

**Pima Cultural Plan – Prompting the Future  
Community Forums  
Joel D. Valdez Main Library  
Downtown/West  
January 18<sup>th</sup> 2007 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.**

Welcome and Introductions

*Lead consultant Bill Bulick welcomed participants and thanked them for their interest and willingness to help shape the Pima Cultural Plan. Mr. Bulick described cultural planning as defining and taking stock of creative resources, determining how and why they benefit the community and developing concrete strategies to preserve and enhance them.*

*Mr. Bulick introduced staff from the Tucson Pima Arts Council, there to assist, and described the purpose of the forum – to gather community input on Pima County’s most important cultural and creative resources and hoped for outcomes of the planning process.*

Outputs from small group discussion:

*Each table elected a facilitator and notetaker then held an hour of discussion on the two topics listed below. They were asked to prioritize their responses under each question and report back to the whole group. The following is a distillation of the elements reported by all tables in response to each question, grouped into categories. As much as possible, the original language of the presenter and distinctions among responses are preserved.*

**Topic 1: What are the most important creative assets and/or cultural resources of Pima County?**

- Natural Beauty and sunlight
- Natural Environment
- Ecology/History
- Desert bioregion
- Colors/ sunlight
- Archeology
- Rivers
- Dunbar Spring
- An active and dynamic green movement, recycling and permaculture
- Organic slow growth verses urban sprawl
  
- Arts Space or means of distribution such as Museums, Parks, Performance Venues, Airwaves, Architecture, U of A, Pima Community College and Recreation Facilities
- 50 million sq.ft. of available commercial rental space

- Poetry Center
- Casinos
- Northwest center
- The Creative Community comprising artists, advocates and educators
- A large population of Artists who live work and learn in Tucson
- Artists
- Lots of small and midsized Arts organizations
- Neighborhood Diversity
- Rich Latino and native heritage
- Demographics, Indigenous Culture/Cultural Diversity, Traditional foods, Festivals, Religious celebrations; Individual groups/cross-pollinating groups
- San Augustine
- Cultural Educational organizations and Institutions: U of A, Pima Community College (multiple campus approach), Public Schools, Jewish Community Center

**Topic 2: Describe a future in which creativity flourishes in Pima County as a result of this cultural plan. What would be the outcomes or results?**

- Arts Lobbyists Secure Funds for Tucson Pima County
- Pima County Unveils self-sustaining Cultural Plan
- Tax Based Funding and Commitment from government and public /private industry (where is the \$ 1 bed tax)
- Smart investment: (Minneapolis model) midsized organizations support smaller Art Houses.
- Tucson Philanthropy Surpasses State Funds per Year
- Google. Inc. to open Arts Foundation in Tucson
- Tucson Arts Non-profits Make Record Incomes
- Arts Drive Boom Economy
- Affordable, Accessible, and safe Cultural Programming
- Arts Agency with more authority and finding coordinator arts events
- International Arts Festival
- Gallery Exhibit Highlights Community Creativity
- Public Art Acts as Center of neighborhood
- Tucson Surprises Sundance as Film Festival Mecca
- Artists Design Children's playground Gets national recognition
- Arts Program in T.U.S.D. #1 in the county
- Tucsonan living in Peace and Prosperity
- Arts Brings peace to the nation
- American Indians Present an alternative Model for Dialogue

- Performance Piece Shows the way to Better Life
- New Play Educates City Council on Immigration issues.
- Dance Troupe moves Community towards Karmic Enlightenment
  
- Downtown Tucson: The Artistic Jewel of Pima County
- Eastside Finds Arts Culture Downtown
- Artists Save Downtown from Disaster
- Arts community brings Authenticity Downtown
- Downtown Art Center Encompasses City Kiosk: Long Lines for tickets
  
- Tucson Redefines the way the World Perceives Art
- Tucson Strives to restore Cultural Integrity
- Participatory Art Woven into Daily Life

#### General Observations and Lessons Learned

*Consultant, Bill Bulick, asked participants for general observations about what had been said and learned. The following were offered:*

- Nature/Environment
- Collaboration both macro/micro
- Diversity; Indigenous Cultures
- Large population of Artists
- Need more support?
- Transportation- Accessibility
- Art integrated into Life
- Need Policy against Cultural appropriation
- Should explore cultural democracy-cultural bill of rights A.P.I. website
- Liked the Memphis Manifesto; do one for Pima
- Comparable City models
- Don't think we need a new building (Roberto's' quote in media)
- Look back at past reports/plans
- Need public Accessibility- to stay informed
- Paulo Solari- Arco Santi- Model of sustainable artist's colony