



MVCC Education, Arts and Culture Committee

Chairs: Kate Anderson and Babak Nahid

www.marvista.org

WHEN: Sunday, October 3, 2010, 10:30 AM-12 PM

WHERE: Mar Vista Farmers Market, Grand View at Venice Boulevard, Los Angeles CA 90066 ([Map](#))

Draft Minutes

Present: Kate Anderson, Babak Nahid, Marianne Brown Peter, Annette Mercer, Bill Ring, Peter Thotham

1. Meeting was called to order at 10:35 AM by Kate Anderson
2. Approval of Minutes (posted on marvista.org) was tabled due to lack of members present at the September meeting.
3. Bill Ring spoke of the need for participation by parents at local schools to run for seats on School Sites Council, a body charged with design, evaluation and monitoring of each school's academic plan and its budget and spending. There will be trainings and elections in the coming week but parents need to show up to be candidates for the seats.
4. Re: Fall Festival and participating Mar Vista schools, Babak Nahid reported on the confirmed participation of several schools (Mar Vista Elementary, Windward, Venice High School etc.) and invited committee members to reach out via their email lists etc. to increase festival attendance by schools, parents and students. Any schools who wish to participate by having an outreach table should contact marvistafestival@marvista.org ASAP.
5. An active discussion ensued re: ways to boost collaboration between MVCC and the Venice Community Council Education Committee and other appropriate neighboring NC committees. There was general agreement on strengthening NC coalitions on education issues. Peter Thotham spoke of the powerful experience he had volunteering last week for Student Recovery Day for VHS and the tough challenges parents and students have in terms of school attendance. He also suggested screenings of "Waiting for Superman" followed by panel discussions on education issues. He cited the importance of reaching out to Hispanic community which form the majority of the student/parent body at VHS. Bill Ring suggested considering "Race to Nowhere" as a possible screening. Babak Nahid spoke of intra-NC education summits and more active information and knowledge sharing online between education committees on the Westside that include MVCC, Venice, Del Rey and others. Peter Thotham will further investigate how best to host such an event at VHS that ensures participation by our NCs and the larger community as a whole.
6. Babak Nahid mentioned the need for outreach the community to ensure diverse participation at the Windward Community Meeting on Wednesday, October 27, 2010, 6 pm regarding the school's 5-year plan and its impact on and return for the community. Part of the plan involves expansion of the school to land next to its location across from Mar Vista Park on Palms (next to the flood control channel there). Marianne Brown noted that some low income housing advocates think that that land should instead be used for the development of much-needed low income/workforce housing on the Westside -- so that the service sector does not have to commute so far (traffic issues) to their work on the Westside of LA.
7. On strategies for CIG funding outreach and allocation, which was designed to improve access to mini-grants for education, art and culture projects, Babak Nahid cited some of the challenges of reaching school administrators via email and phone. Bill Ring spoke of communicating with

multiple entities (e.g. Parent Advisory Councils) at schools to improve communication and outreach. Annette Mercer suggested reaching out to assistant principals and any grant making committees at schools when the principal is not accessible. She also will review the CIG application and requirements on marvista.org and provide suggestions to improve it. Bill Ring suggested also checking out the LAUSD [School Experience Survey](#) to better understand parent perspectives. Marianne Brown mentioned MVCC CIG funding for the VHS learning garden and its launch this week. She will inform us of project's progress as an example of ways the MVCC can stay informed on the impact of projects it funds.

8. Future Agenda Items: Discussion of Intra-NC Education Summit/Screening
9. Adjourned at 12:15 PM