

Reston Community Center

LOB #283:

LEISURE AND LEARNING

Purpose

LOB #283 Leisure and Learning provides recreational, educational, fitness and social activities to all age groups. These programs offer community-wide positive and meaningful leisure-time experiences for Small District 5.

Description

This LOB consists of these programs:

- Youth Program – provides infant to sixth grade level offerings in leisure experiences, topics, social gatherings and trips or tours to a variety of attractions. In addition, the program provides extensive summer enrichment camps for toddlers through sixth grade participants.
- Teens and Family Program – provides opportunities for social, educational and recreational development for middle school and high school age participants as well as adults to promote multi-generational involvement in the lives of teens. The program also provides extensive summer enrichment camps for middle school and teen age participants.
- Adult and Fitness Program – provides opportunities for adults ages 18-54 to socialize, follow learning pursuits, take trips or tours to attractions and otherwise enjoy leisure time activities, in addition to providing a complete program of fitness and wellness activities for all age cohorts from toddlers through senior adults.
- 55+ Program – provides opportunities for adults 55 and older to socialize, follow learning pursuits, take trips or tours to attractions and otherwise enjoy leisure time activities. In addition, RCC's 55+ Program facilitates a volunteer driver assistance program to give seniors who need transportation to appointments, shopping or RCC programs and activities a ride to and from their destination.

The programming in the Leisure and Learning LOB has evolved over time from programs specifically for age cohorts to programs that cross those age cohort boundaries in a variety of ways as the approach to recreation has changed. People want more options that allow the entire family to participate. Fast growing youth and senior populations have fueled increasing participation levels in these programs. In contrast, teens participate more readily in programming that is delivered directly to them in school, athletic or other settings where they are involved on a “group” basis. Adults have less time to participate in leisure activities and increasingly look for maximizing those experiences to support family goals.

Topics offered in these programs are also evolving with changing technology. RCC will be offering online courses through a program partner to extend our value to people quite literally “where they are” as opposed to having to travel to RCC facilities. Media and technology learning also continues to evolve; as cell phones evolved to hand-held computers our program topics dealing with technology tools have significantly changed. Keeping up with both hardware and software innovations has required upgrades in the RCC Computer Classroom. Other specialized types of environments under the Leisure and Learning Cost Center include a woodworking shop, a wellness studio (Yoga, T'ai Chi, etc.), two fitness studios, and a variety of meeting/classroom spaces.

Participation in Leisure and Learning programs addresses the community's needs for learning, health and social experiences across diverse ages, interests and socio-economic circumstances. Use of the RCC Fee Waiver program in summer camp offerings (which are offered without limitation to Fee Waiver households) is very high; use of the waiver program is also high in 55+ programming, given the fixed incomes of many seniors. The recent launch of the NV Rides Reston driver/rider sharing program stimulated tremendous interest on the part of seniors who need transportation assistance. Finding and enrolling volunteer drivers is challenging, but the program has a promising future.

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Originally composed of just Youth and Senior programs, this LOB expanded to the current array of activities across all ages and interests in parallel with the community's growth. Leisure and Learning programming is delivered with a combination of direct service and contracted content. Volunteers who participate are always supervised by RCC employees; they may provide event support, instruction assistance or participant support. Due to the nature of recreation, offerings are delivered every day of the week, every week of the year.

Benefits

Please refer to the Benefits Section of LOB #280 Administration and Capital Projects as the Benefits cited there are applicable to all RCC Lines of Business.

Mandates

Mandated by the establishment of Small District 5 in 1975. Further mandated and governed by a Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Supervisors and Reston Community Center Board of Governors; last updated in 2009.

Trends and Challenges

In addition to the growth in population across the Reston community, there are significant shifts in the approach people take to enjoying their leisure time. Adults are increasingly coping with commitments to family and work. They prefer to pursue self-improvement in fitness activities and programming with drop-in options rather than fixed enrollment requirements. Teens remain challenging in terms of program offerings with registration requirements. Success for this age cohort's participation ranges from appealing to their current interest, to their volunteerism and desire for respect, to bringing casual social and learning options to their after-school settings. Youth and 55+ age cohorts' participation continues to grow with population growth; their participation is most supported by their lifestyle which incorporates recreation and social experiences.

Challenges that are likely to continue include the lack of time for adults to participate fully in leisure experiences. Teens continue to be challenging, as their tastes and interests change the most rapidly. RCC staff teams have met these challenges by increasing innovation in program offerings, locations and formats. As technology changes, RCC equipment and support for it will also have to evolve. To provide more leisure time experiences, RCC will continue the successful partnerships and collaborations with other Reston-based organizations to leverage resources effectively for the community.

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Resources

Category	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Adopted
LOB #283: Leisure and Learning			
FUNDING			
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Compensation	\$740,218	\$688,453	\$766,320
Benefits	173,875	188,006	217,353
Operating Expenses	357,610	344,656	405,752
Total Expenditures	\$1,271,703	\$1,221,115	\$1,389,425
Total Revenue	\$1,498,753	\$1,569,427	\$1,674,225
POSITIONS			
Authorized Positions/Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)			
<u>Positions:</u>			
Regular	8 / 8	7 / 7	7 / 7
Total Positions	8 / 8	7 / 7	7 / 7

Metrics

Metric Indicator	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Estimate
To obtain 90 percent or more of Customer Satisfaction survey patron responses of Agree/Strongly Agree for cost, cleanliness and accessibility	NA	97.00%	97.33%	90.00%	90.00%
To obtain 90 percent or more of Customer Satisfaction survey patron responses of Agree/Strongly Agree for employee courteousness and quality of experience	NA	94.50%	98.00%	90.00%	90.00%

Participation this LOB's program offerings is impacted by weather, availability of offsite venues and space for programming, and balancing innovations in programming against "tried and true" offerings. RCC has reorganized its program units extensively in the past two years to be responsive to participation trends in Teen offerings and exclusively Adult offerings. Reorganizing has conserved resources and allowed for new approaches to these audiences.

RCC tracks participation data for programs in this LOB. The data for the last three years is as follows:

- FY 2013: 31,204
- FY 2014: 32,440
- FY 2015: 29,498*

*Reflects significant drops in Teen and Adult only offerings. In FY 2016, RCC is implementing program redesigns to help boost participation by these age cohorts.