



## May Center Report – March 2021

### Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting



#### **May Arboretum Report**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS.**

- ◆ The cactus and succulent garden design is complete, encompassing nearly 2.5 acres at the north end of the arboretum. The garden complies with the 2002 Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Implementation Plan. Many thanks to the May Arboretum Society for supporting the design of the garden (\$45,000).
- ◆ Winter seasonal staff continue to make an impact on the maintenance of the arboretum. Maintenance schedule is months ahead. Many thanks to the May Arboretum Society for their support (\$98,000.00/year through ManPower).
- ◆ Donorsnap software was installed and the horticulturist received training. This program will assist the horticulturist streamline donations and record keeping making processing faster. Many thanks to the May Foundation for their support (\$800.00).

#### **May Arboretum Environmental Educational Programs**

- ◆ Laura Fraser, AmeriCorps Arboretum Educational Program Coordinator Laura continued her work on past projects and activities and was able to launch and complete her first turnkey program for the arboretum. The piloted educational program Plant Press Kits was a success. Over 20 kits were assembled then advertised to our Little Sprouts mailing list and Facebook pages and soon after all the kits were taken. Due to the response Laura will continue with this program throughout year.
- ◆ Laura continued with our weekly virtual Story Time videos and crafts while engaging Arboretum volunteers to assist. A new program that will be launched this season is the, “Pizza & Salsa Garden” activity.
- ◆ Laura organized the program, ordered seeds and assisted in starting the plants from seed in the greenhouse. The plants will be available for families in June and July to pick up. Each plant will have a short history on their origin and uses as well as fun recipe cards once the plants are ready to be harvested.

#### **Arboretum Upgrades and Projects**

- ◆ Tree pruning continued in the arboretum. Many thanks to the May Foundation for their continue support (\$10,000).

#### **Arboretum Operations**

- ◆ With un-seasonally good weather staff continued removing leaf litter, continued pruning trees and perennial shrubs and mulching trees and the gardens using wood chips generated from the Arborist chipper who was hired to prune the trees around the museum and Honey’s Garden.
- ◆ Phil Brazier, horticulture assistant continues to manage the Arboretum seasonal maintenance staff and projects while the horticulturist works from home.



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#### **Visitor Data**

- ◆ The May Arboretum subscribes to the Pedestrian TRAFX Counter software. The number of visitors for February 2021 was nearly same as last year showing only a slight increase compared to February 2020. The majority pedestrians enter from the Ranch House parking lot (south entrance) 3,610 and the remainder enter from the west 2,226, May Museum parking lot. In fiscal 20-21 year the arboretum drew 60,096 visitors which is an increase 12% compared to last year.

#### **May Arboretum Volunteer Program**

- ◆ Volunteers continue play a major role in the maintenance and operation of the Arboretum. They provide additional support to our staff and gardens. Volunteers logged 86 hours for the month which has a service value of \$1,960.00.

#### **Wilbur D. May Museum**

##### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- ◆ The museum hosted “History in the Buff”, an after-hours Valentine’s event over V Day weekend. The three day event was limited in size to preserve social distancing. The event sold out days in advance and the guests enjoyed the event immensely.

##### **UPCOMING**

- ◆ The museum will open a new exhibit on March 25 called “Young at Art.” This traveling exhibition features original illustrations and books from Caldecott Medal recipients. It will be on display through April 30.