

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 (STARC)

Tuesday May 27, 2025 @ 7:30 PM

McGroarty Arts Center

7570 McGroarty Terrace, Tujunga 91042

MINUTES (Draft)

In Attendance: Joe DeCenzo, Dawn Jenkins, Gerardo Barrientos, Corey Stein, Joanna Gates, KT Travers **Guests:**

Evelyn Serrano, Liliana Sanchez, Joni Anderson, Lazaro Arvizu Jr., Bonnie Welch, Jen Zapp, David Jenkins, iPhone, Natasha

1. **Call To Order; Introductions,** Committee chair, Joe DeCenzo, introduced the members to the attending guests.
2. **Review mission statement; Code of Conduct; Quorum requirements:** Joe DeCenzo stated the quorum is 4. He advised guests to maintain decorum and comply with the code of conduct. He directed them to www.empowerla.org for further information.
3. **Public Comments/Updates for Non-Agenda Items:** Evelyn Serano-June 6, 3:30-5:30 celebration of Lazaro's mural at Pinewood elementary, Dawn Jenkins-Open Studio at Danielle Eubanks was very successful, Corey Stein will have her work displayed at the Gene Autry Indian Art Festival June 7 & 8, Joanna Gates-Monrovia Music Festival June 8 12-7pm, Jen Zapp- on May 30 she will update the Foothill Art House at the BackDoor Bakery, Gerardo Barrientos mentioned he had a great time at the Mt. Wilson Observatory tour and recommends it to all. "Queer Jam" at McGroarty was small but lovely. Emma Lemcke organized.
4. Guest Speaker: **Lazaro Arvizu Jr.** "Common Threads," connecting Indigenous culture, art and the environment. He began his presentation by playing one of his flutes. As a Culture Bearer, he designed his Pinewood elementary mural to be culturally accurate. He focused his images at a child's eye level to help them identify with the content. He studied the local mountains, the variegation, their sparseness. He also teaches classes at Pinewood. He engages children with relevant games and acorn grinding to foster understanding and exposure to different languages.
5. Update: **McGroarty Arts Center:** Joe DeCenzo for Annette Bethers. He encouraged all to attend the opening of the "Head, Hands & Heart" ceramics show on June 7 from 6-9pm. The summer class session begins July 7.
6. Approval of minutes of April 25, 2025: Joe DeCenzo read through the minutes of the prior month's meeting. Joanna Gates moved to approve as written. KT Travers seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
7. Discussion: **Sunland-Tujunga Pride Festival:** KT Travers announced some of the confirmed line up for the June 14th event include Ryan Casada, Jade Phoenix, Village Poets, Pickle the drag queen, and Queer Jam. State Senator, Caroline Menjivar will attend. Foothills Pride began 4 years ago as a response to a number of high school students who were bullied and ostracized for their LGBTQ+ status.
8. **MyLA311** Discussion, share your experience: Joe DeCenzo stated he reported the walkway graffiti at Bolton Hall 3 times with no resolution. They closed each report claiming it was cleaned up, but nothing had been done. It was recommended to try Graffiti Busters. KT Travers says she had a successful interaction with the app.
9. **Discussion:/Action:** Community projects, events, murals, gardens: Gerardo Barrientos is painting a DOT box near Sunland Ralphs. He continues to make his needs known regarding the Pinewood Ave. mural.
10. **Adjourn 9:15 p.m.**

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