



HOUSING HIGHLIGHTS

A quarterly newsletter for Housing and Community Development

PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY ANNUAL PLAN/ ADMIN PLAN

A 45-day comment period will take place through April 3 regarding Mesa's Public Housing Authority Annual Plan for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

The Annual Plan provides an update to the Five-Year Plan created by the City of Mesa's Housing Authority in April 2015. The Five-Year Plan provides information to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regarding the City's Public Housing Authority and its goals and objectives from 2015-2019 for assisting families with rental subsidy under the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan (Admin Plan) is required by HUD and sets the policies for administration of the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

The Annual Plan and Admin Plan were both reviewed by the Resident Advisory Board Feb. 7. They are scheduled to be reviewed and approved by the Mesa Housing Services Governing Board April 4. If approved, the plans will then be submitted to HUD with changes becoming effective July 1, 2019. More information is available at www.mesaaz.gov/housing.

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS

Two Substantial Amendments to the Fiscal Year 18/19 Community Revitalization Annual Action Plan are expected to be approved by Mesa City Council at its Feb. 25 meeting. The amendments will provide the following allocations from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds:

A New Leaf	\$65,000
Ability 360	\$50,000
Heat Sync Labs	\$22,190
House of Refuge	\$10,000
Mesa United Way	\$283,482
NEDCO COHOOTS	\$100,000
Oakwood	\$85,000
Parks - Jefferson	\$55,000
Sojourner Center	\$32,680
United Food Bank	\$65,000
Total	\$733,482

There will also be \$150,000 from Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) funds that will be administered by staff for homeownership activities.



LANDLORD INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Housing staff is excited to introduce and implement its new IHOM (Increasing Housing Opportunities in Mesa) landlord incentive program.

The program, which is for City of Mesa voucher program participants and applicants only, offers three types of activities to assist homeless individuals and families:

- Application fees up to \$50 per application for homeless people and families or individuals with extremely low income
- Utility assistance for current voucher participants with zero income and previously homeless people. They may apply for help with utility bills for the first 3 months after move-in
- Vacancy payments for new or current landlords who will lease their unit to a current voucher participant or applicant

Funding for the IHOM program is through a \$51,000 grant from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

More information is available at www.mesaaz.gov or by contacting Housing Supervisor Mary Brandon at mary.brandon@mesaaz.gov.



HOUSING MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The City of Mesa is expected to have a draft of its updated Housing Master Plan in March and seek additional public comment. Two community meetings were held in December to provide information on the work that has been done so far and to get feedback.

The Housing Master Plan is a 10-year guide for City planning decisions, prioritizing and balancing demands for all levels of housing demand, identifying the needs of low and moderate-income households and providing a framework for evaluating future projects.

For more information, visit www.mesaaz.gov/housing and click on the “Housing Master Plan” link on the left side of the page.

POINT IN TIME HOMELESS COUNT



Mesa was among several valley cities participating in the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) 2019 Point-In-Time (PIT) Homeless Count in Mesa Jan. 22. There were 111 volunteers who went out in small groups that morning to interview homeless individuals and their families throughout Mesa.

The MAG 2019 PIT Homeless Count is a one-night street count to determine the number of people experiencing homelessness in Maricopa County during a given point in time. The count includes a brief survey to identify some of the characteristics of people experiencing homelessness in our community. Cities, such as Mesa, that receive federal funding for homeless assistance from HUD are required to conduct an annual comprehensive PIT count. This helps local governments and nonprofit organizations more effectively allocate resources necessary to meet the needs of the homeless population. MAG will have survey results from the PIT count this spring.



ARTSPACE GRAND OPENING

A grand opening was held Jan. 23 for Mesa Artspace Lofts, 155 S. Hibbert, a \$15.8 million arts development in downtown Mesa. The arts complex includes 50 units of fully leased housing where artists and their families live and work. The complex includes a courtyard, playground, gardens, outdoor stage, pet run and on-site offices for A New Leaf.

Mesa Artspace Lofts was developed by Artspace, a Minneapolis-based nonprofit organization, in partnership with the Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO). Funding came from several sources including CDBG funding allocated by the City of Mesa.

This is the 50th Artspace project in the United States and the first in Arizona.



NONPROFIT PARTNER PROFILE: UNITED FOOD BANK

United Food Bank began in July 1983 as United Food Distribution Center, Inc. with 28 community partners. Today, United Food Bank has a service area of 19,608 square miles and collaborates with more than 200 community partners that operate more than 260 programs to help feed families, children and seniors. During the 17/18 fiscal year, the Food Bank provided 17,337,713 meals to hungry people. In Mesa, 51 partnering agencies provided 5,997,127 pounds of food totaling 4,997,606 meals in 2018 to people in need.



The City of Mesa is one of the Food Bank's partners and has provided CDBG and Human Services funding. During the 17/18 fiscal year, the City provided \$17,352 for food assistance and cooler expansion. For the current fiscal year, approximately \$65,00 has been allocated to expand its refrigerated cooler. This upgrade to the existing refrigeration system will help improve food safety and increase capacity. These vital steps will allow United Food Bank to distribute additional fresh food offerings such as fruits, vegetables, milk, dairy and protein to our agencies who help feed hungry people in our five-county service areas who don't have enough food.

The City also partners with United Food Bank on annual projects such as Great Turkey Tuesday to provide turkeys to needy families during the holidays and the Mesa Hydration Donation Campaign to provide water for the unsheltered during the extreme summer heat.



GREAT EMPLOYEES

PATRICIA PEARSON serves as the Office Supervisor for the Community Services Department. Patricia has oversight of the Administrative staff that are critical to the operations of the department. Patricia's contributions and impact are too many to list. One example is her recent efforts in bringing more training and resources to support staff to gain more skills and knowledge on how to have better work/life balance. She keeps the department running smoothly and is a great supervisor. Many thanks to Patricia for her excellent work.

ROSARIO BELTRAN is the Housing Services Coordinator for Community Services. She supervises the housing staff that serve more than 1,700 households. Rosario is very skilled in her work and also compassionate and fair to the participants of the program. She has served on the Hispanic Network committee which was launched in the past year. Rosario has also brought a great energy in the department as the Health and Wellness Liaison for the Department. She understands the need for staff to be healthy which makes them better employees. She has led activities in and out of the office that are related to healthy habits, like walks at lunch or taking hikes on the weekends. Rosario is a great asset to the Department and we are very grateful for all she does.

EMPLOYEE NEWS

- **JANA KELLY** retired Feb. 5 as a fiscal analyst.
- **MARIBEL FLORES**, Housing Specialist, is on Special Assignment with Neighborhood Outreach for a variety of tasks including community engagement events, the Tool Landing Program and planning for HOA classes.
- **LUBIA SAENZ** has been hired as an Office Assistant II, effective Feb. 11.
- **FRANCINE TARIN**, who has been a temporary employee, has been hired as an Office Assistant II, effective Feb. 4.



CALENDAR OF MEETINGS/EVENTS

MON., FEB. 25. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

TUE., FEB. 26. SPECIAL HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING. 5pm. Mesa City Plaza, Room 170, 20 E. Main St.

WED., FEB. 27. SPECIAL HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING. 5pm. Mesa City Plaza, Room 170, 20 E. Main St.

MON., MARCH 4. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

THUR., MARCH 7. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD. 6pm. Lower Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

MON., MARCH 18. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

SAT., MARCH 23. 19th ANNUAL HISTORIC HOME TOUR. 10am-4pm.

SAT., MARCH 30. FALCON FIELD AIRPORT OPEN HOUSE. 9am-3pm. Falcon Field Airport, 4636 E. Fighter Aces Drive

MON., APRIL 1. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

THUR., APRIL 4. HOUSING SERVICES GOVERNING BOARD. 7:30am. Lower Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

THUR., APRIL 4. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD. 6pm. Lower Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

SAT., APRIL 13. CELEBRATE MESA. 10am-2pm. Pioneer Park, 526 E. Main St.

MON., APRIL 15. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

