



BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMITTEE REPORT

MEETING DATE: **JUNE 23, 2022** ITEM: **8E(v)**

SUBJECT: **Community Affairs Committee**

DATE: June 21, 2022

FROM: Directors Bagneris and Chair La Belle

PRESENTATION BY: Directors Bagneris and Chair La Belle

Purpose:

This committee oversees the Board's relationship with the community.

Focus:

- *Diversity, equity and inclusion*
- *Community engagement*
- *Relationships with local, county and state officials*

Special Projects:

- *Plaza Pacifica Public Art Project Celebrating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE MEETING

The committee met through email on June 16, 2022 and discussed the following:

June – Pride Month:

- June is Pride Month, and although the CA Dept. of Agriculture and the USDA do not track the number of agriculture producers from the LGBTQ+ community, staff shared about Nate Looney, a Black transgender farmer and veteran, who is the founder and CEO of Westside Urban Gardens, an urban agricultural start-up farm located in Los Angeles, California. Westside Urban Gardens helps members of the LGBTQ+ community by hiring them and teaching viable skills for future employment. Through the use of hydroponic cultivation and aquaponics, the farm uses approximately 90 percent less water than soil-based outdoor farms. And, the USDA continues to hold Rural Pride Summits throughout the country to provide resources for LGBTQ+ agriculture producers throughout the country.

- The “Out at the Fair” organization will return to this year’s OC Fair. On Sunday, August 7, the Out at the Fair team will host special family friendly entertainment and exhibits in the Hangar Building from 11am to 7pm.

June – National PTSD Awareness Month:

- The committee also noted that June is PTSD Awareness Month, a reminder of those in our community – especially veterans – who suffer from PTSD.

Juneteenth is Recognized on June 20:

- The committee discussed that Juneteenth is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. Juneteenth marks the anniversary of the announcement of General Order No. 3 by Union Army general Gordon Granger on June 19, 1865, proclaiming freedom for enslaved people in Texas.

Pre-Fair Neighbor Meeting:

- Staff invited surrounding neighbors in the Mesa del Mar and College Park areas to attend a pre-fair informational meeting. Staff answered questions and provided information about fair programming, operations and customer service.

Board-directed Donation Fair Tickets:

- As part of the Strategic Plan, OCFEC – working through our Board members – will be issuing 5,000 free admission passes to the 2022 OC Fair to nonprofits and community groups that work with the neediest in our community. Staff is working with individual Board members to identify those groups and get the tickets into the hands of our community members so that those who would not otherwise be able to come to the fair are given the opportunity to visit.

Follow-up

- The next meeting of the Community Affairs Committee is TBD.