

Committee Chair: Joe DeCenzo

Committee Members: Gerardo Barrientos, Joanna Gates,
Dawn Jenkins, Corey Stein, KT Travers*

Denotes Board member Quorum = 4



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**SUNLAND-TUJUNGA
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

Arts, Recreation & Culture Committee Meeting (STARC)

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 @ 7:30 PM

McGroarty Arts Center

7570 McGroarty Terrace, Tujunga 91042

MINUTES (Draft)

In Attendance: Joe DeCenzo, Dawn Jenkins, KT Travers, Gerardo Barrientos, Joanna Gates GUESTS: Frances Ronning, Mike Olivares, Johanna Voutouna, William S., Becky Luening, Abby Diamond, Davin Jenkins, Ross Herman, 4 attendees on Zoom.

1. **Call To Order; Introductions, Approval of Minutes of November 25, 2024:** Committee Chair, Joe DeCenzo, introduced the committee members to the guests in attendance. He read through the minutes of the prior month's meeting. Dawn Jenkins moved to approve the minutes with noted corrections. KT Travers seconded the motion and it was approved 4-0.
2. **Review mission statement; Code of Conduct; Quorum requirements:** Joe DeCenzo reviewed the STARC committee mission statement and quorum requirements of 4. He referred members to www.empowerla.org for the full listing of our code of conduct. .
3. **Public Comments/Updates for Non-Agenda Items:** Ross Herman, Chair of the STNC Outreach Committee, requested that he be sent monthly event notices for publication. Joe announced the Village Poets gathering at Bolton Hall, 4:30 pm on February 23. KT Travers announced the Welcome Garden of Resilience and Inclusion will have their first planting soon. The date is still pending.
4. **Guest Speaker: Evelyn Serrano,** "We are Connected, We are Kin!" creating the book *Earthsongs of Tuxuunga*. Artist, author and professor, Evelyn Serrano shared the original watercolor artwork she created for the publication of her book. She praised contributors Tina Calderon and Lazaro Arvizu Jr. for their expertise. Apart from the content about the land, animals and plants that comprise our environment and the necessity to coincide, the book contains QR codes that link to recordings or native songs and pronunciations. The book was created in a manner to appeal to the interests of both adults and children. Printing was paid for in part by an arts grant and published in agreement with the culture bearers who requested that it not be a for profit venture.
5. **Update: McGroarty Arts Center:** Annette Bethers announced that she is grateful to all for their assistance throughout the holidays. The winter class series is still in session. She is looking forward to the upcoming stained glass workshop.
6. **Discussion:** Guest Speakers: We will ask Ukulele teacher Emma Lemcke and arborist Gary Knowlton
7. **Sharing:** Reflections and suggestions for support of those suffering the devastation of January 7. Stories were told of friends and loved ones who are personally experiencing loss. ST Forward was forced to cancel their volunteer day on January 20 due to winds, toxic conditions and the need for additional protective gear. Joe advised anyone involved in rebuilding will need to thoroughly review proposals and get solid references from contractors as there will be many unqualified and unscrupulous people operating.
8. **Discussion:/Action:** Community projects, events, murals, gardens: Joe spoke with Gerardo about the patching work at the Pinewood Elementary mural. It is much more extensive than expected and will require additional review.
9. **Adjourn** 9:08 p.m.

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