

## Request For Interest- McNamara Youth Center

**Announcement-** City of Merced Parks & Community Services is calling for interested parties to respond to a request for interest in programming to be offered at McNamara Youth Center. Programming should aim to accomplish the mission of the Parks & Community Services Department:

*To plan, facilitate, promote, maintain, and develop activities and facilities that enhance the quality of life in Merced.*

Applicants are encouraged to read the Request For Interest before submitting their application to ensure responses are thorough. Applications will be reviewed on four criteria; program structure (10 points), program overview (10 points), program objectives, activities, and link to neighborhood needs (20 points), and the understanding of monitoring and evaluation methods to measure program success and identify barriers (10 points). If more room is needed to answer questions, please attach additional pages with reference to which section the narrative is addressing.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE (10 points)			
Applicant Organization			
Type of Organization (circle one)	501C(3)	Gov't/Public	For Profit      Other
Mission of the Org.			
Primary Contact			
Members of Board or Commission			
Org. Address			
Org. Phone Number			
Org. Email			
Tax I.D. number			

PROGRAM OVERVIEW (10 points)			
Name of Program to be Implemented			
Population(s) to be Served	Preschool Children (0-5) Middle School Youth (12-14)	Elementary Children (6-11) High School Youth (14-18)	
Days, Times & Significant Occasions Program will be open to Community (check those that apply)	Weekdays Mornings (8am- 2pm)	Weekends Afternoons (2pm- 6pm)	Student Breaks Evenings (6pm-8pm)
Anticipated Start Date			
Staffing/ Furnishing/ & Maintenance plan for the Youth Center	How many staff will be on site when open to public? What equipment will be used to furnish the facility? What can the program commit to regarding facility maintenance?		
Staff training requirements for program (required training/ certification)			
Proposed participant fee for program (daily, weekly, monthly, yearly)			

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITIES AND LINK TO NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDS AND INTERESTS (20 points)**

Objective(s) to be met for program participants

What will participants experience because of your program?

Services to be Offered to Achieve Objective(s)

What activities, actions, or services will ensure the program meets the objective(s)?

Meeting Neighborhood Need and Interest

Explain why these services will be of interest to the residents within the area of McNamara Park. How do you plan on recruiting participation for the program?

**EVALUATION/ MONITORING METHODS (10 points)**

Output & outcome measures of evaluation to be used

What program efforts will be used to evaluate effort (output)? How will the program track these efforts? What will be used to indicate if the program was a success for participants? Please explain how the program will measure the outcomes (impact on participants).

Reporting Requirements- Monthly meetings with Parks & Community Services and completions of quarterly reports for Recreation and parks Commission

What benefits do you see in attending monthly meetings with Parks & Community Services Department and providing quarterly (once every 3 months) activity reports to the Recreation and Parks Commission?

Financial stability- utility budget & material and supply expenses

The city allocates \$7,500 to utility expenses annually for McNamara Youth Center. What steps will the program take to stay within its utility budget? Should the program exceed the annual allocation, how will it cover the overage? Lastly, how will the org. cover the cost of materials and supplies while also keeping services free or low cost for residents?

Additional programs currently or previously offered in Merced that indicate a track record of success

Briefly describe other current or previous programming by your organization that supports this program's likelihood of success at McNamara Youth Center.

## ***McNamara Youth Center Application***

### ***Staffing/ Furnishing/ & Maintenance plan for the Youth Center:***

***How many staff will be on site when open to public? What equipment will be used to furnish the facility? What can the program commit to regarding facility maintenance?***

There will be a minimum of 2 staff on site during open hours to the public. More staff will be present depending on the number of participants for various events and activities. If the McNamara Youth Center use is granted to us, we will be furnishing it with tables, chairs, and storage. We will also be dedicating space for teens which will also include couches, TVs, a gaming system, chrome books, game tables, board games, and other table top games. We will also have a children's with a library, toys (imaginative play, playdoh, games, etc), and art supplies. As for facility maintenance, are staff are committed to regular cleaning and upkeep, and are accustomed to the expectation of cleaning up after themselves and each event/activity that is run. On an as needed basis, we will also provide quarterly professional cleanings and more often if necessary.

### ***Staff training requirements for program (required training/ certification):***

Our staff and volunteers always undergo extensive onboarding and training before they begin work with us. We carefully select the best and most qualified candidates based on experience and character. We consistently offer our staff and volunteers further training opportunities, as well as required additional training when deemed necessary.

### ***Proposed participant fee for program (daily, weekly, monthly, yearly):***

Our general services, events, and activities are always free for the community. Approximately 2 times/year we will hold a fundraiser for assist with programming costs. Additional specialty camps that are run on school breaks will operate on a sliding scale with the focus remaining on keeping services accessible to all. We would also like to offer additional services for a reasonable fee such as birthday parties and special events for our community.

### ***Objective(s) to be met for program participants:***

***What will participants experience because of your program?***

Participants will experience:

- Community building and connection in a safe, diverse, and welcoming space that includes the LGBTQIA+ community and allies.
- Increased visibility with the opportunity to meet and share space with other identifying families and youth.
- Cultural sensitivity awareness.
- Mentorship from other positive, uplifting, openly out individuals living authentically and proud.
- Giving and receiving peer support.
- Social opportunities which increase connection, mental wellness, and self confidence.
- Acquisition and development of job skills and experience.
- Love, care, and acceptance.

### ***Services to be Offered to Achieve Objective(s):***

***What activities, actions, or services will ensure the program meets the objective(s)?***

CVP and CVPYI offers:

- Family Picnics at the Park (currently offered at Richard Bernasconi Park but look forward to moving these to McNamara Park and utilizing all of the wonderful amenities there)
- Family Art Days
- Family Social activities and events
- Open “hang out” time for teens after school and on weekends with dedicated staff and volunteers
- Youth workshops such as Writer’s Circles, SEL sessions through art Zine Making, peer led Music Circles, Career Day, etc
- LGBTQIA+ Youth Council
- Professional Development and Educational Workshop opportunities for the community at large of all ages (Creating Safe Spaces, Anti-Bullying, Culture of CARE, LGBTQ+ Cultural Sensitivity, How to be an Ally, LGBTQ+ Youth in Schools, etc)
- Peer Support Groups ie LGBTQIA+ Youth, A · Spec Youth, Trans and Gender Diverse Youth, Rainbow Families and Allies
- Youth social events such as Paint Parties, Pride Prom, movie and game nights, book club, etc facilitated by dedicated staff and volunteers
- Employ youth through the Merced Youth Jobs program (we are currently on our 3rd cycle emptying and training youth through this program)
- Train and develop skills in teen volunteers
- Workshops that focus on resume and cover letter writing, job interview skills, what to expect on the first day on the job, etc
- Free gender affirming clothing closet for all ages and sizes
- Free food giveaway program
- LGBTQ+ book drives
- Collaboration with a multitude of community partners to enhance programming

***Meeting Neighborhood Need and Interest:***

***Explain why these services will be of interest to the residents within the area of McNamara Park. How do you plan on recruiting participation for the program?***

The LGBTQIA+ community can be found and seen in every single area of our Merced community. We exist in every gender, generation, race, ethnicity, culture, neighborhood, school, and profession. We are parents, grandparents, siblings, children, friends, and loved ones. No matter what physical location we are at in Merced, we offer services and activities of interest to those around us. All residents within the area of McNamara Park, both LGBTQIA+ identifying and ally will benefit from what we have to offer, and for some, especially in the youth community, their lives will depend on it. In 2022, 45% of all LGBTQIA+ Youth across our nation seriously considered committing suicide. Visibility for our youth through an organization like ours is truly life saving. We plan on recruiting participation for our programming through social media, our website, physical flyers/notices, and through our expansive network of community partners.

***Output & outcome measures of evaluation to be used:***

***What program efforts will be used to evaluate effort (output)? How will the program track these efforts? What will be used to indicate if the program was a success for participants? Please explain how the program will measure the outcomes (impact on participants).***

For our programs, output will be measured by community participation and attendance. We typically track these efforts by collecting SOGIE data for participants, pre-registration when applicable, and sign in logs for walk ins. We fully believe that when working with youth and families, the best avenue to gauge outcomes is to go straight to the source. We survey our

participants after each engagement and hold roundtable discussions to receive feedback on our programming. Retention is also a gauge of success, therefore return participants are also tracked.

***Reporting Requirements- Monthly meetings with Parks & Community Services and completions of quarterly reports for Recreation and parks Commission:  
What benefits do you see in attending monthly meetings with Parks & Community Services Department and providing quarterly (once every 3 months) activity reports to the Recreation and Parks Commission?***

When working in collaboration with partners for focused and intentional success, it is imperative that communication is open and strong. Attending monthly meetings and providing quarterly activity reports to the Recreation and Parks Commission will ensure that communication is consistent and joint goals are being achieved. Regular reporting also pushes us an organization to always maintain high quality programming that aligns with our mission and Commission expectations, as well as always striving for improvement.

***Financial stability- utility budget & material and supply expenses:  
The city allocates \$7,500 to utility expenses annually for McNamara Youth Center. What steps will the program take to stay within its utility budget? Should the program exceed the annual allocation, how will it cover the overage? Lastly, how will the org. cover the cost of materials and supplies while also keeping services free or low cost for residents?***

Throughout the year, CVP and CVPYI will make sure to be aware and sensitive to energy and utility use, and implement energy saving protocol at all times. Even things as simple as making sure to turn off all lights in rooms not being used, using AC/heating systems sparingly, and eliminating excessive water use will make a difference. Should the program exceed the annual allocation, we will cover the overage with designated funds for program expenses. We receive a multitude of grants every year with allotments for program expenses as well as generous donations from our community members and local businesses. We also generate our own funds by offering an impressive amount of off site professional development courses for school districts, businesses, corporations, and organizations all across California.

***Additional programs currently or previously offered in Merced that indicate a track record of success:***

***Briefly describe other current or previous programming by your organization that supports this program's likelihood of success at McNamara Youth Center.***

CVP and CVPYI has been successfully offering the following programming over the course of the last 3 years:

- Family Picnics at the Park (currently offered at Richard Bernasconi Park but look forward to moving these to McNamara Park and utilizing all of the wonderful amenities there)
- Family Art Days
- Family Social activities and events
- Youth workshops such as Writer's Circles, SEL sessions through art Zine Making, peer led Music Circles, Career Day, etc
- Professional Development and Educational Workshop opportunities for the community at large of all ages (Creating Safe Spaces, Anti-Bullying, Culture of CARE, LGBTQ+ Cultural Sensitivity, How to be an Ally, LGBTQ+ Youth in Schools, etc)
- Peer Support Groups ie LGBTQIA+ Youth, A · Spec Youth, Trans and Gender Diverse Youth, Rainbow Families and Allies

- Youth social events such as Paint Parties, Pride Prom, movie and game nights, book club, etc facilitated by dedicated staff and volunteers
- Employ youth through the Merced Youth Jobs program (we are currently on our 3rd cycle emptying and training youth through this program)
- Train and develop skills in teen volunteers
- Free gender affirming clothing closet for all ages and sizes
- LGBTQ+ book drives
- Collaboration with a multitude of community partners to enhance programming

We have been steadily growing with just the utilization of one room located in the Merced Multicultural Arts Center. With the space to really expand, we have the drive, motivation, capacity, and ability to offer so much more to the Merced community. We have impressive support from a wide variety of other nonprofits and CBO's because of our dedication to serving the community in an honest and genuine manner. Moving into a larger space is the most natural next step in our growth, and we are excited at the opportunity.

\*CVP does offer programming for 18+ community members. Although most of these activities occur off site and in the community, we would like to offer our 18+ Peer Support groups at our physical location. These support groups would occur in the evening after we are closed from youth programming and open hours. If this is an issue, we are happy to continue renting space at the MAC to hold these groups.