Peoria Youth Master Plan Steering Committee

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# Table of Contents

Introduction .......................................................................................................................... 1

Background and Process .................................................................................................... 2
  Steering Committee ....................................................................................................... 2
  Vision, Mission, and Goals ........................................................................................... 3
  Focus Groups ................................................................................................................ 4

Goal 1: Education and Life Preparation .......................................................................... 6

Goal 2: Safety .................................................................................................................... 9

Goal 3: Access .................................................................................................................. 11

Goal 4: Community Collaboration .............................................................................. 14

Goal 5: Civic Engagement .............................................................................................. 16

Goal 6: Out-of-School Enrichment ............................................................................. 19

Appendix A: Focus Group Results ............................................................................... 23

Appendix B: Youth Program Inventory ........................................................................ 47
INTRODUCTION

Today’s youth are increasingly faced with the complexities of modern life. The social stresses that confront our children can have lasting effects if left unchecked. The well being of young people is essential to the well being of any community. When a young adult drops out of school, gets pregnant at an early age, becomes involved with drugs and alcohol, joins a gang, or otherwise engages in self-destructive behaviors, their problems soon become the problems of the community.

Increasingly, cities are becoming more proactive in helping youth avoid behaviors that ultimately cost taxpayer dollars and negatively affect community image and quality of life. The old adage, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” certainly rings true in this era of cost cutting and reductions in services. Cities no longer have the financial capacity to simply throw money at problems. As such, many are beginning to invest in the less expensive option of preventing problems affecting children and families.

The National League of Cities, one of the largest national organizations representing local governments in the United States, has recognized the influence that mayors, city councilmembers, and other community leaders can have in improving outcomes for children and youth. In 2000, the NLC launched the Institute for Youth, Education, and Families to help municipal officials take action on behalf of the children, youth, and families in their communities. This section of the NLC offers a number of strategies and tools for cities seeking to address youth issues, including conferences and workshops, research and surveys, action kits, e-mail listservs, and technical assistance.

One of the keys to a successful youth development program is a youth master plan. A youth master plan establishes a shared vision for youth in a community and identifies the strategies needed to achieve desired outcomes for youth. A youth master plan should not be “owned” by the city government or the school district or any other single youth-serving agency, but rather by the community as a whole. According to the NLC, “… the development of a youth master plan advances a strategy in which municipal leaders—working together with school officials, and with input from young people as well as community organizations, parents, and other residents and stakeholder—craft a comprehensive and effective agenda for children and youth.”

Peoria is fortunate to have community leaders who are concerned about the welfare of our community’s youth. These leaders have thrown their support behind an effort to develop a youth master plan for Peoria. This document is the result of their foresight and dedication to the Peoria’s youth.
BACKGROUND AND PROCESS

The City of Peoria embarked on the process of creating a youth master plan in July 2011. At that time, the city assigned a small group of employees from several different departments to serve on a working group that would coordinate the overall effort. This group understood from the beginning that even though all the members were city employees, this was not a city project and that its success would depend on involving community leaders and getting input from youth themselves.

Steering Committee

One of the key components of the project strategy was to establish a steering committee of community leaders to define the vision, mission, and goals that would form the foundation of the master plan. In August, the city extended invitations to individuals around the community, and they accepted without exception. In addition to representatives of the city and the Peoria Unified School District, the steering committee included representatives of the Boys & Girls Club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Christ Church of the Valley, Peoria Chamber of Commerce, Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence, and Arizona Department of Economic Security’s Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

On August 31, 2011, the steering committee convened at Peoria City Hall for a visioning session led by a professional facilitator. The objective of this visioning session was to elicit ideas about youth development in Peoria so as to be able to formulate a vision statement and a mission statement and identify key focus areas. The facilitator led the steering committee through several exercises, starting with a discussion of the group’s beliefs and values with respect to the community’s responsibilities toward youth. Members of the steering committee also weighed in on draft vision and mission statements and provided very specific suggestions to reach and engage Peoria youth.

Following the visioning session, the working group took the concepts of the steering committee and distilled them into revised vision and mission statements and six focus areas. These were sent to each member of the steering committee for review and comments. Overall, the steering committee liked what the working group came up with, but a few suggestions for improvement were made, and these were incorporated into the final version of the vision statement, mission statement, and goal areas, as shown on the following page.
VISION
Youth engaged in life, empowered to shape their community, equipped for a bright future.

MISSION
Community partners will work together to create a culture in which Peoria’s youth are safe, valued, and involved, and have the support to reach their highest potential now and in the future.

STRATEGIC GOAL AREAS

EDUCATION & LIFE PREPARATION
Youth have a sense of purpose and graduate from high school with a life plan.

SAFETY
Youth are safe at home, at school, and in the community.

ACCESS
Youth have access to community programs and services and have efficient transportation options that allow them to connect with positive opportunities in the community.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION
Government agencies, schools, faith-based agencies, non-profit organizations, and private entities work collaboratively for the benefit of youth.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
Youth have opportunities to have their voices heard and positively impact their community.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT
Youth know about and participate in quality programs during out-of-school time.
Focus Groups
During the visioning session, the steering committee made it clear that the master planning process would need to heavily involve members of the community, including our youth, to be successful. The working group chose to use focus groups to obtain input from youth and adults regarding what they felt were the most important issues and challenges facing youth in Peoria and to gather input on what the community could do to improve in each of the focus areas. The team came up with the following standard set of questions to ask youth and adults.

Youth Questions:
- What are the main issues facing children and youth today?
- What challenges, barriers, or obstacles do you see in our community for youth?
- With a show of hands, how many of you think Peoria is a safe place? What could the community do to help you feel safer?
- Are there activities you want to participate in and can’t get to due to lack of transportation? (Halloween, Easter Celebration, 4th of July)
- What are you doing to prepare for your future following high school? What can the community do to help you?
- Think of the activities and services offered within the community (before/after school programs, youth classes, youth sports, libraries, community and recreation centers). What activities are lacking?
- You (youth) have a voice in the community. What barriers could be removed to allow you greater opportunities to be heard?
- How can we do a better job of getting the youth involved in the community?
- What other ideas do you have for making our community a better place for youth?
- What is your preferred method of learning about activities in the community?

Adult Questions:
- What are the main issues facing children and youth today?
- What challenges, barriers, or obstacles do you see in our community for youth?
- With a show of hands, do you believe Peoria is a safe place for youth?
- What can we do to make Peoria a safer place for youth?
- Are there activities your children want to participate in and can’t? Why?
- What can the community do to help youth prepare for life after high school?
- Think of the activities and services for youth offered within the community (before/after school programs, youth classes, youth sports, libraries, community and recreation centers). What activities are lacking?
- What opportunities do youth have to be heard in the community?
- How can we do a better job of getting youth involved in our community?
- What other ideas do you have for making our community a better place for youth?
In October and November of 2011, the working group held 10 focus groups with various youth and adult groups in Peoria. The youth focus groups included the Peoria Youth Advisory Board, Centennial High School Student Council, Paseo Verde Elementary School Student Council, Peoria Explorers, Girl Scouts, and Boys & Girls Club (2). The adult focus groups included City of Peoria employees, the Paseo Verde Elementary School PTSO, and Girl Scouts parents.

Through the focus groups, the working group learned a lot about the needs of Peoria youth and ways the community could do a better job of serving them. Below are some of the key findings that emerged from the focus groups:

- There is no shortage of programs for youth in Peoria.
- Some youth do not have the money or the transportation to take advantage of all the available programs available to them.
- Many youth do not know about all the different programs available to them.
- Quality facilities abound in Peoria, but the community needs to do a better job of sharing these facilities.
- Peoria is a safe community, but youth feel that police officers often assume the worst about them. There is a need for better communication and more positive interactions between youth and the Police Department.
- The community needs to provide more internships, volunteer opportunities, mentoring programs, and character education to youth.
GOAL 1: EDUCATION AND LIFE PREPARATION

Youth have a sense of purpose and graduate from high school with a life plan.

Goal Description
For all intents and purposes, obtaining a high school diploma is the first step toward securing a living wage and becoming a productive member of a community. Without a diploma, opportunities become extremely limited. As such, at the most basic level, a community should do its utmost to ensure that as many youth as possible complete their high school education.

As a young person approaches high school graduation, an important choice awaits: whether to continue his or her education at a higher level or enter the workforce immediately. Either way, young people need to prepare for the future while they are still in high school. There are many ways to do this, including learning about different careers and fields of study, participating in internship and mentoring programs, and holding part-time jobs, to name just a few. Both the school system and the community have a role to play in ensuring that youth receive this preparation.

Status
Peoria is fortunate that its youth are served by two excellent school districts in the Peoria Unified School District and the Deer Valley Unified School District. In the Peoria Unified School District, which serves the vast majority of Peoria students, the high school graduation rate is 94 percent. This is much better than the statewide high school graduation rate of 76 percent. It is safe to say that as a community, Peoria is doing an excellent job of ensuring that its youth earn a high school diploma.

Both school districts in Peoria have career and technical education (CTE) programs to help students apply what they are learning in the classroom to a real-world setting. Focused classes and work-based learning experiences provide opportunities for career exploration and help prepare students to either continue their education or enter the workforce upon graduation. Work-based learning experiences, which include such things as internships, job shadowing, and cooperative education, connect students to the world of work. These experiences can be either paid or unpaid. The city and Peoria businesses participate in these programs, but there is always a need for quality work-based learning experiences.

One issue the Peoria Unified School District identified as a concern is that of summer learning loss. This refers to the loss of skills in reading and math when students are not engaged in learning over the summer break. Low-income students tend to be disproportionately affected by summer learning loss, as their parents generally do not send them to enriching camps, take them on educational vacations, or surround them with books during the summer break. School dis-
districts, of course, are not in contact with students over the summer and thus are not in a position to prevent summer learning loss.

The school district also is concerned about what their students are doing after school lets out. Many do not receive the support or encouragement needed to complete their homework and learn the material presented in the classroom. This support is especially important for students who are struggling in school. Peoria Unified School District has indicated that it believes some form of homework assistance or tutoring during afterschool programming could help these students. Although students can do their homework during the city’s AM/PM program and staff will help with this as they are able, the program does not have a formal homework assistance or tutoring program.

**Recommendations**

1. **Expand internship/mentoring opportunities for youth**
   Many youth expressed a desire to “try out” different careers through work-based learning experiences like internships. Such experiences are available to high school students through career and technical education programs offered by the school districts. However, the school districts are constantly looking for organizations in the community to accept student interns. The City of Peoria should set the example by accepting a greater number of student interns than it does now.

2. **Provide job preparation training for youth**
   There is no better way for youth to experience what the workplace is like and to learn responsibility than by holding a part-time job. Unfortunately, today’s labor market is extremely tight, with many adults now working in jobs that were once filled mostly by teens. Many youth said they need training in resume preparation and interviewing. All organizations in the community that provide services to teens should incorporate such training into their programs.

3. **Encourage year-round learning, with an emphasis on reading**
   Summer learning loss is of increasing concern to schools. Summer programs and camps are an ideal setting in which to address this issue—at least for those students who are able to participate. These programs need to incorporate an educational component, particularly reading. However, it is important to recognize that the kind of education that occurs in summer programs must be different than what goes on in the classroom during school. Also, emphasis should be placed on marketing the city’s two public libraries, which offer free summer reading programs.

4. **Enhance homework assistance during out-of-school programs**
   The long-term vision would be to hire teachers or other qualified people to provide tutoring to participants of the AM/PM program. In the short term, the city is seeking dedicated quiet space during AM/PM hours in which those who wish to work on their homework can do so undisturbed.
5. *Make arts education an integral part of youth development*

When money is tight, as it is now, one of the first things to go is “non-core” curriculum like the arts. Community leaders believe that participation in the arts is an essential component of a complete education and is beneficial to the intellectual and social development of youth. As part of this recommendation, the city and Peoria Unified School District will apply for the Kennedy Center’s Any Given Child Program, which helps communities strategically plan for and provide an equitable arts education for students in grades K-8.
**GOAL 2: SAFETY**

*Youth are safe at home, at school, and in the community.*

**Goal Description**
Safety is a foundational goal for any community. Unless and until this most basic goal is achieved, youth are unlikely to reach their potential in other important areas and are more likely to become entangled in risky behaviors. Youth have unique and constantly evolving needs for safety, and finding ways to identify those needs and develop effective solutions is an ongoing process. In addition to traditional education-based approaches, this goal includes opportunities for youth to establish positive relationships with law enforcement personnel, with the intent of fostering better decision making.

**Status**
Data and feedback from the focus groups and from interviews with the school resource officers indicate that Peoria is a very safe community for youth. Still, Peoria youth and their parents have safety-related concerns. Even though parents may consider their neighborhoods to be safe, they are reluctant to let their kids roam freely in those same neighborhoods. Discussions about safety inevitably lead to concerns about drugs and bullying. And while many adults and youth have nothing but good things to say about police officers, some still think that an adversarial relationship exists between officers and youth and that the community needs more positive interactions with law enforcement.

Both the Community Services and Youth Support Services sections of the Police Department play key roles in this goal. Community Services is responsible for crime prevention and safety education, including the anti-bullying presentations that have been given at the elementary school level for the past several years. Data show that bullying-related crimes and calls for service have been positively impacted by this program. Community Services provides safety information and presentations on a wide variety of topics to youth of all ages.

Youth and Support Services handles the school resource officer (SRO) program, which places one officer full time at three different PUSD high schools. This program provides a continuous police presence in these schools and an opportunity for students to get to know a police officer. Other opportunities for youth to associate with police officers are the Youth Citizen’s Police Academy and the Peoria Police Department Law Enforcement Explorer Post. The academy introduces 7th and 8th graders to the Police Department through hands-on activities, tours, and lectures. The Explorer Post, which is affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, provides law enforcement training, community service opportunities, leadership training, and social and outdoor recreational activities for youth ages 14 through 20.
Recommendations
1. Promote positive interactions between youth and police officers
   Young people need to be comfortable enough with police officers to go to them if they or someone they know ever has a problem. To achieve this level of comfort, youth need to interact with the police outside of police incidents or formal programs. Examples of ways the Police Department can increase the number of these types of interactions include police participation in sports and recreational programs, interaction with the public at special events, police mentoring of young people, and continued emphasis on the community policing concept as a means to encourage more informal interactions with youth.

2. Increase safety presentations at schools and around the community
   The Police Department regularly makes presentations on bullying and other safety topics at schools and other community forums. The vision here is to do this on a much larger scale both as a means of familiarizing youth with police officers and to teach youth how to take responsibility for their own safety. This might be best accomplished by working through organizations like churches, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys & Girls Clubs, Little League, etc.

3. Target conflict resolution, mediation, anti-violence efforts toward youth.
   One way to prevent violence is to equip people with the skills needed to effectively resolve conflicts. The Police Department’s mediation program helps neighbors resolve disputes. Similar training could be provided to school and youth groups so that they can design their own programs to help youth positively deal with conflict.

4. Strengthen relationships between police and community organizations
   The preceding recommendations can go a long way toward strengthening relationships between police and community organizations, but there are additional measures that can be taken. For example, the police chief recently formed a council of community leaders to discuss law enforcement issues in Peoria. This group should include youth representatives or, at the very least, adult representatives from organizations that serve youth.

5. Build relationships between the police and juvenile detention authorities
   The Police Department has an active relationship with adult probation authorities, meeting regularly with them to discuss parolees and related issues. This recommendation is to extend this practice to juvenile probation authorities to assist these youth in assimilating back into the community, enlisting the help of the SROs where applicable.

6. Explore SRO program availability at additional high schools
   School resource officers have proven effective in preventing crime and violence at schools and building positive relationships between police officers and youth. However, we do not have SROs in all of the high schools in Peoria. Obviously there is a cost to expanding this program to additional schools. If and when the city’s fiscal position improves or outside funding sources for this purpose become available, the city should consider SROs at additional high schools.
GOAL 3: ACCESS

Youth have access to community programs and services and have efficient transportation options that allow them to connect with positive opportunities in the community.

Goal Description
Even though youth may be served by a variety of quality programs and services in their community, the impact will be muted if youth are not able to access these programs. The two most common barriers to participation are lack of transportation and lack of financial resources to pay for programs. As such, the purpose of this goal is to ensure that youth who want to participate in any given program or activity are not precluded from doing so because they either are unable to get there or cannot afford to participate.

Status
The City of Peoria offers a wide variety of recreation programs designed specifically for youth. Likewise, the school districts as well as for-profit and not-for-profit organizations in Peoria and throughout the West Valley offer an almost unlimited menu of programs and activities for youth in our community. However, it is safe to say based on the focus groups with youth and their parents that not all youth are able to participate to the degree they would like due to lack of transportation and/or financial resources.

For City of Peoria programming, some transportation options exist to help ensure youth access to these offerings. The Summer Step-Out program for teens ages 11 through 14 runs for eight weeks each summer during what would be normal school hours. The city will pick up teens at the nearest grade school and transport them to one of the three Step-Out sites located at Peoria, Centennial, and Sunrise Mountain high schools. In addition, an optional after-hours program enables the teens to be picked up from the Step-Out sites and transported to the Rio Vista Recreation Center where they can remain until 6 p.m.

Similarly, the Summer Recreation program for youth in 1st through 5th grades runs for eight weeks each summer during what would be normal school hours. The city will pick up participants at their nearest grade school—if that school is not a summer recreation site—and transport them to the nearest summer recreation site. Transportation for all summer recreation programs is provided by the Peoria Unified School District. PUSD provides the buses and the city hires trained drivers.

For non-city programming, transportation options are very limited. Peoria’s Dial-A-Ride program is a user-requested ride from one point in the city to another. Teens over the age of 16 can use this service by themselves, but younger teens and children must be accompanied by an adult. Rides must be scheduled in advance and are not guaranteed for the time requested. For juniors, the cost per ride is $1.
The Peoria Branch of the Boys & Girls Clubs, located just south of Cactus Road and east of 83rd Avenue, primarily serves youth in southern Peoria. The club picks up roughly 60 kids from nearby elementary schools and transports them to the club on school days. This is the maximum number of kids the club can transport with its existing vehicle resources. At the end of the program each day, participants are either picked up by their parents or they release themselves and walk home. The director of the Peoria branch indicated that program participation dropped when the city’s Dial-A-Ride program stopped transporting kids younger than 16, and he recommends that the city revisit this policy.

Transportation is also a challenge for the Peoria Unified School District. The district’s director of career services says transportation is the number one reason students are not able to participate in internships.

For City of Peoria programming, there is a financial assistance option to ensure access to recreation programs. Play Peoria Inc., a 501(c)(3) charity operated by the City of Peoria, offers scholarships for youth that are used to pay for recreational opportunities for families that demonstrate financial need. The policy of the City of Peoria is to not turn away participants for lack of financial means. However, when we asked youth and their parents about Play Peoria, few, if any, were aware of it.

For non-city recreation programming, there are limited financial assistance options available to youth. These opportunities exist organization by organization and usually are not well advertised.

**Recommendations**

1. **Identify options for improving transportation for Peoria youth**
   Based on focus groups and interviews, we know that lack of transportation is a barrier to participation for some Peoria youth. However, we do not know how many youth are affected or the best way to remedy this problem. As such, we recommend hiring a professional to study the transportation needs of our youth and identify the best options for meeting this need in our community.

2. **Increase awareness of and funding for the Play Peoria scholarship fund**
   Play Peoria Inc. was established for the purpose of allocating tax deductible donations in support of the parks, libraries, and recreation programs of the City of Peoria Community Services Department. These donations can be allocated to scholarships to help children from low-income families participate in enrichment programs and recreational activities. There is evidence that at least some youth in need may not be aware that they could use this program to participate in city programs. As such, the city should take the necessary steps to advertise this program within the community. As awareness increases, so too must fundraising efforts to meet the increased demand. Effective fundraising takes a concentrated and focused effort by a dedicated staff member, which we do not have at this time.
3. **Reevaluate qualification criteria for Play Peoria**
To qualify for a youth scholarship, the participant has to show financial need based on qualification for other government aid programs. The social stigma associated with these programs may prevent some participants from applying for assistance through Play Peoria. We recommend reevaluating the qualification criteria in order to ensure that this important resource is serving as many youth in need as possible.

4. **Encourage youth-serving organizations to apply for non-profit funding**
Each year, the city awards small grants to non-profit organizations in the community through a competitive application process. Youth-serving non-profits in Peoria should be encouraged to apply for these funds as a means of offering financial assistance for their programs.
GOAL 4: COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Government agencies, schools, faith-based organizations, non-profit organizations, and private entities work collaboratively for the benefit of youth.

Goal Description
One of the major reasons for undertaking a youth master plan in the first place is to coordinate the efforts of the various organizations in a community that provide services and programs for youth. Without such coordination, a community runs the risk of unnecessarily duplicating offerings for youth and thus wasting resources. The city, school districts, faith-based organizations, non-profit organizations, and private entities should view youth development as a collaborative undertaking in which all available resources are brought to bear for the benefit of Peoria youth.

Status
The City of Peoria Community Services Department works with many different community partners in delivering a wide variety of services and programs for youth. Below are some examples of this collaboration in action.

- The Sports Division provides opportunities for youth to participate in recreational sports. Many of these, including volleyball, soccer, flag football, basketball, baseball, golf, and tennis, are mostly run out of Peoria Unified School District facilities around the city. Sports seasons are aligned with the district’s sports calendar.
- The AM/PM program also operates out of school district facilities, with programs at all 21 elementary schools. The AM/PM programs are licensed through the Arizona Department of Health Services. The Arizona Department of Economic Security provides funding for low-income children.
- The city offers youth enrichment classes in collaboration with service providers in all sectors. For example, for-profit vendors are contracted to teach classes in dance, karate, art, music, first aid, childcare and babysitting safety, and tennis, to name just a few.
- The Adaptive Recreation program partners with West Valley Special Olympics to provide competitive sports for persons with disabilities. Programs are run out of city and school district facilities, with funding and staff support provided by West Valley Special Olympics.
- During the summer, the Teen Step Out, Summer Camp, and Summer Recreation programs offer daily field trips for participants. Using buses provided by PUSD, these programs transport participants to local businesses such as Wazee’s World, Harkins Theaters, Oasis Gymnastics, Arizona Broadway Theater, and Theater Works, as well as to city recreation facilities, including the swimming pools, libraries, and Rio Vista Park and Recreation Center.

As these examples demonstrate, there is a lot of collaboration among community partners in delivering services and programs to Peoria youth. However, these are stand-alone programs that are not being coordinated to achieve mutually agreed upon outcomes for youth. The purpose of
this master planning effort is to identify those outcomes and recommend specific actions needed to achieve them.

**Recommendations**

1. **Create a Community Council for Youth to implement Youth Master Plan**
   The Peoria Youth Master Plan Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from various youth-serving agencies in the community, can serve as a model for a new Community Council for Youth that will meet on a regular basis to ensure progress toward plan goals. Structured properly, this group will coordinate the efforts of the community as a whole in ensuring that the needs of Peoria’s youth are being met and that we are not wasting scarce resources by duplicating programs and services.

2. **Develop a community web portal for youth**
   Over and over again during the focus groups we heard that both youth and their parents did not know about all of the offerings for young people in Peoria and did not know where to go for information. Furthermore, users do not understand which agencies provide which programs in the community. The youth suggested creating a one-stop information portal on activities and programs for youth in Peoria, preferably using a web-based platform and perhaps incorporating social media.

3. **Maximize communication tools for reaching youth**
   This is related to the last recommendation. Each agency has its own methods for communicating with the youth it serves. For example, Peoria Unified School District has a closed-circuit television system. The city has Channel 11. Peoria youth would be better served and would have more knowledge of all the programs and services available to them if the various agencies in the community could use each other’s communication tools to reach youth that they otherwise could not reach using their own tools.

4. **Seek grant funding as community partners, not individual agencies**
   Many of the goals and recommendations in this plan will require additional resources to achieve. To the extent that this money can be obtained from outside sources, all the better. By applying for grants as community partners trying to achieve results for the community as a whole rather than for a single agency, we may be more successful in obtaining grant funding.
GOAL 5: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Youth have opportunities to have their voice heard and positively impact their community.

Goal Description
Participation is the bedrock of public processes. Civic engagement refers to opportunities for youth to learn about and participate in policy making and community building. As civic engagement is both a right and a responsibility, the community should explore ways to increase opportunities for youth to be involved citizens. Involvement can take many forms, but for our purposes it means active participation in both policy making and volunteer activities. As they become involved in local issues and participate in service projects, youth need to be made to feel like they are valued members of the community. Youth who are thus engaged are less likely to engage in risky behaviors and more likely to become involved adults who feel a strong connection to their community.

Status
Through both formal and informal city processes, youth are able to provide input about issues and programs that are important to them, particularly in the area of recreation. The Youth Advisory Board gives a City Council-selected group of 21 young people a formal role in evaluating policies and proposals pertaining to youth activities. The Police and Fire departments each offer youth academies that educate young people about how these public safety functions work and what they can do to keep themselves and their families safe. The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts teach civics through their merit badge programs and offer leadership opportunities within their troops. Service organizations provide resources and limited opportunities for youth to voice their opinions on community issues, though largely through the voice of the organization’s advocate or management.

Volunteer opportunities for youth are many and varied throughout the community. Faith-based organizations and civic-minded organizations like the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts provide such opportunities for their members as part of their mission. Oftentimes, these organizations partner with the city, lending their hands to such programs as Neighborhood Pride, Habitat for Humanity, and Earth Day (tree planting, trail cleaning, etc.). Teen volunteers work at both Peoria libraries year-round, with higher numbers during summer break. In the recreation area, youth can volunteer to serve as junior lifeguards at city pools, become a peer pal for a child with a disability, or assist at the Rio Vista Recreation Center. In short, there are many ways youth can volunteer within the community. However, those who are not part of an organization that participates in these kinds of activities as a matter of course or who are not particularly attuned to what is going on in the community may miss out on these opportunities simply for lack of awareness.
Recommendations

1. *Involve youth as voting members of city boards and commissions, as appropriate*

Peoria citizens serving on city boards and commissions provide guidance and direction to the City Council on specific issues. While youth have a voice through the Youth Advisory Board, other boards and commissions deal with issues directly affecting young people. This recommendation is to include youth as voting members of select boards and commissions, with the aim of making them equal partners in community affairs.

2. *Promote youth volunteerism in Peoria*

Youth-led community service projects help young people develop new skills and strengthen their sense of civic responsibility, not to mention improve the perception of youth by adults. Volunteer opportunities for youth abound in Peoria. However, if you do not belong to certain organizations or come from a family that is engaged in community activities, your likelihood of becoming involved in such opportunities is likely quite low. As a community, Peoria could use a more coordinated effort to promote youth volunteerism. As such, we recommend establishing a formal youth volunteer program managed by existing staff within an existing city department or division to raise awareness of volunteer opportunities and to create new ones where youth may be able to meet specific community needs.

3. *Create a bill of rights for children and youth*

The very exercise of creating a bill of rights for children and youth teaches young people about the constitution and citizen participation in local government, while at the same time producing a document that can be used in policy making. The process of developing a bill of rights is designed to mirror the adoption of the U.S. Constitution. Through a series of school and community forums, a core group of youth drafts a bill of rights. A convention is held in which a much larger gathering of youth comes together to “ratify” the bill of rights. Portland was the first city to adopt such a document, and it continues to be used by the Youth Commission to influence municipal policy.

4. *Use new media to engage young people in community affairs*

The communications habits of today’s youth are very different from their counterparts of even a generation ago. The predominant forms of communications for today’s youth include social networking websites, text messaging and other mobile applications, YouTube, blogs, and other interactive Web-based services. Youth commissions around the country are already using these types of new media to keep members informed, to share information, to highlight accomplishments, etc. To reach young people and engage them in community affairs, Peoria needs to more effectively use new media. Specific ideas include creating a youth civics website, developing youth-specific programming on Channel 11 (and made available via YouTube), using Facebook and Twitter to inform youth about issues and activities, and opening an electronic suggestion box.
5. **Ensure that youth understand how their community works**

Traditionally, civics education tends to be long on national government structure and workings but very short on local government, despite the fact that it is at the local level that young people have the greatest opportunities to get involved and actually influence their day-to-day lives. The city already offers youth citizen academies for police and fire. The city should consider creating a general government citizen academy for youth, much like the Peoria Leadership Institute. Because such a program would be limited to a small number of youth, the city should look to incorporate this type of learning into its AM/PM and summer programs. Finally, the city and school districts should explore having city staff make presentations in the schools about how city government works.
GOAL 6: OUT-OF-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

Youth know about and participate in quality programs during out-of-school time.

Goal Description
Young people cannot develop the intellectual, social, and emotional skills needed to develop into productive adults just by attending school, as crucial as that experience is. To reach their full potential, youth need to participate in quality out-of-school enrichment activities. These activities are many and varied and are offered by many different kinds of organizations in the community, one of which are the before and after school programs offered by government providers like the City of Peoria. The important thing is that youth are involved in a variety of quality, enriching activities during out-of-school time.

The benefits of such activities are many. Here are just a few, taken from research findings by the National Institute on Out-of-School Time, Afterschool Alliance, Arizona Center for After-school Excellence, Nellie Mae Foundation, and American Youth Policy Forum:

- Fourteen million American youth are left by themselves after school and only 6.5 million participate in after-school programming. Fifteen million more youth would participate if programs were available to them.
- At-risk youth benefit the most from afterschool programming. Studies indicate that at-risk youth show improvements in social and emotional factors with participation in these programs.
- Participation in afterschool activities is associated with better grades, less truancy, greater enjoyment of school, and greater academic effort.
- Adolescents who participate in out-of-school activities are less likely to experiment with drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes; less likely to engage in sexual activity; and less likely to skip class.
- Youth programs reduce crime by providing supervision between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m.—the peak hours for adolescent crime. These are also the peak hours for other risky behaviors and experimentation.
- More than half of teens say that they would not spend as much time watching TV or playing video games if they had other things to do after school.
- Out-of-school programs can decrease gaps in educational achievement linked to socioeconomic status by providing disadvantaged youth with opportunities and experiences similar to those available to youth with more resources.

Status
As a community, Peoria has a wealth of offerings for its youth, including sports and recreation programs, creative arts programs, fitness and aquatic programs, special-interest classes, library programs, special events, public safety programs, faith-based programs, and more. These pro-
grams are offered by dozens of different organizations throughout the community, from government agencies to churches and non-profit organizations to private businesses. The Youth Program Inventory in the Appendix is the city’s best attempt to catalogue as many of the youth program offerings and providers in Peoria as possible.

During the focus groups, youth and their parents confirmed that Peoria is not lacking in quality programming for young people. At the same time, however, we heard that awareness of these programs is sometimes lacking. More concerning is that some youth are not able to participate in out-of-school programs because they either cannot get to them or they do not have the resources to pay for them. These issues are addressed in other sections of this plan.

In most communities, the city parks and recreation department is among the largest, if not the largest, provider of youth programming. This is true in Peoria, where the city’s Community Services Department offers a wide variety of programs designed specifically for youth. The Peoria Unified School District is a critical partner in these programs, offering the use of many of its facilities through a joint use agreement with the city. Below is an overview of some of the programs offered by the City of Peoria.

The Peoria AM/PM Recreation Program, co-sponsored with the Peoria Unified School District, is a resource for working parents in need of childcare before and after school. AM/PM offers K-8 grade children a well-rounded program in a secure environment, conveniently located on all PUSD elementary school campuses. All sites are state licensed, and DES assistance for low-income families is available for qualified participants. Summer Camp is an extension of the AM/PM program that is offered during the non-school months from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The bottom line—recreational child care is available in Peoria 51 weeks of the year.

The Summer Recreation Program is for children entering the 1st through the 5th grades and runs for eight weeks during regular school hours at select elementary schools around the city. This is a drop-in program, so participants can leave anytime during the day. Featuring arts and crafts, group games, free play, and optional side trips, the program helps kids have a fun-filled summer and experience new and old recreational activities.

The Summer Step-Out Program is for teens entering the 6th through the 9th grades and runs for eight weeks during regular school hours at three different high schools. Featuring arts and crafts, group games, on-site tournaments, and optional off-site field trips, this program is perfect for teens looking for an alternative to staying home during the summer.

The city runs a large youth sports program. Youth can participate in a wide variety of team sports, including soccer, basketball, flag football, tee ball, baseball, softball, tennis, volleyball, and more. These programs rely on volunteer coaches—typically parents. For most of these sports, games are held on Saturday mornings, with practices during the week at the discretion of
the coaches. During the summer, the city offers teen sports camps for participants ages 12 to 17. Several two-week sessions are held in June and July.

The city offers a full array of special-interest classes for children and youth of all ages. These classes are offered throughout the year. Some of the classes offered for the K-12 population include drawing, creative writing, acting, improv, cheerleading, dance, fencing, karate, guitar, and ice skating.

On top of the Step-Out Program, youth sports, and special-interest classes, the city runs a robust teen program that includes monthly junior high dances, Friday night dodgeball, and trips to such places as Wazee World, Jump Street, and Castles N Coasters. This summer, a new program called Xtreme Teen will get the adrenaline pumping with such activities as paint ball, sprint car racing, and teen vs. wild. Additionally, the outdoor recreation program has been revamped to include geocaching, expanded youth scuba programs, and canoe rentals.

For youth with disabilities, the adaptive recreation program offers a variety of leisure, sports, and social activities. The City of Peoria is a contracted provider for the Arizona Department of Economic Security. The city also partners with Special Olympics Arizona to provide meaningful training and competition opportunities for persons with intellectual disabilities.

Both the Peoria Main Library and the Sunrise Mountain Library offer programs for youth, mostly for free. Programs include Lego club, tween craft, teen gaming, family and teen movies, tween acting workshops, reading programs, volunteer opportunities, and more. The libraries offer free Wi-Fi, free public computers, a variety of databases, access to free e-books and music downloads, and a new language database. The library system is part of the Valley-wide Culture Pass Program.

**Recommendations**

1. **Expand enrichment offerings during the AM/PM program**
   The city understands that for its AM/PM program to be effective in furthering the social, emotional, and intellectual development of youth, participants need to be engaged in a variety of activities during program hours. The city is reinstating the instructor program (it was eliminated during a previous round of budget reductions), whereby outside “experts” come in to teach program participants about different things, such as arts, sewing, karate, etc. Program managers should take this a step further and ensure that they are offering a full range of activities and services, including but not limited to sports and recreation, arts and culture, nutrition and wellness, tutoring/homework assistance, character education, volunteering, etc.

2. **Enhance academic enrichment during the AM/PM program**
   The AM/PM program hours are a good time for participants to work on homework or receive tutoring help. Those participants who wish to work on homework during program hours are encouraged to do so and help is provided to the extent possible; however, for lack of anywhere
else to go, these students must do so in the same room as everyone else, which can be noisy and less than ideal for study and learning. A separate space for this purpose, perhaps the school library, would go a long way toward enhancing this experience. It is also recommended that tutoring be offered as part of AM/PM, either by paying teachers or other qualified tutors or using volunteers, or both. Perhaps as part of the volunteer program recommended in the Civic Engagement section, high school students could be enlisted to tutor children and younger teens during AM/PM.

3. Develop targeted programming for tweens
Tweens, or those young people in the 6th through the 8th grades, are a particular concern. These kids see themselves as too old or too cool for AM/PM, so many stop participating and instead go home alone. Unsupervised, they are much more likely to participate in risky behaviors. To keep as many of these kids as possible in AM/PM, the city needs to introduce programming options designed specifically for this age group. One example is afterschool sports for kids who do not make school teams but who wish to continue playing sports recreationally. The city needs to survey tweens and their parents to identify other types of programming that will be attractive to them.

4. Use a formal assessment tool to evaluate program quality
Like most providers of afterschool programs, the city regularly conducts parent/client satisfaction surveys of AM/PM. These tend to be positive because parents are happy to have an affordable and safe place for their children while they are at work. Nationally, there is a growing trend toward the use of more formal assessment tools that incorporate standardized criteria that can be used to evaluate program quality and measure the degree to which programs are achieving outcomes for youth. Peoria is always looking for ways to improve its programs; as such, the city should embrace such tools as a means of taking its programs to the next level.
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

City of Peoria Employees
September 28, 2011

What are the main issues facing children and youth today?
- Peer pressure
- Bullying
- T.V. shows (media) that glorify risky behavior
- Kids growing up too fast
- Dual working parents leaves kids on their own watching T.V. or doing other things unsupervised
- Stress on parents spills over into kids
- Video gaming, social media
- Single parents

What challenges, barriers, or obstacles do you see in our community for youth?
- Transportation – kids can’t get around the community
- Money – activities cost a lot of money
- Are there enough opportunities for programs and activities, even if you have transportation options and money
- Communication - Kids/parents may not know about programs and activities in the community
- Information overload – information about programs and activities can get lost in the shuffle
- Time constraints and scheduling – 4/10s have made it harder to balance work and family and spend quality time together as a family
- Lack of quality time between parents and youth
- Older youth (teenagers) don’t want to talk to their parents

Do you believe Peoria is a safe place for youth? Why or why not?
- No place is a safe place in today’s world – anywhere you go, there are terrible people and risks
- Peoria is a safe place compared to other cities in the Valley
- Families are always out and about using public facilities, which suggests they feel safe enough to be out in the community
- Peoria has a good image, generally is not on the news for crime
- Quality, attractive neighborhoods in Peoria help create a sense of safety, but this is being undermined by foreclosures and the number of renters versus owners

What can we do to make Peoria a safer place for youth?
- Create community opportunities and productive things for youth to do (recreation centers)
- More parent supervision – many/most of our problems are tied to this
- Offer flexible work hours for parents
- Make it possible for households to get by on a single income

Peoria Youth Master Plan
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

- Affordable (low cost) programs and activities for youth to keep them busy doing productive things. Not all families can afford to participate in the many programs in the community
- Peoria will not turn youth away because they can’t pay, but not everyone knows this

How do your children get to and from activities around Peoria?
- Driven by parents (carpool)
- Bikes – parents nervous about allowing youth to ride bikes around community
- If both parents are working, there are no good options for youth to get around

Are there activities your children want to participate in and can’t due to lack of transportation?
- Youth would do more at Rio Vista if they had a safe way to get there on their own

What can the community do to help youth prepare for life after high school?
- Find better, less expensive options for higher education
- Vocational education – PUSD has some good programs
- Job trainings, internships, mentoring
- Entry-level jobs being filled by underemployed adults, taking opportunities away from youth to learn what it means to have a job
- Youth need to know what is expected at work – more part-time jobs for kids
- Resume/interview classes for kids

Think of the activities and services for youth offered within community. What activities are lacking?
- Classes that provide life experiences - not just fun (financial education, how to start a small business, etc.)
- Home schoolers do not have opportunities for extracurricular activities (sports, band, drama, clubs, etc.) offered by schools

Do you feel that youth have a voice in our community?
- Through Girl Scouts, girls have that opportunity – same goes for other youth organizations
- No, youth don’t vote or pay taxes, so they only have a voice through their parents (if they are involved)
- Members of Youth Advisory Board just learning how to use their voice – they need training
- Never heard of Youth Advisory Board
- Certain segments of the population have no voice and do not have opportunities to participate in the organizations that would provide them a voice

How can we do a better job of getting youth involved in our community?
- Organization and communication – the city and other organizations in the community need to collaborate and communicate with one another
- Get parents involved, then their kids will get involved (free stuff)
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

- Do a better job of promoting boards and commissions (communication)

What other ideas do you have for making our community a better place for youth?
- Free transportation
- Some kind of program to get them involved
- Programs for parents and youth to learn about all the programs and activities in the community (collaboration among youth service providers)
- Go out to neighborhoods and talk to youth and parents about how they can get involved

Peoria Boys & Girls Club
October 11, 2011

What are the main issues facing children and youth today?
- Going to college and getting a good job
- Getting good grades in high school
- Crime rates
- Fighting during school hours
- Staying away from drugs
- Employment of parents
- Health issues

What challenges, barriers, or obstacles do you see in our community for youth?
- Drama, gossip
- Peer pressure
- Money
- Bullying
- Limits on getting to school – transportation
- Lack of opportunities for employment (for youth)
- Standards school sets for graduation are too high
- Take class senior year on financial aid for college – could use this earlier
- Access to school counselors, communication between counselors and students
- Difficulty getting from one place to another
- Need more clubs in high school to motivate kids to want to go to college
- Don’t know what colleges offer
- Language barriers
- Cost of certain activities

Do you believe Peoria is a safe place for youth? Why or why not? What can we do to make Peoria a safer place for youth?
- Surprise is nicer than Peoria – if the area looked more appealing, you would feel safer
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

- If you know the neighborhood, you’re more likely to feel safe
- Need opportunities to introduce new people to the community
- Increase number of security guards at schools
- Some businesses stereotype all young people as troublemakers
- Police officers need to be friendlier, need training on how to communicate with youth more effectively

Are there activities your children want to participate in and can’t due to lack of transportation?
- Volunteer activities
- High school football games
- Clubs at school
- Journalism/literature/writing

What can the community do to help youth prepare for life after high school?
- Want to be a police officer – should have more opportunities to learn about what police do
- Need for more career exploration opportunities
- Internships to see if you like different kinds of jobs
- Scholarships / financial assistance
- College tours
- Have people come in and talk to students about alternatives to college – vocational programs
- It would help if parents pushed harder
- Need mentors who will provide personalized assistance

Think of the activities and services for youth offered within community. What activities are lacking?
- Homework club to help students struggling with school
- ACT/SAT preparation
- Want to volunteer – where do I get information?
- Broadcasting
- Theater arts
- Culinary arts
- Recreational sports for those who don’t make the school teams
- Competitive activities like singing, skateboarding, chess, dancing, arts/crafts, talent contests
- College fairs and job fairs
- Health, nutrition, weight loss assistance
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

You have a voice in your community. What barriers prevent you from making your voice heard?
- People don’t care what we say because we are youth
- Lack of organized opportunities for youth to express themselves
- Need a suggestion box at school or an electronic suggestion box where youth can anonymously make suggestions
- If I write a letter to the editor, will anyone pay attention or will anything change?

How can we do a better job of getting youth involved in our community?
- A lot of kids don’t like doing things for free—they need incentives
- Offer better transportation
- Need more information on ways to get involved
- How do we start a club?
- Age should not be a requirement for getting involved or for volunteering

What other ideas do you have for making our community a better place for youth?
- More recreational sports opportunities that are affordable
- There are more activities for younger children than for teens
- Need a resource for Peoria youth to find out what is available for them in the community
- Better transportation to and from activities and events (party bus)
- The younger you are when you get involved, the less likely you are to become involved in gangs or drugs or other bad things
- More organized events for teens (parties, dances, etc.)
- Boys & Girls Clubs would hold more events if they had security – partner with city
- Competitions with police officers and fire fighters

What is your preferred method for learning about opportunities in the community?
- School news
- Boys & Girls Club
- Career center
- Posters
- Email, Internet, social media, text messages
- Face-to-face – visits from organizations that have opportunities for youth
- Facebook, Twitter, or Moodle targeted to youth to inform them about activities and events
- Expand PUSD’s Moodle so that youth can learn about opportunities in the community
- Not newspapers, plain text fliers, TV news, SPAM
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

Centennial High School Student Council
October 13, 2011

What are the main issues facing children and youth today?
- Drugs
- Class sizes too big, especially honor classes
- Depression
- Peer pressure
- Low self esteem
- Bullying
- Bad influences at home, at school, etc.

What challenges, barriers, or obstacles do you see in our community for youth?
- Education, fine arts programs getting cut
- Lack of faith adults have in youth
- Lack of motivation
- Not enough guidance on what is right and what is wrong
- Pushed hard to be techno-savvy

With a show of hands, how many of you think Peoria is a safe place? What can the community do to make Peoria a safer place for youth?
- Not a high crime rate – no bad areas
- I can walk anywhere and feel safe
- Sense of community in my neighborhood – neighbors look out for one another
- Age for drivers license should be raised – kids are not mature enough at 16

Are there activities you want to participate in and can’t due to lack of transportation?
- Public transit system is not advanced
- Doesn’t affect me, but public transportation system is not good enough

What are you doing to prepare for your future after high school? What can the community do to help you?
- Provide information about universities
- Not enough internship opportunities – want hands-on experience

Think of the activities and services for youth offered within community. What activities are lacking?
- City maintenance is low – city could be kept up better
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

You (youth) have a voice in your community. What barriers prevent you from making your voice heard?
- Not particularly – board members do not pay attention to opinions of youth
- We have opportunities, but I don’t know about them

How can we do a better job of getting youth involved in our community?
- Read newspaper
- Send emails or flyers to school sponsors to get the word out
- Broaden school announcements to include community events and activities
- Facebook – students might not take the time to look at announcements
- Word of mouth can be better than electronic messages
- Youth don’t go searching for volunteer opportunities, but they will get involved if they hear about it from peers
- E-mail sign up sheet for students who want to know about community events and activities
- Put advertisements on school TV

What other ideas do you have for making our community a better place for youth?
- Start a student radio station

What is your preferred method for learning about opportunities in the community?
- See question above about getting youth involved in the community.

Paseo Verde Elementary Student Council
October 13, 2011

What are the main issues facing children and youth today?
- Bullying
- Abuse
- Obesity
- Peer pressure
- Alcohol and drugs
- Stress
- Language – cussing, gossip, talking bad about people behind their backs

What challenges, barriers, or obstacles do you see in our community for youth?
- Tutoring – If you need a tutor, you need to pay for it, but can your family afford it?
- Games – not everyone’s parents can make it; better if games were on Saturday
- Issues at home – divorce or parents losing jobs
- Environment – neighborhood, friends
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

With a show of hands, how many of you think Peoria is a safe place? What can the community do to make Peoria a safer place for youth?

- Half feel safe, half don’t
- Violence and drugs are a problem
- Is safe because there are other places that have worse problems
- Lots of gangs in Peoria
- Centennial had a bomb threat
- Safe at home and school, but not as much outside of those settings

What are you doing to prepare for your future after high school? What can the community do to help you?

- Need more electives at school that focus on specific careers
- Get younger kids involved earlier – they need to learn to excel at an early age
- Teachers need to help students explain instead of just look up answers in a textbook
- Excelling – getting straight As to be able to get into a good college

Think of the activities and services for youth offered within community. What activities are lacking?

- Baseball instead of softball
- More opportunities for art outside of the one class
- Healthier food offered by the school
- More sports in school system – tennis, golf, etc.
- Acting and drama club for kids who don’t like sports
- Ballroom dancing

You (youth) have a voice in your community. What barriers prevent you from making your voice heard?

- We kind of do, but when we speak out, we get afraid that no one will listen to us
- A lot of times when we suggest things, adults just say no and don’t do what we suggest
- Shouldn’t wait for adults to ask, speak up and say your opinion
- We don’t have a voice because we’re younger and people don’t think we have good ideas. We should have a say because we live here.
- Member of youth advisory board – we do have a voice

How can we do a better job of getting youth involved in our community?

- Need to expand out of our own little cliques so shy kids will not be afraid to be involved or share their ideas and opinions
- Rather than doing things as a school, we should have more community or district events to bring the community together
- Make a better effort to ask youth about their ideas
- District should have an assembly to tell them about the youth advisory board because not many kids know about it.
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

What is your preferred method for learning about opportunities in the community?
- We don’t listen during assemblies or letters that go home from school – need to be more hands-on and interactive to get kids involved and excited
- Web sites don’t work very well – no one looks at online agenda – kids are on Facebook and phones
- One student doesn’t believe in phones, Facebook, or Twitter – email would be a better option
- Kids could sign up for mass text messages about activities

Paseo Verde Elementary PTSO
October 13, 2011

What are the main issues facing children and youth today?
- Peer pressure
- Bullying
- Lack of parent guidance
- Sedentary lifestyle, lack of physical activity
- Lack of parental involvement in lives of children
- Family finances – not able to afford all the activities kids would like to do

What challenges, barriers, or obstacles do you see in our community for youth?
- Budget cuts to activities
- Safe places to go
- Inexpensive places to go
- Safety at parks and other facilities
- Fear of drugs
- Peer pressure
- Transportation to activities
- Social values have shifted – do what you want when no one is watching
- TV programs and Internet that encourage inappropriate activities
- Lack of respect for authority (by kids and their parents)

With a show of hands, do you believe Peoria is a safe place for youth? What can the community do to make Peoria a safer place for youth?
- Safe, but I wouldn’t send my kids out into the community by themselves
- Depends on the time of day, the location, etc.
- More visible police presence
- More positive police interactions
- Neighbors need to care more, take responsibility for one another, get to know one another
- More neighborhood activities
- Educate citizens about block watch, block parties, other services available to communities

Peoria Youth Master Plan
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

Are there activities your children want to participate in and can’t? Why?
- Lack of money
- Time commitment required of kids and parents
- Hard time finding coaches, instructors
- Transportation to and from activities – On-site activities would help

What can the community do to help youth prepare for life after high school?
- Provide transportation to extracurricular activities
- Character education
- Greater police presence
- Mentoring – Big Brother, Big Sister program
- Tours of colleges
- Technology, Life, and Career (TLC) programs (PUSD program)
- Lobby politicians to allocate more money for education
- Provide volunteer, internship opportunities

Think of the activities and services for youth offered within community. What activities are lacking?
- Puberty education
- Life skills – home economics, shop, etc.
- Activities that incorporate the entire family, not just individuals

What opportunities do youth have to be heard in the community?
- Student council
- Youth Advisory Board
- Pretty limited opportunities for youth to participate in decision making in the community
- Youth can speak out at school board meetings (and city council meetings), but they need to develop the skills to do so effectively.

How can we do a better job of getting youth involved in our community?
- Contests or other incentives to encourage youth to volunteer
- Private schools require kids to do community service, but not public schools

What other ideas do you have for making our community a better place for youth?
- Eliminate fights – they plan them, record them, and put them on the Internet
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

**Girl Scouts**
**October 15, 2011**

What are the main issues facing children and youth today?
- Bullying
- Not enough time – don’t want to be late
- School starts too early
- Crazy drivers

What challenges, barriers, or obstacles do you see in our community for youth?
- Don’t have enough time to learn (switching classes too much, not enough to learn)
- Parents don’t know the homework students are doing (math)

With a show of hands, how many of you think Peoria is a safe place? What can the community do to make Peoria a safer place for youth?
- Half the group thought Peoria was safe (8 groups)
- Need more crossing guards
- Speed bumps to slow cars down
- Children should be wearing trackers (chips in clothes so parents know where they are)
- More peace in the world
- Be nice, don’t fight
- More homes for homeless
- More shelters for animals and no more kill shelters
- No more battles (war)
- No more robberies (crime)
- Be able to tell people when something bad happens (a safe place)
- More donations for the poor
- Cheaper medication

Are there activities you want to participate in and can’t due to lack of transportation?
- Plant more trees
- Football games (need more buses)
- Cheaper prices to get more food
- Can’t travel – cheaper plane tickets or buses
- Gas prices should go down
- Less expensive toys

What are you doing to prepare for your future after high school? What can the community do to help you?
- Help youth find jobs
- Help them practice before they do it (on the job training)
- Go explore jobs or go to a job fair
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

- Teach kids to take care of what’s around them (ex: don’t litter)
- Help kids understand how to afford college

Think of the activities and services for youth offered within community. What activities are lacking?
- Safer skate parks
- Need indoor skate parks
- Alternate skating surfaces
- More doctors in Peoria
- More trails, more hiking trails
- More beaches
- Roller skating rinks

You (youth) have a voice in your community. What barriers prevent you from making your voice heard?
- Adults don’t really care
- Thinks kids are weird
- Sometimes the kids are lying
- People jump to conclusions, don’t believe kids
- Some adults don’t want to help, have better things to do

How can we do a better job of getting youth involved in our community?
- Make it fun
- Fund raisers (pick up trash at school – make it fun)
- Have bike rides
- The theme here was “make it fun”!!
- Have music

What other ideas do you have for making our community a better place for youth?
- Clean up the community (world)
- Be nice to people
- Don’t pollute
- Don’t do drugs
- Recycle
- Less factories with pollution (less pollution)

What is your preferred method for learning about opportunities in the community?
- By the parents
- Through your friends
- News, commercials (like the state fair)
- At school, the morning announcements
- From grandparents

Peoria Youth Master Plan
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

- Cartoons
- Family & friends
- Sign spinners (those who hold signs advertising event)
- Word of mouth

Parents of Girl Scouts
October 15, 2011

What are the main issues facing children and youth today?
- Poverty increases, decreases opportunity for families. Need more city programs
- Angered kids- need opportunity for to talk, share, and release burdens.
- Bullying- has become more evident and occurring more often. (Cause broken families and emotions trickling down from adults to kids.
- Need Mentor/accountability program
- Getting info to kids about services… better marketing and communication.

With a show of hands, do you believe Peoria is a safe place for youth? What can the community do to make Peoria a safer place for youth?
- Peoria is a safer neighborhood/ city than other valley cities Glendale, Phoenix, etc. Compared to other cities.
- Parents see there are police/ park rangers in park, which gives greater sense of safety. Better patrolled and customer service is greater.
- Very positive remarks about Police and Fire departments. They are very approachable and they interact with the kids.
- More police programs that can have community/ youth involved. Safety programs and Danger Stranger Awareness Programs. Also would allow kids to see more opportunities for future careers/ professions.
- The lower half of Peoria needs help.

Are there activities your children want to participate in and can’t? Why?
- Autistic needs!!! Need more disabilities/ special needs programs.
- Better communication with website- Central Parent Link.
- Website help—suggestions for other classes, programs, and sports.
- More afterschool programs that offer free classes and sports.
- Transportation
- Time of classes and games are in the middle of the day. Not beneficial for working parents.
- Money- needs more scholarship, programs.
- Class Scheduling-Class time is too early. Ex. School gets out at 3:50pm and class is at 4pm.
- City Website- have link to associate all programs in the city whether city or not. Super directory to give parents a greater resource of info of programs.
- Desire Community service projects for kids
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

What can the community do to help youth prepare for life after high school?
- Have a career fair for kids. Would need programs to have follow-up with kids to encourage greater life decisions.
- Support Groups- need to show kids that there are other opportunities in life. (exposure)
- Internships from day one of high school. Peoria High Schools are doing this currently! But want something earlier for Junior High. Ages 8-13 need programs to help kids reach full potential.

What opportunities do youth have to be heard in the community?
- Have delegates from organizations that could feed into the Youth Advisory Board to reach a greater number of youth.

What other ideas do you have for making our community a better place for youth?
- Places for community to have non-profit programs. Ability to have a very small fee or no fee on facilities so these programs can have special events.
- Give the community resources instead of charging.
- Facility rental/ availability on City website.
- Have one location free for community to utilize for programs. (thought: only one or two time reserved for month, so there are opportunities for all non-profits)

Peoria Explorers
October 17, 2011

What are the main issues facing children and youth today?
- Drugs
- Gangs
- Abuse – physical, emotional, mental, sexual
- Bullying, including cyber bullying

What challenges, barriers, or obstacles do you see in our community for youth?
- Economy – finding a job
- Paying for college
- Family financial limitations
- Building credit to buy things
- Lack of college-prep courses

Do you believe Peoria is a safe place for youth? Why or why not? What can we do to make Peoria a safer place for youth?
- Newer neighborhoods feel safer
- Peoria doesn’t have a lot of gangs
- Address drugs and gangs
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

- More officers on the road for traffic control
- Additional school resources officers and better use of the ones we already have
- Install more cameras, lights in parks
- Too many streetlights are burned out
- More people need to participate in neighborhood watch programs

Are there activities your children want to participate in and can’t due to lack of transportation?
- Sports – recreational and school
- Cost of activities is a barrier to participation

What can the community do to help youth prepare for life after high school?
- Staying out of trouble
- Getting an education (college prep courses)
- Participate in extracurricular activities, including Explorers
- Saving money
- Internships
- Career exploration activities
- Lower the age requirements for internships

Think of the activities and services for youth offered within community. What activities are lacking?
- More volunteer activities to clean up older neighborhoods, but need to make them exciting and rewarding for youth
- More amenities in parks

You have a voice in your community. What barriers prevent you from making your voice heard?
- Youth not taken seriously – stereotypes about young people
- Incorporate community affairs into the schools to encourage youth to participate

How can we do a better job of getting youth involved in our community?
- Create more programs
- Advertise existing programs – youth not aware of what’s out there
- Make programs and activities sound fun and more appealing to youth

What other ideas do you have for making our community a better place for youth?
- Ask youth type of programs they would be interested in (youth survey)
- More positive police involvement with youth – earlier and more often
- Offer more youth-oriented events and use those events to promote other activities
- Make school more attractive to students and help motivate them to stay in school
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

What is your preferred method for learning about opportunities in the community?
- On-campus guest speakers in classroom or during lunch
- Create a community memo and send via mail
- TV advertisements (not Channel 11, not local programming)
- Expanded use of social media
- Posting information at schools
- Newspapers – youth do not read them
- Radio advertisements - Camel Country, KUPD, 98.3, 97.5
- Closed-circuit TV in schools

Peoria Boys & Girls Club Torch Club
October 20, 2011

What are the main issues facing children and youth today?
- Television
- Drugs, alcohol, tobacco
- Bad language
- Video games – addictive, no exercise, hurts eyes
- Bad attitudes
- Fighting
- Rude comments
- Disrespect for parents and other adults

What challenges, barriers, or obstacles do you see in our community for youth?
- Teen sex and pregnancy
- Kidnapping
- Fighting and guns – most have witnessed this
- Bullying
- Burglary – happened to one subject

Do you believe Peoria is a safe place for youth? Why or why not? What can we do to make Peoria a safer place for youth?
- Only one of five think Peoria is a safe place
- “Police officers on every block in Peoria”
- Offer help for people with drug problems – police should make them go to these classes
- Places for kids to go if they do not have anywhere like the Boys & Girls Club
- Make sure we license guns and enforce the laws
- Police officers take too long to arrive
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

Are there activities your children want to participate in and can’t due to lack of transportation?
- No – all say they have the ability to get to activities

What can the community do to help youth prepare for life after high school?
- Help finding money for college
- Help with homework
- Money management classes
- Team Emphasis

Think of the activities and services for youth offered within community. What activities are lacking?
- Sports facilities

You have a voice in your community. What barriers prevent you from making your voice heard?
- There needs to be place where kids can go to express their opinions
- Adults don’t listen, don’t take kids seriously because they are just kids
- Adults need to show respect for kids

How can we do a better job of getting youth involved in our community?
- Promote recycling among kids
- Promote Boys & Girls Club and other opportunities

What other ideas do you have for making our community a better place for youth?
- Pick up trash
- Get drugs, guns, gangs off the streets
- Clean up areas of the community

What is your preferred method for learning about opportunities in the community?
- Word of mouth
- Signs/Fliers
- School announcements
- Technology – Internet, email, social media
- Blimps, hot air balloons – sky ads
- Signs on city vehicles
- Through organizations like the Boys & Girls Club
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

Youth Advisory Board

What are the main issues facing children and youth today?

- Smoking cigarettes, drugs, and alcohol
- Driving drunk
- Fighting, bullying, violence
- Child, sexual, physical, domestic abuse
- Health, obesity and being inactive
- Spending all their time playing video games
- Stealing, being involved in criminal activity
- Child molesters
- Parents divorcing, Violence in the home, Lack of parent involvement, Bad parenting, Parents that are on drugs, Family issues
- Pressure to have sex, pregnancy
- Trying to keep yourself drug free
- Being homeless
- Drama and gossiping
- Loss of innocence at early age
- Cussing
- Suicide
- Discrimination
- Acceptance, lack of confidence
- Worrying about college and/or finding job after high school, Future plans
- School, too much homework
- Public safety
- Discipline
- Enrichment programs
- Education isn’t first priority
- Girls look a certain way, society saying girls must be skinny
- Fitting in, fashion, expected to have the latest things
- Pressure to do drugs, party, and have sex
- Kids becoming ruder
- Not getting a good education, lack of teaching, faculty/teacher and student/pupil ratios way off
- Economy, poverty, hunger
- Lust, Love
- Trying to be safe on the streets, gangs, murder
- Need to get involved in sports
- Lifestyle, sexuality
- Staying on track and focused
- Being misunderstood
- Pressure to succeed and be successful
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

- Students revolving their world around technology and the internet
- School policies not being fair, no freedom

What challenges, barriers, or obstacles do you see in our community for youth?
- Communication is lacking due to technology, learning less due to technology that helps with spelling and text abbreviations
- Not enough honors classes, students aren’t motivated by teachers
- Rapists
- Getting across the intersection of 87th Ave and Grand with no crosswalk
- Stop teachers from looking the other way when student is getting bullied and the teacher witnesses it.
- Drugs in the parks, fear of gang shootings
- Self-esteem
- Not enough job opportunities for teens to start working
- Lack of money, parents losing their jobs, having to work
- Lack of motivation
- Racism
- Peer pressure, doing what is considered “cool”, we stop being ourselves to impress our peers, friends
- Gangs
- Not being accepted as a gay person
- Adults thinking they are “better” than us
- Fashion
- Plan for when they’re adults
- Being able to walk home at night
- Having fun
- Lack of entertainment
- Think outside the box
- Living on their own
- Limited education, students that don’t speak English, Not enough teachers, students not passing to next grade in school
- Stereo-typing
- Environment
- Positive influence
- Sports
- The question – how will I pay for college?
- Poor decisions using drugs and alcohol
- More help for special needs students
- Social – no one knows how to communicate anymore
- Parents giving too much freedom to kids too young, poor home life
- Not enough parks and playgrounds
- Drugs
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

With a show of hands, how many of you think Peoria is a safe place? What could the community do to make you feel safer?

- No, fights are happening everywhere
- No, Peoria is becoming ghetto
- Tighter police control over criminals, arrest the bad people
- Fairly safe place, aren’t too many dangers
- Yes, very safe
- Because of tight security I think Peoria is safe
- I feel safe, but too make safer focus on really bad things, additional cops driving at night, More enforcement on drugs and drinking
- It’s safe but more security
- Need crosswalks from school
- No, need more police
- Lots of threats happen at the school then lead to fights
- Not as safe as east valley have more patrol cars
- No, Peoria is not safe at all. We need security cameras down all blocks
- Put in more phone stands

Are there activities you want to participate in and can’t get to due to lack of transportation?

- No - 60% / Yes - 40%
- Yes, bus routes are very limited
- Yes - attending the football games
- No, I usually can get rides everywhere
- Parents drive
- Gas is too expensive to go to extra events, transportation is needed
- No, I have a car

What are you doing to prepare for your future following high school? What can the community do to help you?

- CTE classes, ROTC Programs
- Jobs fairs
- Medical field programs are needed
- Start teaching the kids about future options at younger age, looking for the right high school
- Receive a division 1 scholarship
- Cosmetology
- College and find job
- Free tutors, study
- Community funding some programs and school fundraisers
- Provide seminars on the BASIC information about applying for college
- Taking classes that pertain to my career
- Stop cutting fine art classes
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

- Offer more scholarships, get straight As to get scholarships
- Striving for better grades
- Financial Aid, apply for scholarships, give scholarships to regular people
- Researching schools and doing well in college, give more information on colleges, Start filling out college applications
- Stop messing around
- Offer classes and groups that gear towards getting ready for college and college fairs
- Money donated to students Senior paper
- Taking college prep, SAT, ACT
- Glendale Community College
- Getting more involved, provide more service projects

Think of the activities and services offered within the community. What activities are lacking?

- Soccer fields
- Speech & debate teams
- Martial Arts
- Lunch is boring
- Sex education
- MUSIC and ART programs, Glee Club
- Community clean up programs, more charitable works
- Basketball Tournaments
- Lower cost sports programs – currently not affordable
- Online classes
- Anime Club
- Add foreign languages such as Japanese and German
- Creative writing club
- Arts department
- Community choir and band
- Fun summer classes
- More sports clubs
- Free activities. People cannot pay to be involved
- Sports are too HEAVY at PHS – uneven with the arts department
- Lacrosse, hockey, boxing, and dodge ball teams
- Snowboarding trip
- On-campus daycare
- Libraries
- Youth classes
- Before and after school programs, after school tutoring

Peoria Youth Master Plan
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

You (youth) have a voice in the community. What barriers could be removed to allow you greater opportunities to be heard?

- Better transportation for students to get to school and school functions
- Take out all vending machines
- Have teachers and principal listen to our input
- Adults thinking youth are rude
- District student councils
- The idea of doing what’s “cool”
- Schools own their own vending machines to 1) raise money 2) to put healthier food choices in the vending machines
- Age difference, some people wont take advice from a 16 year old
- Remove curfew
- Trust students more
- School administration listen and try to understand the students point of view
- Relax on food and id’s
- Create a board and communicate times and dates so better known
- Bad attitudes towards other programs other than SPORTS, SPORTS, SPORTS
- Rules, some of the rules are ridiculous
- At school we get in trouble for anything we say or do that the adults don’t like
- Develop a club that makes a difference in the community
- Community events
- Less homework
- Let students vote on rules not just the parents
- Let teens have a voice in the community and at school, parents don’t understand us
- Language barriers – Spanish should be mandatory class for students
- Communication
- Teachers and parents just don’t care about the stress we feel
- Popularity contest
- Relationships
- Family
- Judgments
- Parents

How can we do a better job of getting the youth involved in the community?

- Advertise clubs such as JAG and ROTC
- Free food, free stuff
- More opportunities
- Make us want to get involved, make it fun
- Youth suggest activities that are fun for them
- PUSD Matters
- Advertise, promote, publicize activities
- Make it a requirement for kids to participate, make involvement mandatory
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

- Better role models
- Present an individual webpage for volunteering for easy access
- Post more posters
- Community clean up days
- More events
- Show that students opinion matters
- Programs that seem more appealing, trips, more activities, clubs on campus

**What other ideas do you have for making our community a better place for youth?**
- Stop selling junk food at the school canteens
- Indoor basketball courts
- If adults wouldn’t assume we are all gang bangers
- Teen-only center
- Areas for teens to “hang-out”
- Religious youth programs
- Pedestrian bridge across Grand for students to cross
- Concerts for teens
- Treat us more equally
- More discipline and surveillance on students for safety
- Better parks, more rec centers
- Be more strict on littering on school campuses, teach how to take care of the Earth
- Evenness towards programs not all sports
- More cops to make safer for teens
- Getting them more involved with community projects/services, neighborhood clean ups
- More events
- Teen dance club, more school dances
- Offer more programs where they have help for homework
- Free family events and sports programs
- Talk to parents about programs
- No sex offenders in school areas or neighborhoods
- Treat kids like kids
- Put all gangs, taggers in jail
- Close gun, smoke shops, catch the drug dealers
- Outside activities
- Paintball areas
- Hookah bars

**What is your preferred method of learning about activities in the community?**
- Website solely on activities
- Hands on
- Visual
- Email that explains the details of the activity
Appendix A: Focus Group Results

- Make learning fun
- In school hand-outs, school website, school clubs, school announcements, after school activities, school TV screen, teachers
- Demonstrations
- Library fliers
- Newspaper articles
- TV
- Facebook, text messages, emails
- Group work
- Online learning
- Guest speakers
- Posters around the school campuses
- Frequent newsletters, send letter home
Community Services Department

YOUTH AND FAMILY STRATEGIC PLAN
Youth Program Inventory
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction
In late 2009, the City of Peoria demonstrated a desire to inventory all youth service providers and facilities available to youth in the community. The assessment began shortly after and includes identification of all City department programs, facilities and services for public and private sectors locations that provide services for the City of Peoria citizens.

Project Goals
- Develop a comprehensive inventory of youth service providers and facilities in the City of Peoria.
- Research various youth master plans throughout the country to devise a practical division of program categories.

Youth Program Categories
In an effort to organize the data collected the inventory was divided into program categories. Categories were chosen from research done from the National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education and Families of various Youth Master Plans from Cities around the country. Based on findings the inventory was divided into four categories; Recreation and Entertainment, Education, Family Support, and Health and Safety. In addition each, category is broken down into sub-categories. Each section of the inventory contains City of Peoria sponsored programs and facilities, public schools and private businesses offering youth related programs and services.

Recreation and Entertainment
Private and Public Sector Support and Resources
- Specialty/Entertainment
- Youth Sports
- Creative Arts
- Libraries
- Special Populations

Education
Private and Public Sector Support and Resources
- Academics
- Preschool
- Specialty

Family Support
- Church Programs
- Neighborhood Services
- Service Organizations
- Transportation Services
- Volunteer
Health & Safety
- Fire
- Healthcare
- Outreach Programs
- Police/Security Services

Data Collection
A majority of the data was collected through the internet, with follow up emails and phone calls as necessary. All City of Peoria Departments provided the information for their respective programs/services. The City of Peoria Community Services Department publishes a quarterly brochure, the Peoria FOCUS, which also provides an inventory of programs and classes offered to the public. Data was collected from November 2009 – October 2010.
## RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT

### Program Area: SPECIALTY/ENTERTAINMENT

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<td>4th of July</td>
<td>16101 N. 83rd Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 773-8700</td>
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<td>16101 N. 83rd Ave.</td>
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<td>(623) 773-8700</td>
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<td>21321 N. 86th Dr.</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Youth Fitness Camps</td>
<td>8866-A W Thunderbird Rd.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
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<td>AMF Peoria Lanes Bowling Center</td>
<td>8475 W. Olive Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(602) 971-1105</td>
<td><a href="http://www.amf.com/deserthillslanes/">www.amf.com/deserthillslanes/</a></td>
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<td>20799 N. 83rd Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 572-2675</td>
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<td>Peoria</td>
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<td>Challenger Space Center</td>
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<td>(623) 322-2001</td>
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<td>9028 W. Union Hills Dr.</td>
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<td>(623) 376-7888</td>
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<td>Peoria</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.harkinshollywood.com">www.harkinshollywood.com</a></td>
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<td>8085 W. Bell Rd. Suite 103</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
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<td>16610 N. 75th Ave.</td>
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City of Peoria Programs
## RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT

**Program Area: YOUTH SPORTS - City and School Programs**

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<th>Swim Lessons</th>
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**City of Peoria Programs**
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<td>19085 N. 83rd Ave.</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.arrowheadgymnasticsaz.com">www.arrowheadgymnasticsaz.com</a></td>
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<td>19209 N 83rd Ave. #101</td>
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<td>623-566-3688</td>
<td><a href="http://www.asianamericankarate.com/">www.asianamericankarate.com/</a></td>
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<td>9132 W. Cactus Rd.</td>
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<td>623-293-8494</td>
<td><a href="http://www.martialartsaz.com/contact.html">www.martialartsaz.com/contact.html</a></td>
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<td>AZ Youth Soccer Organization</td>
<td>6817 W Cholla St.</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.ayso310.org/">www.ayso310.org/</a></td>
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<td>Choi’s Traditional Tae Kwon Do</td>
<td>18431 N. 91st Ave. Suite 3</td>
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<td>20403 N. Lake Pleasant Rd.</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.millenniummarialarts.net">www.millenniummarialarts.net</a></td>
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<td>623-972-7900</td>
<td><a href="http://www.unitedkungfu.com/ContactUs">www.unitedkungfu.com/ContactUs</a></td>
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## RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT

### Program Area: YOUTH SPORTS  Private Programs

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*Legend: X indicates that the program offers the activity.*
## RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT

### Program Area: CREATIVE ARTS

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<td>1</td>
<td>Special Interest Classes - Parkridge Park</td>
<td>9734 W. Beardsley Rd.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 773-7137</td>
<td><a href="http://www.peoriaaz.gov/classes">www.peoriaaz.gov/classes</a></td>
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<td>8335 W. Jefferson St.</td>
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<td>Special Interest Classes - Rio Vista Recreation Center</td>
<td>8866-A W. Thunderbird Rd.</td>
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<td>Special Interest Classes - Sunrise Family Center</td>
<td>21303 N. 86th Dr.</td>
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<td>21109 N. 98th Ave.</td>
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<td>Academy of Classical Ballet</td>
<td>21501 N. 78th Ave.</td>
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<td>(623) 572-7222</td>
<td><a href="http://www.acballet.com/">www.acballet.com/</a></td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Academy of Classical Ballet</td>
<td>6402 W. Parkside Ln.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(602) 433-2623</td>
<td><a href="http://www.acballet.com/">www.acballet.com/</a></td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Ahab-Rock/Metal Guitar Lessons</td>
<td>8820 W. Bell Rd.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 810-8917</td>
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<td>Arizona Broadway Theatre</td>
<td>7701 W. Paradise Ln.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 776-8400</td>
<td><a href="http://www.azbroadwaytheatre.com">www.azbroadwaytheatre.com</a></td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Arrowhead Spinettes Gymnastics</td>
<td>19085 N. 83rd Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 825-4777</td>
<td><a href="http://www.arrowheadgymnasticsaz.com">www.arrowheadgymnasticsaz.com</a></td>
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<td>AZ Flames Gymnastics</td>
<td>9850 W. Peoria Ave.</td>
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<td>Boys &amp; Girls Club Wisotsky</td>
<td>11820 N. 81st Ave.</td>
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<td>(623) 979-3559</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bgca.org/">www.bgca.org/</a></td>
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<td>Devneys Dance</td>
<td>19205 N. 83rd Ave.</td>
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<td>(623) 875-0321</td>
<td><a href="http://www.devneysdance.com">www.devneysdance.com</a></td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Donna Deussen -Vocal Coach</td>
<td>8732 N. 114th Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 374-6542</td>
<td><a href="http://www.donnadeussen.com/">www.donnadeussen.com/</a></td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Fred Astaire Dance Studio</td>
<td>9822 W. Peoria Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 815-3338</td>
<td>fredastairearizona.com/index</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Groove Theory Project</td>
<td>9800 N. 91st Ave. Suite 104</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(602) 748 8022</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gtpdance.com/">www.gtpdance.com/</a></td>
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<td>Hubbard Family Swim School</td>
<td>8402 W. Thunderbird Rd. #103</td>
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<td>Loras Academy of Dance</td>
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<td>NYS Gymnastics &amp; Cheer Center</td>
<td>16671 N. 84th Ave. Suite 180</td>
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<td>623-298-2341</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nysonline.org">www.nysonline.org</a></td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Oasis Gymnastics &amp; Sports Center</td>
<td>8643 W. Kelton Lane Suite #110</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 977-6399</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oasisgym.com/">www.oasisgym.com/</a></td>
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### City of Peoria Programs

- [www.theaterworks.org/](http://www.theaterworks.org/)
- [www.oasisgym.com/](http://www.oasisgym.com/)
- [www.madaboutdance.com](http://www.madaboutdance.com)
- [www.peoriaaz.gov/classes](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/classes)
- [www.acballet.com](http://www.acballet.com)
- [www.gtpdance.com](http://www.gtpdance.com)
- [www.joann.com/](http://www.joann.com/)
## RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT

Program Area: LIBRARIES

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<td>623-773-8664</td>
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<td>Cotton Boll AM/PM</td>
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<td>Frontier AM/PM</td>
<td>21258 N 81st Ave.</td>
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<td>7231 W. North Ln.</td>
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<td>31501 N Westland Rd</td>
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<td>Catholic Charities Community Services</td>
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<td>Children's Learning Adventure</td>
<td>25560 North Lake Pleasant Pkwy.</td>
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<td>(623) 825-1680</td>
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<td>Copper Canyon Academy</td>
<td>7785 West Peoria Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 930-1734</td>
<td><a href="http://www.employabilitycharters.com">www.employabilitycharters.com</a></td>
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<td>Cross of Glory Lutheran Church and School</td>
<td>10111 West Jomax Rd.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 362-8668</td>
<td><a href="http://www.crossofglory.org">www.crossofglory.org</a></td>
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<td>Early Head Start</td>
<td>11708 North 80th Ave.</td>
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<td>Kindercare</td>
<td>6835 West Peoria Ave.</td>
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<td>(623) 486-0268</td>
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<td>Lil Pardners Childcare and Preschool Inc</td>
<td>11001 North 99th Ave. #126</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 974-4829</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lilpardnerschildcareandpreschool.webs.com">www.lilpardnerschildcareandpreschool.webs.com</a></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.montessorikingdom.com">www.montessorikingdom.com</a></td>
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<td>Montessori Spirit of Hope</td>
<td>14403 North 75th Ave.</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.spiritofhope-umc.org">www.spiritofhope-umc.org</a></td>
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<td>7629 West Thunderbird Rd.</td>
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<td>(623) 376-2344</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pcapreschool.com">www.pcapreschool.com</a></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.primroseschools.com">www.primroseschools.com</a></td>
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<td>(623) 825-1680</td>
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<td>Copper Canyon Academy</td>
<td>7785 W. Peoria Ave.</td>
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<td>(623) 930-1734</td>
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<td>Desert Pointe Academy</td>
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<td>Knowledge Points Learning Center</td>
<td>8271 W. Lake Pleasant Parkway</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 376-2862</td>
<td><a href="http://www.knowledgepoints.com/">http://www.knowledgepoints.com/</a></td>
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<td>Montessori Kingdom of Learning</td>
<td>13111 N. 94th Dr.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 876-1463</td>
<td><a href="http://www.montessorikindgom.com">www.montessorikindgom.com</a></td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Ombudsman Charter School</td>
<td>9516 W. Peoria Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 878-4503</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ombudsman.com">www.ombudsman.com</a></td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Peoria Accelerated High School</td>
<td>8885 W. Peoria Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 979-0031</td>
<td><a href="http://www.peoriabulldogs.com/">www.peoriabulldogs.com/</a></td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Phoenix Children's Academy</td>
<td>7629 W. Thunderbird Rd.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 376-2344</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pcapreschool.com">www.pcapreschool.com</a></td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Primrose School of Fletcher Heights</td>
<td>8270 W. Lake Pleasant Parkway</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 825-3221</td>
<td><a href="http://www.primroseschools.com">www.primroseschools.com</a></td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Sky Line West Prep School</td>
<td>17667 N. 91st Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 875-3175</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Tutor Time Child Care/Learning Center</td>
<td>8348 W. Deer Valley Rd.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 825-9840</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tutortime.com/schools/dma-landing/phoenix-mesa-scottsdale/">http://www.tutortime.com/schools/dma-landing/phoenix-mesa-scottsdale/</a></td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Antioch Church of God In Christ</td>
<td>9600 W. Peoria Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 486-9007</td>
<td><a href="http://www.antiochcogic.org">www.antiochcogic.org</a></td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Arrowhead Fellowship</td>
<td>8979 W. Peoria Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 334-8080</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Cavalry Baptist Church</td>
<td>8412 W. Washington St.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 486-3523</td>
<td><a href="http://www.calvaryonline.us">www.calvaryonline.us</a></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Celebration Lutheran Church</td>
<td>8726 W. Olive Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 979-7511</td>
<td><a href="http://www.celebration-lutheran.com">www.celebration-lutheran.com</a></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Christ Church of the Valley</td>
<td>7007 W. Happy Valley Rd.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 376-2444</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ccvonline.com">www.ccvonline.com</a></td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Circle of Peace</td>
<td>8430 W. Deer Valley Rd.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 879-6700</td>
<td><a href="http://www.circleofpeace.org">www.circleofpeace.org</a></td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>First Presbyterian Church of Peoria</td>
<td>10236 N. 83rd Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 979-4682</td>
<td><a href="http://www.peoriapresbyterianchurch.org">www.peoriapresbyterianchurch.org</a></td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Horizons Community</td>
<td>14120 N. 79th Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 878-0818</td>
<td><a href="http://www.horizonscc.com">www.horizonscc.com</a></td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Journey Church</td>
<td>9970 W. Beardsley Rd.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 561-7795</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lifeisajourney.org">www.lifeisajourney.org</a></td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Lakeside Baptist Church</td>
<td>PO Box 6625</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 687-6009</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lakesidebaptistchurch.org">www.lakesidebaptistchurch.org</a></td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Life in Christ Lutheran Church</td>
<td>14802 N. 75th Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 773-1234</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lcl.org">www.lcl.org</a></td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Lighthouse Church</td>
<td>14185 N. 83rd Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 979-4392</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lighthouseaz.com">www.lighthouseaz.com</a></td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Maranatha Baptist Church</td>
<td>9120 N. 95th Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 937-7866</td>
<td><a href="http://www.maranathabc.org">www.maranathabc.org</a></td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Mount Zion Lutheran Church</td>
<td>8902 W. Deer Valley Rd.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 825-9221</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mtzionaz.com">www.mtzionaz.com</a></td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Mountain View Church of God &amp; Christ Cogic</td>
<td>8410 W. Jefferson St.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 878-4117</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>New Hope Covenant Church</td>
<td>8217 W. Country Gables Dr.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 412-2224</td>
<td><a href="http://www.newhopecovenant.org">www.newhopecovenant.org</a></td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Peoria Church of the Nazarene</td>
<td>7717 W. Thunderbird Rd.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 979-3481</td>
<td><a href="http://www.peoriaaznazarene.org">www.peoriaaznazarene.org</a></td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Resurrection Baptist Church</td>
<td>8624 W. Sweetwater Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 262-4158</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rbcom.org">www.rbcom.org</a></td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Seventh-day Adventist Church</td>
<td>13450 N. Plaza Del Rio Blvd.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 977-7990</td>
<td><a href="http://www.adventist.org">www.adventist.org</a></td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>South Peoria Baptist Church</td>
<td>9000 W. Olive Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 486-1556</td>
<td><a href="http://www.spbch.org">www.spbch.org</a></td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Spirit of Hope United Methodist Church</td>
<td>14403 N. 75th Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 979-0080</td>
<td><a href="http://www.spiritofhope-umc.org">www.spiritofhope-umc.org</a></td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Spiritual Enrichment Center</td>
<td>9745 W. Peoria Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 972-3205</td>
<td><a href="http://www.spiritualenrichmentcenter.us">www.spiritualenrichmentcenter.us</a></td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Spirit of Grace Church of God</td>
<td>7033 W. Cactus Rd.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 486-8400</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>St. Charles Borromeo Church</td>
<td>8615 W. Peoria Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 979-3418</td>
<td><a href="http://www.scbpaeoria.wordpress.com">www.scbpaeoria.wordpress.com</a></td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>Sunrise Mountain Baptist Church</td>
<td>8542 W. Deer Valley Rd.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 566-0571</td>
<td><a href="http://www.smbcaz.org">www.smbcaz.org</a></td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>The Church at Cactus</td>
<td>8133 W. Cactus Rd.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 979-3239</td>
<td><a href="http://www.churchatcactus.org">www.churchatcactus.org</a></td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints</td>
<td>10877 N. 77th Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 487-8858</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lds.org">www.lds.org</a></td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>West Olive Church of Christ</td>
<td>10935 W. Olive Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 972-8479</td>
<td><a href="http://www.westolive.com">www.westolive.com</a></td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>Zion Ministries</td>
<td>7643 W. Acoma Dr.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 878-4203</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Arizona Consulting &amp; Counseling Services</td>
<td>9162 W. Cactus Rd.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 776-7766</td>
<td><a href="http://www.accscounseling.com">www.accscounseling.com</a></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Boys &amp; Girls Club Wisotsky</td>
<td>11820 N. 81st Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 979-3559</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bgca.org/">http://www.bgca.org/</a></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Community Justice Assist Services</td>
<td>8455 W. Grand Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 878-4100</td>
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<td>Dr Lane, Healthy Living Coach</td>
<td>8190 W. Deer Valley Rd.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 242-8809</td>
<td><a href="http://www.weightlosscoachingmd.com">www.weightlosscoachingmd.com</a></td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Family Partners</td>
<td>9051 W. Kelton Lane</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 236-9936</td>
<td><a href="http://www.familypartners.net">www.familypartners.net</a></td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Family Partners LLC</td>
<td>16140 N. Arrowhead Fountains Center Dr.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(602) 997-8300</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Jewish Family &amp; Children’s Services</td>
<td>9451 N. 99th Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 977-1313</td>
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<td>Peoria Rotary Club</td>
<td>8028 W. Thunderbird Rd.</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.thepeoriarotaryclub.org">www.thepeoriarotaryclub.org</a></td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>West Valley Child Crisis Center</td>
<td>8631 W. Union Hills Dr.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 848-8864</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Westside Social Services Inc</td>
<td>8355 W. Peoria Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 878-9355</td>
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<td>A-Abbey Airport Sedan &amp; Limo</td>
<td>11942 N. 85th Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 334-3771</td>
<td><a href="http://www.abbeyairporttransportation.com">www.abbeyairporttransportation.com</a></td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Discount Limo</td>
<td>9963 N. 75th Dr.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 334-0458</td>
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<td>Maxim Limousine</td>
<td>91 W. Peoria Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 486-5466</td>
<td><a href="http://www.maximlimousine.com">www.maximlimousine.com</a></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Platinum Ride Limo Peoria Limo Transportation</td>
<td>9680 W. Olive Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(800) 514-8812</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rideprlimo.com">www.rideprlimo.com</a></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Ruan Transportation</td>
<td>9551 W. Diana Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 217-2977</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ruan.com/">www.ruan.com/</a></td>
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City of Peoria Programs
## FAMILY SUPPORT
### Program Area: VOLUNTEER

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# HEALTH AND SAFETY

## Program Area: FIRE

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<td>A</td>
<td>Peoria Fire Administration</td>
<td>8401 W. Monroe St.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 773-7279</td>
<td><a href="http://www.peoriaaz.gov/fire">www.peoriaaz.gov/fire</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Station 91</td>
<td>8307 W. Washington St.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 773-7279</td>
<td><a href="http://www.peoriaaz.gov/fire">www.peoriaaz.gov/fire</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Station 92</td>
<td>8915 W. Union Hills Dr.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 773-7279</td>
<td><a href="http://www.peoriaaz.gov/fire">www.peoriaaz.gov/fire</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Station 93</td>
<td>8330 W. Emile Zola Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 773-7279</td>
<td><a href="http://www.peoriaaz.gov/fire">www.peoriaaz.gov/fire</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Station 94</td>
<td>9800 W. Olive Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 773-7279</td>
<td><a href="http://www.peoriaaz.gov/fire">www.peoriaaz.gov/fire</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Station 95</td>
<td>23100 N. Lake Pleasant Rd.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 773-7279</td>
<td><a href="http://www.peoriaaz.gov/fire">www.peoriaaz.gov/fire</a></td>
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<td>G</td>
<td>Station 96</td>
<td>12700 W. Jomax Rd.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 773-7279</td>
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<td>Arizona Center for Cancer Care</td>
<td>14155 N. 83rd Ave.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 773-2873</td>
<td><a href="http://azccc.net/index.html">http://azccc.net/index.html</a></td>
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<td>Arizona Medical Clinic</td>
<td>9165 W. Thunderbird Rd.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 876-3800</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bannerhealth.com/Locations/Arizona/Banner+Arizona+Medical+Clinic/_Physician+Offices.htm">http://www.bannerhealth.com/Locations/Arizona/Banner+Arizona+Medical+Clinic/_Physician+Offices.htm</a></td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Dr. Paul Sandler, MD</td>
<td>13090 N. 94th Dr.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 972-6700</td>
<td><a href="http://www.familypartners.net/">http://www.familypartners.net/</a></td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Filner Ivan M Do</td>
<td>15182 N. 75th Ave., #180</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 487-3334</td>
<td><a href="http://www.goodnightpeds.com/">http://www.goodnightpeds.com</a></td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Good Night Pediatrics</td>
<td>8801 W. Union Hills Dr.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 241-9026</td>
<td><a href="http://www.goodnightpeds.com/">http://www.goodnightpeds.com</a></td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Kindred Hospital</td>
<td>13215 N. 94th Dr.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 977-4838</td>
<td><a href="http://www.westsidechiropractic.net/">http://www.westsidechiropractic.net/</a></td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Natural Wellness Center</td>
<td>8617 W. Union Hills Dr.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 979-2263</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nextcare.com/">http://www.nextcare.com/</a></td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Surgery Center of Peoria</td>
<td>13260 N. 94th Dr.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 933-2900</td>
<td><a href="http://www.peoriasc.com">http://www.peoriasc.com</a></td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Union Hills Medicine Center</td>
<td>8801 W. Union Hills Dr.</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 583-0306</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uucc.biz/">http://www.uucc.biz/</a></td>
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### Program Area: OUTREACH PROGRAMS

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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Arizona Children's Association</td>
<td>2833 N. 3rd Street</td>
<td>Phoenix</td>
<td>(602)234-3733</td>
<td><a href="http://www.arizonaschildren.org">www.arizonaschildren.org</a></td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Arizona Mentor Group Home</td>
<td>6857 W. Puget Ave</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623)435-7146</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Sunshine Residential &amp; Group Homes, Inc.</td>
<td>10555 N 58th Dr</td>
<td>Glendale</td>
<td>(623)842-4323</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kidsrsunshine.com">www.kidsrsunshine.com</a></td>
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**City of Peoria**
**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**Program Area: POLICE/SECURITY SERVICES**

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<th>ID</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Phone #</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Securitech Security Tech Inc</td>
<td>8301 W. Washington St., #8</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
<td>(623) 979-7941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SafeAlert Protection, Inc.</td>
<td>P.O. Box 10095</td>
<td>Glendale</td>
<td>(623) 825-6400</td>
<td><a href="http://safealert.net/default.aspx">http://safealert.net/default.aspx</a></td>
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**City of Peoria Programs**