

**CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA
CITY MANAGER REPORT**

RCM #: _____

Date Prepared: January 5, 2011

Council Meeting Date: January 18, 2011

TO: Carl Swenson, City Manager

THROUGH: Susan J. Daluddung, Deputy City Manager

FROM: J.P. de la Montaigne, Community Services Director

SUBJECT: Peoria Art Gallery Grand Opening

SUMMARY:

Arts in Peoria will reach a new plateau on Saturday, January 22nd with the grand opening of the Peoria Art Gallery in City Hall at 9:00 a.m.

The City will celebrate the gallery's opening with the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit "Lasting Light: 125 Years of Grand Canyon Photography." The much anticipated exhibit includes 60 works by well-known photographers including Jack Dykinga, Michael Collier, Mike Buchheit, James Cowlin and Sue Bennett. It includes images of early photographers dangling from cables with their cumbersome equipment balanced on their shoulders to more modern images that are bold and dramatic, featuring the canyon's startling natural beauty.

After a period of renovations, Peoria is dedicating space to the public in the form of the first-floor art gallery in the east wing of City Hall. Staff from several departments had a hand in the project and its success will be based in part to the group working together under a common goal. Interest from the public is noteworthy and it has repeatedly been said that it will be wonderful to have an art gallery in the area. There has also been a lot of interest from citizens to volunteer at the gallery.

Art staff is working on a two-year exhibit plan that will include both local and state artists. The plan also will include showing pieces from the West Valley Art Museum which recently relocated in Peoria. The first year will mainly focus on exhibits related to Arizona and the upcoming Centennial.

The goal of the space is to bring art opportunities into the daily lives of residents. Additional exhibition space is being identified in other City public buildings to further increase awareness of the arts. These components were identified in the city's Arts Master Plan, completed in 2009.

The Smithsonian exhibit will run through April 17. Gallery hours will be Monday through Wednesday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday noon to 6 p.m. and by appointment. Admission will be free.

The gallery will be another great reason for people to visit the Municipal Campus in Oldtown!

CONTACT: David Hunenberg, Library Manager 623-773-7557