

Update on Spanish Village- October 3, 2024

Presenter: Karen Dennison, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department

BACKGROUND

- The Parks and Recreation Department briefed the Balboa Park Committee in January of 2024 on the 3-year “Special Use & Occupancy Agreement” (or permit) between the City and the Village Arts & Education Foundation (VAEF) which went into effect on January 1st, 2024.
- In that update, the Parks and Recreation Department discussed the process for how studio space would be used and how the jurying process for new artists would work. Specifically, it covered:
 - The terms of the permit.
 - The process of issuing sublicenses under the permit.
 - Permit and sublicense fees.
 - Membership process.
 - The roles of Patio Artist and Studio Sitter.
 - The Brown Act requirements for VAEF to ensure public participation and transparency.

ACTION

- Today's update is focused on the progress since the January 2024 update to the Balboa Park Committee, as well as where the City stands with the sublicenses held by the artists and guilds who use and occupy the studios at Spanish Village.
- Since the permit was executed, the City has:
 - Gained 9 months of experience under the new 3-year agreement in which we have learned a lot and helped define roles and responsibilities between VAEF and SVAC (Spanish Village Arts center, Inc).
 - Executed 126 sublicenses consisting of:
 - 84 individual artists,
 - 36 patio artists,
 - And, 6 guilds.
- Collectively, these entities occupy 41 active studios, including the surrounding common areas, in the Village.
- Of the previous individuals and entities who occupied and used Spanish Village, only 3 artists opted not to obtain a sublicense.

NO SUBLICENSE FOR SVAC

- Also, one notable development for the Committee to be aware of is the decision to not execute a sublicense for SVAC, the entity that has been responsible for managing the day-to-day operations at Spanish Village, as well membership including the jurying of new artists.
- This decision was made by VAEF during a meeting that occurred on September 16, 2024 and included leadership from the Parks and Recreation Department, VAEF, and SVAC.
- It was during this meeting that VAEF exercised its right, under the Permit, to select its own operator and decided to assume the duties performed by SVAC.
- As a result, SVAC does not have a sublicense to use Spanish Village. However, it's important to note that most of the members of SVAC are individual artists who continue to use studio space under their own sublicenses with VAEF.
- This means that SVAC, as a collective group, is no longer able to use and occupy City-owned property without the written consent from the City as outlined in the San Diego Municipal Code.

PRE-CLOSING

- In the coming weeks, the City will be working on a series of activities as part of this period of transition.
- The City will also work with VAEF in helping revise VAEF's by-laws and update jurying procedures.

CLOSING

- The City thanks SVAC for their many years of service in managing Spanish Village, as well as their contributions in creating a community of working local artists and sharing this passion with visitors of Balboa Park.
- Thank you for the opportunity to brief you today. We will make sure to provide updates to this committee as needed.