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Proposal: to the City of Coachella

By: The Civil Rights Institute of Inland Southern California (CRIISC)

Exhibition:

**Working Coachella: images of the farmworker community in the Coachella Valley
Photographs by David Bacon**

Proposal:

This proposal offers to bring a planned exhibition, Working Coachella: images of the farmworker community in the Coachella Valley, to the City of Coachella for a three to half month period from May 2024 through August 2024. The exhibition, 52 photographs with text and excerpts of interviews with those in the pictures, would be staged in the former library building adjacent to the senior center.

The Civil Rights Institute of Inland Southern California (CRIISC) will transport and install the exhibition and assist the City of Coachella to develop programming to support the exhibition. The City will provide insurance coverage and the venue, plus provide attendants during open hours while the exhibition is on view in Coachella.

Cost to the City of Coachella will be \$15,000 for transport, gallery preparation, titling, hanging, and captioning. CRIISC is contributing design and graphic services for the Coachella show in the amount of \$13,500 at no cost to the City. Programming support to City staff will be 20 hours at \$150/hour.

Budget Impact:

Exhibition: \$15,000

Programming Support: \$3,000

Background:

Over thirty years this documentary project by David Bacon has produced thousands of photographs and scores of interviews, often used to advocate for the rights of migrants and farm workers. The project's mission is to use photographs and narrative oral histories to reduce anti immigrant hysteria, and to help win respect for the culture and labor of the indigenous workers who produce the food we eat. In addition to agricultural labor and issues of environmental justice, Bacon documents family and community life and the efforts of the workers and their families to thrive and make a better life.

This exhibition, originated by the CRIISC and curated by the interim director of the California Museum of Photography, Douglas McCulloh; will be displayed in the Institute's RAAHS Exhibition Center from January through early May 2024. Programming includes a robust series of public events for each month of the exhibition, including:

- Opening Reception: Luz Gallegos CRIISC Board Member; Speaker: David Bacon
- Public Conversation: History and Progress; Moderator: Luz Gallegos, CRIISC Board Member. Panelists: Jose Medina, former Assemblymember; Richard Cisneros, Labor Council; Jeff Crider, journalist and author
- Open House Family Event (In Partnership with Division 9 Gallery and Latino Network)
- Author Readings (2)
- First Sundays: Art and Advocacy for Families with Cynthia Huerta (2)
- Closing Reception

Today the archive of these images is in the special collections of the Green Library at Stanford University. Working Coachella is an important section of this work.

Working Coachella builds on a long term partnership between David Bacon, a photographer and journalist, and California's legal aid service for farmworkers, California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA), and a leading organization of indigenous migrants, the Binational Front of Indigenous Organizations (FIOB).