



BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: **SEPT. 26, 2024** ITEM: **9C**

SUBJECT: **Staff Presentation on Concept for The Ranch and Vote on Whether or Not to Approve**

DATE: September 20, 2024

FROM: Michele Richards, CEO

PRESENTATION BY: Michele Richards, CEO

Action Item

BACKGROUND

At its December 2023 meeting, the Board of Directors directed staff to develop a new model for the equestrian center for more public programming and greater access for the community at large, while still maintaining boarding and training of privately owned horses.

Staff initially introduced the concept of The Ranch at the January 2024 Board meeting which would include a variety of public programming designed to educate and serve the community at large. Updates were also presented at Board meetings in February 2024 and March 2024.

Staff will present further detail about the development of The Ranch concept including proposed layout, exhibit design concepts and public programs.

The proposed layout would include use of the five barns on the west side of the center for public programming, reserving the four barns on the east side for use by private boarders.

The proposed exhibits design concepts would include development of future exhibit and tour space, small group meeting space and spaces for interactive activities.

Staff will provide the Board with an update on new partnerships that have been developed for the launch of public programs, along with ideas for future programming.

Initial costs for development of The Ranch will include Ranch After-School Program materials and supplies, completion of the entrance mural, development of outdoor gardening beds and gathering spaces and initial materials for the exhibits. Estimated cost

for this initial work is not to exceed \$50,000. Subsequent costs related to the build-out of exhibits will be included in the 2025 budget for Board approval.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends:

1. a recommitment to the Board's vision and direction for The Ranch
2. approval to move forward with further development of the concepts presented, and
3. approval of the initial cost of not to exceed \$50,000 for additional Ranch After School Program materials and supplies, completion of the entrance mural, development of outdoor gardening beds and gathering spaces, and initial materials for the exhibits.