

Commitment To the Commons: Outreach Workers League Proposal for the Artesian Commons

The Outreach Workers League (OWL) consists of street outreach workers from nearly a dozen social service providers to Olympia and surrounding Thurston County. OWL member organizations have previously been a part of discussions with the City Of Olympia regarding supporting the continued development and operations of the Artesian Commons Park since the park's opening. As previously discussed, OWL member organizations recognize that a large volume of park patrons are members of our community that are experiencing homelessness and/or are At-Risk Youth. OWL member organizations are committed to supporting the City of Olympia in programming activities at the Artesian Commons Park geared toward our service population, as well as the broader community.

Weekly Engagement (Already Budgeted)

Currently, OWL member organizations provide daily and/or weekly programs at the Artesian Commons Park that are focused on outreach, engagement, safety, and park/community stewardship. Those programs have been refined to provide greater engagement with at-risk youth utilizing the park, and will begin Jan 2015 (See FIG 1).

Commitment to 20 Hours Weekly:

PB&J Project

- Serving healthy food
- Providing social service referrals
- Peer-based emotional supportive listening and problem-solving
- Modeling positive social interactions with everyone at the well and commons.

CYS/Rosie's Place Outreach

- Providing crisis intervention, food and water, gloves and hats, first aid, hygiene, bus passes and referrals to emergency shelter and social services for youth ages 12-24 with the goal of establishing rapport and engaging youth in CYS's continuum of care.
- Outreach workers are currently at the Artesian Commons three times a week (two of which are during peak park hours 5-8pm T/Th).
- In Spring 2015, with the help of additional volunteers, CYS will expand outreach to the Artesian Commons to 5 days a week with some of those days dedicated specifically to programming at the well.

Downtown Ambassador Program

- The Ambassador Program is currently providing outreach at the Artesian Commons Park five days a week.
- They will begin focusing this outreach into 2 hour blocks from 1:30-3:30pm, Tuesday through Saturday.
- This will include social service referrals, Certified Peer Counseling, Peer Support Groups, stewardship of the park (cleanup, graffiti removal), modeling and promoting positive social behavior, and community building activities such as sports/recreation (basketball, handball, ping-pong, street theatre).

Crazy Faith

- Volunteer litter pick-up
- Building positive relationships with youth and other patrons of the Artesian Commons
- Provide emotional support in the form of reflective listening, problem-solving and uplifting through hope

Stand Up For Kids

- Outreach to youth from 7pm-9pm weekly.

FIG 1: PROPOSED WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
12-1:30pm PB&J Project		12-1:30pm PB&J Project	1:30-3pm Ambass.	12-1:30pm PB&J Project	1:30-3pm Ambass.
2:30-4:30pm CYS	1:30-3pm Ambass.	12-1:30pm Crazy Faith	5:30-6 / 7-7:30 CYS	1:30-3pm Ambass.	
	5:30-6 / 7-7:30 CYS	1:30-3pm Ambass.		7-9pm Stand Up for Kids	

TOTAL = 20 HOURS

Proposed Events: Arts Walk to Arts Walk

The Artesian Commons Park experiences a higher volume of park patrons from Spring Arts Walk in April through Fall Arts Walk in October. The Artesian Commons Park Youth Service Providers Summit from July 31, 2014 led by Adam Fletcher on behalf of the City Of Olympia, helped provide a scope of the issues that the youth using the park experience, and provided their suggestions for programming and activities to help make the park a safe and more engaging space. OWL has incorporated that feedback, and youth feedback provided during the OWL member organizations' regular outreach at the Artesian Commons Park into the following proposed event commitments for this year.

Downtown Ambassador Program Events:

- Ambassadors: Play! at the Well. 8 separate events from Spring to Fall. This was a successful series last season.
- Ambassadors will promote the space as a venue for music, art, recreation, activities via the program's social media presence, and their liaison work with businesses, business associations, and organizations in and around the downtown core.
- Ambassadors will lead a community-based arts project designed to showcase the voices and stories of park patrons while welcoming other community members to participate.

CYS Events:

- CYS Biweekly Recreational Activities: basketball, hacky sack, wall ball, etc
- CYS Taxi Pickup to YMCA - Bi monthly field trips to the YMCA that divert youth from the well towards pro social activities

Partners In Prevention Education (PIPE) Events:

- PiPE: "A Dinner at the Well" catered meal bringing together folks from class/culture identities who visit the well/downtown. Pilot event in late February, will repeat through spring/summer if successful)
- PiPE: Silkscreening workshops (This has been a successful youth engagement activity in the past)
- PiPE: Craft workshops (crochet, knit, quilt, drawing, etc)
- PiPE: Talent show featuring homeless/street youth.
- PiPE: Movie Nights at the well. (Repeat activity from last summer)

Additional Activities/Events:

The OWL member organizations are committed to offering **Engagement 101** to interested groups and the City Of Olympia to assist those interested in having events and activities regularly at the park engage with park patrons that OWL members serve. The Ambassador program is committed to assisting the City with connecting to those parties interested in hosting activities and events at the park

this year. The following list of activities and or events have been proposed by some OWL members and community groups.

- Gardening activities (GRUB)
- Bike Maintenance Workshops
- Pop-Up Skate Park
- Free CPR/first aid classes
- Art Classes
- Stand-up Comedy
- Performance Poetry
- Basketball
- TESC Student Groups (juggling club)
- Wall ball
- BBQs (Multiple Organizations)
- Live Music
- Street Theatre
- 4-square
- Queer Rock Camp show

Supporting Commitments

We have seen a lot of positive activities and events happen at the Artesian Commons Park, many of which were collaborative events between OWL member organizations, local businesses, and the City Of Olympia. OWL member organizations are committed to supporting the City Of Olympia in establishing an atmosphere at the park that promotes safety, stewardship, and shared space. Our proposal incorporates programming and activities that are modeled on successful programming performed in other parks with similar patron demographics and similar challenges.

The above proposal requires a firm commitment from the OWL member organizations to our community partners interested in supporting the park through our planned events. Many of the above items have been in the planning stage since the park's inception, and requiring a significant amount of staff time and community relationship building to create. Without a clear and final commitment that the park will remain open, OWL member organizations and our community partners cannot proceed. We are eager to finalize our budgeted programming and activities at the Artesian Commons Park for the 2015 season. We would like to continue partnering with the City Of Olympia to make this space safe and enjoyable for everyone. We are committed to the Commons.