts to educate, motivate and involve people in the visual arts.