

City of Huntington Park

Recreational Trends

**Prepared as part of the City of Huntington Park
Parks & Recreation Master Plan
May 2008**

Recreational Trends

In reviewing all of the data that was gathered in this process (surveys in both English & Spanish, Community Meetings, and interviews with Residents, Staff, Policy Makers), there are some action items that the City of Huntington Park might want to consider.

Knowing that Demographics reflect reality, we can learn a great deal by just looking at some of the trends that were reported in California Park and Recreation Society Trend Scans in May 2007.

An extensive survey of 16-to-22 year olds in California, conducted for New America Media, paints what the future of California and the rest of the nation will be. Here are some of the findings:

FIRST GLOBAL SOCIETY IN THE UNITED STATES

- One in eight of the nation's young people lives in California
- 3/5 are youth of color
- Nearly half are immigrants or the children of immigrants
- 2/3 have dated someone of a different race
- 87% would marry or enter into a life partnership with someone of a different race; so children of those partnerships will alter the nature of "race" as we currently use the term

CALIFORNIA'S YOUNG PEOPLE ARE STRONG BELIEVERS IN THE AMERICAN DREAM

- Overwhelmingly embrace the core concept of the American Dream; across race
- 96% believe they can achieve their goals
- 95% of those surveyed expect to own their own homes
- Over 2/3 of them expect to get a college education
- They imagine a more inclusive and tolerant society for one another

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES FOR YOUTH: LOCAL, NOT GLOBAL

Those polled cited the following as the most pressing issues facing their generation:

First: Family breakdown

Tied for First: Violence in the community

Third: Poverty

Fourth: Global warming

Only 3% identified wars in Iraq and other global conflicts as top issues.

SOURCES OF STRESS

Those polled cited the following as the most prevalent sources of stress:

1. 1/3 said that school is what causes young people the most stress
2. Money
3. Personal relationships
4. Peer pressure

YOUNG CALIFORNIA EMBRACE THE STATE'S INCREASING DIVERSITY IN CONCEPT AND PRACTICE

- Overwhelming majority of young people view the state's diversity as a strength
- They maintain diversity among their immediate circle of friends
- Their interpersonal relationships are more likely to be born out of common interest than similar ethnic backgrounds
- 82% support giving illegal immigrants a chance to earn legal status and citizenship
- Youth, particularly Asian and Latino youth, consider anti-immigrant sentiment to be a more important issue for their generation than racism or discrimination

ABOUT THIS SURVEY ITSELF

This Study represents one of the first polls of young people conducted entirely via cell phone. This is data collected using listed cell phone numbers in the State of California. Because there is currently no cell phone numbers based on age of subscriber, respondents were immediately asked if they were between the ages of 16 to 22; interviews with those who were not in the specified age group were terminated.

A total of 601 interviews were conducted between October 6th and November 15th 2006. All interviews were conducted in English by professionally trained interviewers via cell phone.

All respondents were offered an incentive for their participation in the poll. Because most cell phone companies charge based on minutes of airtime, a 'polling incentive' of \$10 was offered so that respondents didn't feel they were wasting their minutes and money by taking part in the poll.

Source: http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/view_custom.html?custom_page_id=340

This survey and information it provides is important to Huntington Park's Master Plan because while the survey show us the national trends and certainly how those trends are most dominate in California, Huntington Park dramatically fits the national and state demographics.

So with demographics being the reality, communities should take heed and plan accordingly.

Residents, both young and old, in Huntington Park would like to have the American Dream. Part of that American Dream is having a Community that reflects the Cultural Heritage of

their residents. Again, more than 3/5 of the youth are children of color. More than half are immigrants or the children of immigrants.

The importance of Cultural Arts that celebrate the Mexican heritage is very important in Huntington Park. The Arts & Culture Commission is one of the most active commissions in the Community. The Commission has oversight of the "Publicly Visible Art Program". This program's goal is to present the community with a variety of art styles and themes, all of the highest possible quality to improve and enhance the City of Huntington Park.

Continuing to develop opportunities for cultural festivals, concerts, and public art displays should remain a priority for the City. Some of the types of festivals that could be developed might involve a "Taste of Latin America" with different organizations having food booths that represent different parts of South America and Mexico. The festival could also have music from all the different cultures that make up South America and Mexico.

Another possibility is having art shows, like "Day of the Dead" on November 1st, that could be put on by the Cultural Arts Commission and involve the Youth Commission.

Looking for other ways to fund this program outside of the 1% of the arts program should include looking at grants and sponsorships to fund activities.

In an interview with the Mayor of Huntington Park, she stated that two of the community characteristics that she felt were important were family and cultural heritage. She wanted to see more programs that support both of these characteristics.