



Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy (ACHS) Latinx Family Meeting MEETING NOTES

August 3, 2020 • 7:00 PM – 8:20 PM

Held Remotely Online via Zoom

www.ci.Wilsonville.or.us/ArtsCultureStrategy

1. Welcome and Introductions

City staff member and ACHS project manager Mark Ottenad opened the meeting with a welcome and review of the agenda.

ACHS Task Force Members and Guests:

Rebecca (Becky) Burkeen

Araceli Diaz

Romiro Diaz

Angennette Escobar

Isela Morales

Christopher Shotola-Hardt

Staff: Mark Ottenad

Consultant: Bill Flood

Public: Corey Buchanan

Online Zoom Screen-shot of Latinx Family Meeting appear on page 5 of the Meeting Notes.

2. Latinx Family Conversation

Consultant Bill Flood outlined that the meeting would explore thoughts and feedback from Latinx community members on a set of questions. ACHS Task Force members Becky Burkeen, Angennette Escobar and Christopher Shotola-Hardt helped to draw-out the Latinx attendees with supplemental questions and ideas.

Participants discussed that Spanish language is integrated in the West Linn-Wilsonville School District's middle- and high-schools instruction program with materials in print and online presented in both English and Spanish.

One participant noted that when he saw the City's advertisement for the Latinx Family Meeting in Spanish that "it gave heart flutters" for feeling a sense of inclusion.

However, participants noted that a place for similar bi-lingual or Spanish-language gatherings does not exist in the community for adults. Discussion that both English- and Spanish-language speakers could have an interest in hearing and learning from each other in a conversational format. Such a venue could provide a learning opportunity for the majority White population to learn more about the cultures and traditions of those of Latinx ethnicity.

The Clackamas Community College Wilsonville campus was noted as a potential venue for teaching English or Spanish or providing such a neutral meeting venue. Suggestion was made that such a gathering could be held once a month or once a quarter; start small and build upon success.

Wilsonville Theatre Company (WilsonvilleSTAGE) was noted as a welcoming venue for community members of Latinx descent.

Participants discussed that social gatherings around food is important to culture, and a traditional activity for Latinx family gatherings.

A suggestion arose that a resource center for minority ethnic-group families could be beneficial to helping with community integration.

Wilsonville schools are composed of a diverse set of ethnic groups and have a well-integrated performing arts program.

The percentage of students in Wilsonville's middle schools who identify as "Hispanic" is at approximately 25%, which is double that of the community as whole, with 11%-12% identifying as "Hispanic or Latino Origin."

SMART Transit was noted a great resource for mobility around the community. However, the lack of weekend transit service, especially for out-of-town connections to the Portland-metro area's TriMet transit service, is a severe handicap to greater participation.

Discussion about that Latinx community members often are not aware of community events, which may indicate that a greater outreach effort is needed by the City and hosting organizations. A Spanish-language version of the all-city, monthly newsletter *The Boones Ferry Messenger* was suggested.

A suggestion was made for establishing a Spanish-language podcast or a Latinx Facebook page could be ways of bringing together the community and increasing communications to Latinx members of the community.

The communities of Woodburn and Wilsonville were both noted as feeling like welcoming communities, with Woodburn offering a greater amount of Latinx community and shops.

The cost of living in Wilsonville was noted as an issue of concern, especially housing expense.