

## PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

130 W. CONGRESS STREET, 11<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701-1317

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## **MEMORANDUM**

DATE:Friday, August 16, 2013TO:Robin Brigode, Clerk of the BoardFROM:Richard Elías, District Five SupervisorRE:Item for the September 3, 2013 agenda

Please add the following to the September 3, 2013 agenda:

## **Board of Supervisors**

Allocation of \$5,000 from the Contingency Fund to the Arizona Blind and Deaf Children's Foundation for sponsorship of its *Sights & Sounds* program on November 21, 2013. (District 5)

Thank you.



Arizona Blind & Deat Children's Foundation, Inc. 3957 E. Speedway Blvd., Ste. 208, Tucson, AZ 85712

August 15, 2013

Supervisor Richard Elias, District Five Pima County Board of Supervisors 130 W. Congress, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Supervisor Elias:

First, on behalf of Arizona Blind & Deaf Children's Foundation, our Board of Directors, and most importantly, the children we serve, I want to thank you for your continued support of blind and deaf children at Arizona Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB). It has truly been an honor to be part of the collaboration which you began with Stories that Soar! a few years ago. Thanks to you, this partnership has blossomed into a community event that not only showcases the children's talents and promise, but that also provides significant support to our Foundation's broader programmatic efforts by becoming the centerpiece of our fall event, Sights & Sounds. We could not have imagined the richness of this experience, and we are most grateful to you, and by extension, to the entire Board of Supervisors.

<u>I am writing to respectfully request a Pima County sponsorship in the amount of \$5,000 for Sights & Sounds, which will be held at the Berger Performing Arts Center on Thursday, November 21 this year.</u> This level of support would cover the majority of production costs, providing an amount large enough to ensure the program, while allowing us to leverage support from other potential funding partners.

To provide background for your fellow Supervisors who may be considering this request, Sights & Sounds is a collaboration with Arizona Schools for the Deaf and Blind, and Stories that Soar! (a program of Literacy Connects). At once a literacy program for all students at ASDB, and a performance event benefiting our Foundation, <u>Sights & Sounds features stories</u> written by ASDB students, brought to life onstage by Stories that Soar! actors in a public performance. The result is a fun, yet moving experience for all, highlighting the strength and promise of our community's blind and deaf children. In addition to the theatre performance, VIP guests will be treated to a special reception and silent auction at The Copper Hall in the historic Hotel Congress, featuring student-created art, as well as specially selected items that will appeal to some 150 discriminating VIP guests.

This year, we are excited that ASDB is allowing <u>all</u> students to come to the evening performance. As in years past, students whose stories were selected for the performance will be publicly honored onstage. The excitement of having that many students in the audience will only serve to enhance the underlying message: <u>that these young people are an integral and important part of our community</u>.

Founded in 2002, our mission is to *invest in the future of Arizona's blind and deaf children* by collaborating with schools and non-profits to provide experiential education in the areas of art, fitness, literacy, and life skills. We are the state's ONLY non-

profit working to serve the needs of both blind and deaf children. This project, under the banner of our Sights & Sounds fall event, is a perfect example of our mission in action. And, because of the involvement of so many local agencies, it is especially important to have significant local support.

Our sincere thanks to you, your staff, and the entire Board of Supervisors for the work you do on behalf of the citizens of our County, as well as your consideration of this opportunity to support our community's blind and deaf youth.

Best regards,

Ret Weathallt

Rita Weatherholt Executive Director

PS: In this challenging climate of budget cuts to children and youth programs, support from our local community is more important than ever to our blind and deaf children—THANK YOU!!!



## Sights & Sounds Proposal Summary Page

Request:	\$5,000.00
Program:	Sights & Sounds, a literacy program involving all 200+ blind and deaf students at Arizona Schools for the Deaf and Blind and Stories that Soar!
	The public performance of student stories will occur on Thursday, November 21, 2013 At the Berger Performing Arts Center, with a VIP reception at Hotel Congress
Partners:	Pima County, District 5 Arizona Blind & Deaf Children's Foundation Stories that Soar!, a program of Literacy Connects Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind Aurora Foundation The Loft
Impact:	Total audience at Sights & Sounds: <b>500</b> attendees, including ~ 200 students, 60 family members, 150 VIP guests, and 100 District 5 constituents and invited guests
	Total number of blind and deaf children served through Arizona Blind & Deaf Children's Foundation: <b>2,200</b> annually