



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 13, 2015

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: 
C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

Re: **January 8th Memorial Update**

Over the past several weeks the planning and design for the January 8th Memorial has elicited considerable attention and discussion. Late last week I met with representatives of the January 8th Memorial Foundation (Foundation) and the Tucson Pima Arts Council (TPAC) to clarify the process to date and to delineate the next steps.

TPAC is managing the design competition for the Foundation. Interested parties submitted a response to a Request for Qualifications on September 30, 2014 indicating how they would create a Master Plan Concept for the future renovation of El Presidio Park and a Schematic Design for the exterior portion of a memorial to Tucson's January 8th shooting in 2011.

Sixty applicants responded to the Request for Qualifications from which four finalist teams were asked to present a preliminary memorial design and preliminary master plan concept. A panel of 11 local residents, which included an architect from Pima County Facilities Management as a Pima County representative, reviewed the submissions using the following criteria:

1. Capability of achieving aesthetic excellence
2. Inventiveness and creativity
3. Ability to address the opportunities and limitations for the El Presidio Master Plan
4. Capability of designing an original and unique Memorial
5. Responsiveness to the Foundation Mission
6. Responsiveness to the goals of honoring the individuals involved and of designing a space for contemplation and conversation, and for use of festivals
7. Capability of designing a Memorial space that is distinct but still part of El Presidio Park
8. Sensitivity to the unique historic considerations of the overall site
9. Ability to develop/conduct public outreach plan
10. Sustainability/Maintenance Consideration
11. Sensitivity to wider Tucson context

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Re: **January 8th Memorial Update**
May 13, 2015
Page 2

12. Ability to work within an emotionally-charged, politically-charged context

Later this week, I will be made aware of the recommended design team that will begin work on the Master Plan Concept and memorial design. That formal design process is expected to take approximately 18 months and will include input from a multitude of stakeholders, taking site limitations into consideration.

It is important to note that at this point in the process, a design team is being selected and not a design. I have shared with representatives of both TPAC and the Foundation the County's concerns that the historical context of the Pima County Courthouse, Presidio and the plaza be central to all deliberations. We agreed that increased communication with the County Administrator's office is essential going forward. I encouraged the groups to be bold with the Plaza master plan but modest in the memorial design. We all recognize the challenge to create a true civic plaza with all the existing memorials and disparate elements, and we do not want to create yet one more memorial that conflicts with the public space. Finally, I encouraged them to hold firm reins on the selected design team as they enter the next phase of design.

CHH/dr

c: Michael Kirk, Director, Facilities Management Department
Linda Mayro, Director, Office of Sustainability and Conservation
Roberto Bodoya, Executive Director, Tucson Pima Arts Council
Karen Christensen, January 8th Memorial Foundation