



STAFF REPORT
9/28/2023

TO: Culture and Arts Commissioners

FROM: Celina Jimenez, Economic Development Director

SUBJECT: Authorize a Grant in the Amount of \$18,000 to the Civil Rights Institute of Inland Southern California to fund an Exhibition by David Bacon entitled, *Working Coachella: Images of the Farmworker Community in the Coachella Valley*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Culture and Arts Commission consider authorizing a grant in the amount of \$18,000 to the Civil Rights Institute of Inland Southern California to host an exhibition by David Bacon entitled, *Working Coachella: images of the farmworker community in the Coachella Valley* in the City of Coachella between May 2024 and August 2024.

BACKGROUND:

The proposed exhibit 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-month period from June 2024 through mid-August 2024. The exhibition includes 52 photographs with text and excerpts of interviews with those in the pictures, would be staged in the new library building.

The Civil Rights Institute of Inland Southern California (CRIISC) will transport and install the exhibition and assist the City of Coachella with developing 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.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

For more than 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).

FISCAL IMPACT

If the Cultural and Arts Commission approves the staff recommendation, the \$18,000 will be withdrawn from the Special Revenue Funds (130) – Development Impact Fees for Public Art for Fiscal Year 2023-24.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Exhibit Prospectus