

Ward 6 Staff



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Ward 6 - Newsletter

TUCSON FIRST

June 12, 2013

6th Poorest City??

To set the stage for a newsletter whose goal is to paint some positive direction for local, regional and State-wide economic development, I thought I'd begin with an excerpt from a recent *Inside Tucson Business* article in which respected economist Marshall Vest took issue with that recent ranking.

When I was in college there was a popular little book called "How to lie with statistics." The message was generally that with enough data sets, a person can make about any point he/she would like to make. That's similar to what Vest is saying.

The U.S. Census Bureau recently named Tucson as the '6th poorest City in the U.S.' Local radio jocks who make a living off from negativity have had fun with the number, and in the process have added zero to moving our community forward.

Vest correctly points out that rankings such as that fail to account for factors that influence the data. There are demographic issues, arbitrary population lines drawn, and by simply moving some of the assumptions around, Vest identified four other Cities in Arizona alone that have higher rates of people living below the poverty line.

We've got some very good things ahead of us, and carping about how bad things can be made to appear serves no useful purpose. I agree with Vest when he said "Don't you think it's time we stop beating ourselves up over this?"

Now, onto positives...

Various Rankings for the City of Tucson.

As I said, there's a carping crowd (small, unrepresentative) and there are those of you who are proud of who we are as a community. Here are some rankings that validate your beliefs:

Ranked #9 in "Top 10 Cities for Veterans." – Livability.com

Included in Outside Magazine's "Best Towns 2011" – Outside Magazine

Ranked #6 for Aerospace/Defense manufacturing – Business Facilities

One of the "World's Most Underrated Cities" – Yahoo Travel

Ranked #1 in alternative energy leadership – Business Facilities

Ranked #19 in "America's Most Innovative Cities" – Forbes

Included as one of the #20 towns of the future" – Sunset

Included as one of the "Best Adventure Towns" – National Geographic

The negativity is exhausting.



Important Phone Numbers

Tucson Police Department
 911 or 791-4444 nonemergency
 Mayor & Council Comment Line
 791-4700
 Neighborhood Resources
 791-4605
 Park Wise
 791-5071
 Water Issues
 791-3242
 Pima County Animal Control
 243-5900
 Street Maintenance
 791-3154
 Planning and Development Services 791-5550
 Southwest Gas
 889-1888
 Gas Emergency/ Gas Leaks
 889-1888
 West Nile Virus Hotline
 243-7999
 Environment Service
 791-3171
 Graffiti Removal
 792-2489
 AZ Game & Fish
 628-5376

Continued: A Message From Steve

Ronstadt Transit Center

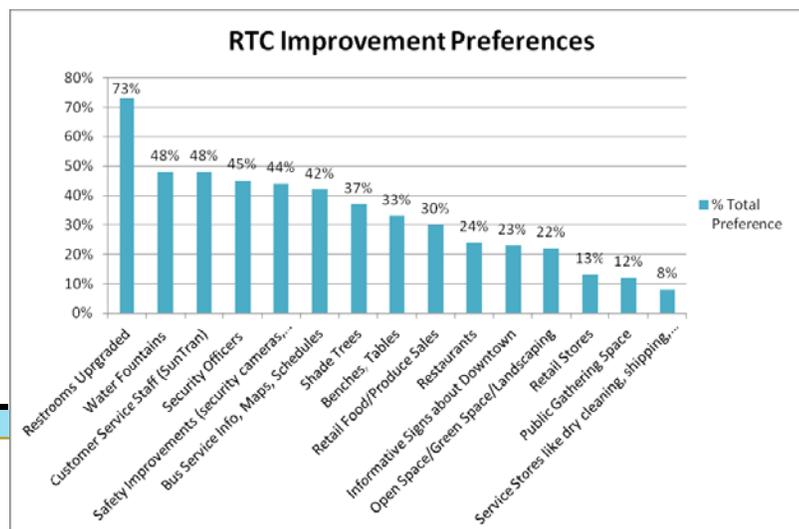
Since last fall, the City has been engaged in a public process by which we will be considering design concepts for an upgrade to the RTC. Hundreds of suggestions have been offered by a wide variety of groups. The history of the property can best be summed up as the contest between the site being a transit hub, or a piece of ground that should be used for retail and with that generate tax revenues.

Many of us don't see those as mutually exclusive. In fact, the 'both/and' solution holds the promise for being a win-win for all parties. Bridging the issues of trust vs. commonalities is key (isn't it? more on that to come below.)

With the goal of this process being to create an agreement that preserves the RTC as a quality transit hub and at the same time creates opportunities for development, here are some of the criteria we've listed in findings that will be shared with prospective developers:

- Accommodate Sun Tran and commercial needs now and for a 20-year planning horizon
- Maximize commercial opportunities
- Assess FTA "joint-development" opportunities
- Maintain ¼ mile distance between streetcar and RTC
- Enhance pedestrian accessibility
- Balance needs of Sun Tran riders with downtown development stakeholders
- Meet Federal requirements for providing equal access for Sun Tran riders
- Coordinate RTC planning with new downtown projects and infrastructure improvements
- Enhance safety – real and perceived
- Enhance multi-modal transportation connections
- Enhance downtown environment through aesthetic enhancement
- Provide multiple uses for the site; possible performance venue
- Provide ridership comfort & convenience, including shade
- Achieve LEED Silver Level green building certification
- Be responsive to neighboring uses

Throughout the public processes, people voiced their preferences with regard to how they'd like to see the space developed Here's a chart that reflects that input:





Important Phone Numbers

Senator John
McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jeff
Flake (R)
520-575-8633

Congressman
Ron Barber (D)
(2nd District)
520-881-3588

Congressman
Raul Grijalva (D)
(3rd District)
520-622-6788

Governor Janice
Brewer (R)
Governor of Arizona
602-542-4331
Toll free:
1-800-253-0883

State Legislators
Toll Free
Telephone:
1-800-352-8404
Internet:
www.azleg.gov

Mayor Jonathan
Rothschild
791-4201

City Infoguide
[http://
cms3.tucsonaz.gov/
infoguide](http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/infoguide)

We're bound by some existing FTA encumbrances on how far, if at all we can move the transit function. There are three properties, all in relatively close proximity that are on the table for consideration. This process will take time – we've rushed things before and ended up with nothing – so sit back and watch / and participate / as we get into the design and funding discussions.

Much more on this to come. If we do it right, it can be a game-changer for the downtown core; capitalizing of what we're already seeing.

Plan Tucson

I reported on this last week, and took the position that I am in favor of getting this to the voters this year. I still believe that, and after some very productive input from many of you in the community on Tuesday, I'm sure we'll get there.

Plan Tucson is the State mandated update to our General Plan that we've had staff working on for nearly two years. Throughout that time, they've had multiple public meetings, gathering input and putting in place what is effectively a new format to the existing Plan. I've supported that goal, believing that if we've got to do it, we might as well produce something that will do more than just sit on a shelf.

And yet, in the course of changing, and in the course of going out into the public for input, we appear to have ended up trying to put a little of this, and a little of that into the document so everybody comes away with something. All it did was make the stakeholders suspicious that we've got some nefarious motives in play. There's a lot of reading between the lines going on, and unless I've just been kept totally out of the conspiratorial loop for the last two years, I think the concerns are over stated.

But earlier I noted the issue of trust – we're facing it again with this document. Neighborhoods have fought to put in place Plans that direct the manner in which their residences are preserved and protected from unwanted development. The business community feels this Plan should be prescriptive in terms of easing some of those restrictions. There are issues related to DMAFB and how we grow on the periphery of that installation. Something will have to emerge from this process because we are required by law to approve a Plan by July 1st, 2015. In that regard, we have some options:

Here are the potential costs to City Taxpayers based on three election scenarios:

- To put Plan Tucson on the ballot for the November 2013 election would include printing costs for the voter information pamphlet and ballot – this is the lowest cost option, but faces the challenge of easing mistrust and being able to mount a positive election campaign.
- To hold a special election in March or May 2014 would cost approximately \$800,000. This is a bit unlikely – if we can't get the Plan ready for this fall, I suspect it'll take more work than what this time frame will allow for. And people are tired of special elections.
- To include Plan Tucson on the Pima County ballot in November 2014 would cost approximately \$350,000 to the City. This is the normal cost of putting items onto the County ballot. This is one reason I'm hopeful we can make our deadline for this fall's election.

Last week the Planning Commission considered the Plan as it was given to them. Unable to reconcile the different sets of concerns issued by stake holders, the Commission voted 7-3

to recommend that we not adopt the Plan. Here's the reasoning as it was sent to us from that body:

1. *The version of the Plan presented is not ready for adoption, there is not adequate community support for a positive community response if placed on the ballot for ratification in November and staff could improve the Plan if provided with more funding.*
2. *There was insufficient treatment of neighborhoods, the form of the 'blobs' on the Opportunity Map and the relationship between existing neighborhood plans and the Opportunity Map is unclear.*
3. *The business community has indicated dissatisfaction with the Plan.*
4. *The economic environment of the City is not adequately represented as an element of the Plan.*
5. *The Plan needs a more positive focus on Tucson and its aspirations for the next 10 years.*
6. *There are concerns which arose in the community surrounding Davis Monthan Air Force Base which have not been fully resolved*
7. *The Plan as presented could polarize the community and is not likely to have adequate support for voter ratification*

I'm still of the belief that Staff can make some changes to the document, get it back to the 30,000' level that it's supposed to be at, and we can get broad support this November. Some of the changes I asked for included generic references to DM, avoiding the perception that we're advocating for one 'mission assignment' or another, wording that makes it clear that this Plan is not an end-run around public processes that have resulted in established neighborhood Plans, remove language that indicates policy changes, and make it clear the this is not a regulatory document. It's for illustration.

We have until July 9th to decide on whether or not to put this on the ballot this year. I'm still hopeful. Hundreds of work hours have gone into it by both staff and members of the general public. People have had their opportunity. Now, if we can make a few changes, I think we'll be in a position to calm some concerns, and get an appropriate balance of emphases into the Plan so the Planning Commission concern over a divided community can be resolved to some degree.

It'll never please everybody, but if we can get to 'most', then it should go to the ballot.

Pima Association of Governments 2013 Regional Assembly

This fall, the PAG will hold a session in which some pretty heavy-duty items will be on the agenda. We had a very brief discussion of them on Tuesday, but more will be needed before the Assembly. Here's what's coming:

Aerospace and Defense Corridor

This will be part of a Bond package, possibly next year. The primary objective of the Aerospace and Defense Corridor Economic Development Initiative is to retain and grow new high-tech aerospace and defense jobs in the vicinity of TIA and to encourage significant science and tech-based job growth in the Tucson Technology Corridor, including The University of Arizona Science and Technology Park.

There will be some nuanced issues that need to be vetted; such as avoiding making the Bond package into a Christmas Tree with unrelated items that drive up the cost of the

package and possibly also including items that could drive opposition to the more critical needs out around the proposed corridor.

The I-11 Interstate and Intermountain Corridor

The Arizona and Nevada Departments of Transportation are working together on the two-year Interstate 11 (I-11) and Intermountain West Corridor Study. Congress recognized the importance of the portion of the Corridor between Phoenix and Las Vegas and designated it as future I-11 in the recent transportation authorization bill. The study includes planning of a possible high priority interstate link between Phoenix and Las Vegas, and the potential for extending the corridor north to Canada and south to Mexico.

Our concern is that Tucson doesn't get lost in the discussion. That is, we're on the verge of establishing our own expanded logistics hub, and we've been nurturing a commercial relationship south of the border. The I-11 needs to touch Tucson in some meaningful way so those efforts continue to have economic meaning.

PAG Regionally Significant Corridor Study

In many ways, these items all interact with one another. This one is a year long technical assessment of existing, planned and proposed major transportation corridors in the PAG region. The network is supposed to:

- a. enhance regional access and mobility
- b. promote economic competitiveness
- c. benefit national security and safety of all users
- d. support alternate modes of travel to expand mobility choices
- e. provide effective connectivity to other regional and international markets
- f. and improve regional connectivity to major employers.

It's filling gaps between regionally significant, but limited access freeways and local arterials. Here's a map that shows what they're thinking in terms of needed linkages:



Like I said, this will be at least a year long study just to identify routes, priorities and other logistical considerations.

Sun Corridor

Sun Corridor is now a logical hub for staging imports and distribution to West markets, imports from Mexico, Gulf Coast ports and SE U.S. manufacturers. With us as the hub, the potential for expanding our logistics capacity is fundamentally enhanced. It will increase our ability to serve as a distribution hub to local, California, and other West Coast markets. Our location, and the development of a more robust transportation system gives us advantages in the area of East to West commodity flows. Two years ago I was talking about the whole idea of

inland ports with several groups. PAG is now engaged, as are other important players. This is potentially huge for the economic growth of this area. And yet, we cannot lose sense of the balance between economic growth initiatives, and the need to do that in ways that preserve and protect our sensitive natural surroundings. All of the players have to be engaged.

This map shows the concept. Note that we're the center of the whole idea based on our geographical advantage relative to Mexico, and to E/W interstates:



Joint Planning Advisory Council

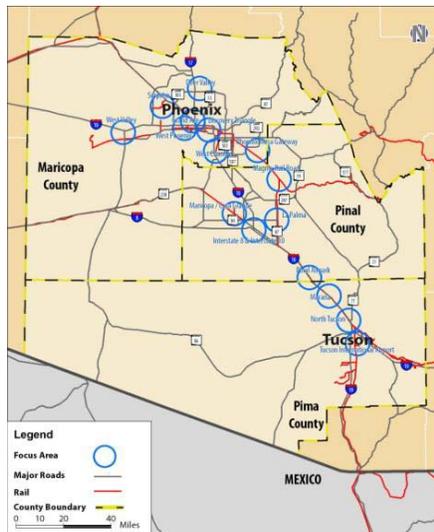
This is where the idea of linking supply chain opportunities to Sun Corridor locations is going to take place.

They'll analyze commodity flow and the status of major transportation infrastructure will be included. As with the I-11, this will be an important one for our people on the PAG to ensure Tucson is well reflected in the supply chain discussions. As you can see from this map, much of the focus is north of us.

Linking to Sun Corridor

Freight Focus Areas

Identified by Study Partners



Governors

Governor's Transportation and Trade Corridor Alliance (TTCA)

This is an Alliance that includes the Governor's Office, ADOT, the Arizona Mexico Commission (AMC) and Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA.) The group will bring together the public and private sector, State and Local governments, planning organizations, transportation and logistics companies, port authorities and other relevant stakeholders to talk about:

A) Defining a new approach that incorporates local initiatives into a broader state context as it pertains to transportation and trade opportunities.

- B) Identifying ways to increase the value of our trade corridors
- C) Opportunities and challenges that impact global logistics in the state of Arizona.
- D) Integrating rail and/or intermodal facilities for sustainable growth and job diversification in the state.

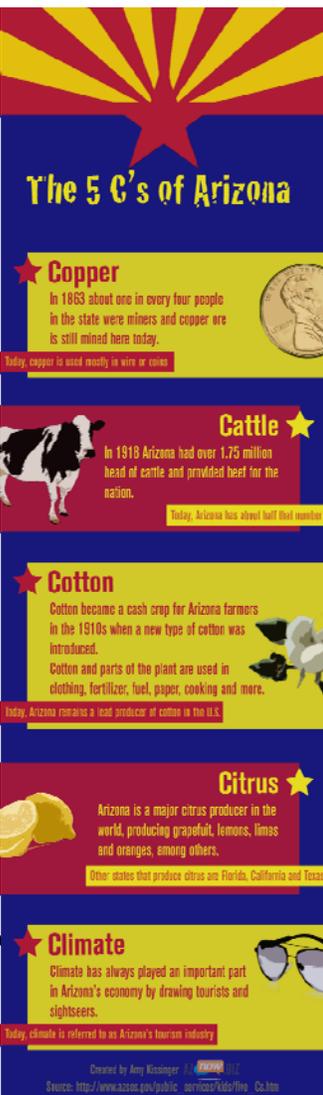
In a recent Federal Transportation bill, the State is required to have a “Freight Advisory Committee.” This group will also serve in that capacity.

Considering the Reauthorization of the RTA

The RTA taxing authority goes until 2025. If we’re going to begin talks about reauthorizing it, I’d like to have included in that mix some discussion of using the tax money for road repair (that’s prohibited right now – recall that last year I proposed asking the Board of Supervisors to place that question on the ballot,) weighted voting within the RTA, and some clarity in the roles and responsibilities of the Lead Agencies (jurisdictions managing projects,) the RTA and Citizen’s Accountability for Regional Transportation group. Right now, there are conflicting versions of who has final word on corridor designs that emerge from Citizen’s Task Forces.

Tuesday was only a scheduled 20 minute discussion of the Assembly agenda. We’re going to dig into each of these in much more detail in the coming weeks.

Climate Smart Conference



One of the “5 C’s” that attract people to our area is ‘climate’ (name the other four.) In September, Dr. Barbara Warren will be a part of presenting to the community a forum in which the Arizona Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility will discuss the public health impacts of Climate Change.

Who should attend? Pretty much anybody who goes outside. But a bit more specifically, they’re inviting community and neighborhood leaders, educators, students, governmental leaders, including those from Tribal groups, and health professionals.

The conference will present health related material, but will importantly serve as a bridge-building opportunity for cross-cultural, cross-community and intergovernmental relationship. Under the umbrella of ‘we’re all in this together,’ the conference will serve an educational and social relationship building function.

The TCC will play host to it on September 20 and 21. To get more information, you can register at www.psr.org/azclimate.

(the other four ‘c’s are Cattle, Copper, Cotton and Citrus.)

Sex Trafficking Forum

And remember that this Thursday is our forum on Sex Trafficking. It exists right here in our community – and homes, and schools.

Pima Community College, downtown campus – Amethyst Room – will host the forum from 6pm until 8pm. I mentioned this one last week, too. The facilitator/emcee is Heather Rowe from KOLD, channel 13. On the dias will be a trafficking survivor, an academic who teaches in the field, and a therapist who also works with youth in the field. The message?

BE WATCHFUL! BE MINDFUL! BE CAREFUL... OF THE TREND TO BE-FRIEND!

Possible Roads to Sex trafficking: Web, Cell Phone, Peers
 Relationship + Fellowship = Friendship
 NO Relationship + NO Fellowship =/ Friendship

This issue is only made more prevalent by the easy and regular access to all forms of social media that our kids now enjoy. What too often happens is that kids unwittingly fall into dangerous ‘relationships’ through the internet – or Facebook, or with the encouragement of peers. We’ll point to warning signs and offer helpful ways to keep safe.

The interaction among audience members should be interesting. By coming, you’ll have a chance to be a listener, and a participant. All you need to do is watch the local news and you’ll know what a timely issue this is for our City

VisitTucson

The former Metro Tucson Convention and Visitor’s Bureau is now simply ‘VisitTucson.’ We fund them with a portion of the Bed Tax. This fiscal year we restored their funding to 33% of our base collections. That’s an added \$500K to them in fy’14.

VisitTucson has gone through recent leadership changes. Brent DeRaad is the not-so-new CEO now, and in the estimation of many (myself included,) he’s really putting a fresh emphasis on how the organization markets the area. I was happy to increase their funding.

You’ll recall that in the past year, I’ve been working directly with Shelli Hall from the VisitTucson film office, trying to get incentives into place to revitalize our State-wide film industry. The Legislature laid an egg on that again this session, so Shelli and I are meeting with some locals to see how we can do a scaled down version of an incentive package here in Tucson and Pima County. More on that to come.

VisitTucson will be using their new-found cash to work with FC Tucson (Soccer,) event organizers for the All-Souls Procession, putting together a Tucson Media Golfing event,

Mexico marketing and targeting our major feeder markets for travellers' attention.

If you're visiting, you can go to VisitTucson.org and on their site you'll find plenty to keep you busy during your stay here in Tucson. The Ward 6 office sends out two thumbs up to the VisitTucson folks for their work on behalf of our local economy.

The Lumie Awards

The Tucson Pima Arts Council (TPAC) sponsors this event on an annual basis. The Lumies are awards given out to the 'lights' of the community; that is, those who brighten our days through their creative addition to who we are. Those are musicians, theater, painters, writers, educators in the field, and – well, here are the categories, and this year's candidates and winners.

Artist Lifetime Achievement

Gonzalo Espinosa

Julie Gallego

Barclay Goldsmith

To-Ree-Nee Wolf Keiser McArdle

Established Artist

David Fitzsimmons

Mark McLemore

Becky Neideffer

Pollyanna

Adam Rex

Established Arts Organization

Flam Chen/Many Mouths One Stomach

Pan Left Productions

The Rialto Theater

UAPresents

University of Arizona Press

Arts Administrator

Jessica Andrews

The late Liz Bustamante

Lynn Fleischman

The late Mary Charlotte Thurtle

Arts Patron

Catherine Morton

Helen and John Schaefer

Neelam Sethi

Herb Stratford

Rick Small

Arts Educator

Dennis Bourret

Kimi Eisele

Rome Hamner

Joseph Rodgers

Ann Simmons-Myers

Arts Education Program

Live Theatre Workshop

The Loft Cinema

Tucson Museum of Art

Tucson Youth Poetry Slam

Emerging Arts Organization

Dancing in the Streets, Az

Romero House Potters

Emerging Artist

LuisCarlos Davis

Brian Lopez

Julie Rustad

Large Business Partner

Bookman's

Small Business Partner

Creative Machines

Downtown Kitchen/Janos Wilder

The Gloo Factory

Monterey Court Studio Galleries & Café

Pita Jungle Restaurant

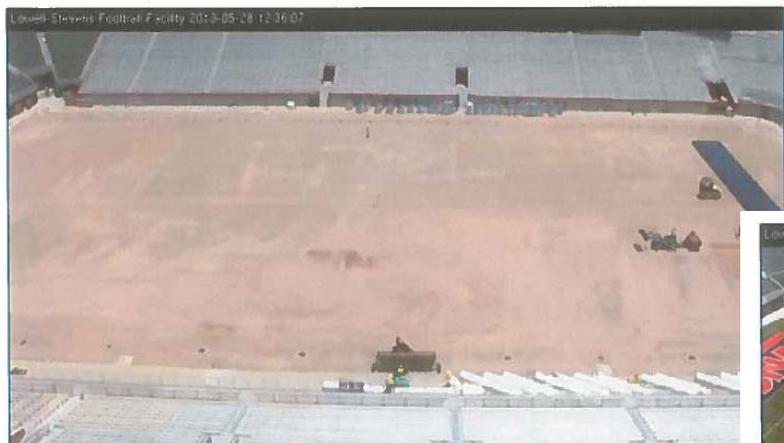
Photographic Works

Sacred Machine Museum & Curiosity Shop

Scroll back up to the first few items in this newsletter – planning, budgeting, technical and not a whole lot of fun stuff. Important, but not fun. The folks honored at the Lumies are the fun folks. Thanks to TPAC for the evening, and thanks to the artists in each of their respective fields for how they round out who we are as a community.

Arizona Stadium

A part of the North End Zone stadium project is installing new synthetic turf on the playing field. In the last two weeks, the field has gone from the picture on the left, to the current appearance – on the right.



There's still a lot of work to do on the building, but the field is pretty much ready for play – August 30th home opener. Tickets at 621.CATS.



CODAC Behavioral Health Services

Finally, one more congratulatory piece – CODAC celebrated the Grand Opening of a new integrated treatment center on Monday, May 20th. They're at 630 N. Alvernon, Suite 161.

CODAC deals with a continuum of care for people ages 12 and up. The behavioral issues they deal with include:

- Substance abuse
- Trauma
- Depression, anxiety, anger, relationship troubles and other general mental health issues
- Schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression and other serious mental illnesses and mood disorders.

Importantly, their motto is that it's possible to have a healthy, productive life while in recovery from mental illness and/or addiction.

Their new site is over 16,000 sq/ft, renovated so that it's very family friendly. They'll touch your life in any of the areas listed above. They also partner with El Rio Health Center who provides primary care medicine to its clients on-site. They've also got a full pharmacy on site for the exclusive use of CODAC staff and clients.

This new treatment center houses 60 staff and provides care to more than 2,800 individuals

each year. If you'd like more information on CODAC's programs and services, just go to CODAC.org, or call them at 202.1840.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik
Ward 6 Council Member
Ward6@tucsonaz.gov



Cinema La Placita Outdoor Film Series
presents "What's Up Doc?"
on Thursday, June 12 at 7:30 p.m.
To view full schedule visit:

<http://www.cinemalaplacita.com/>



Arts and Entertainment Events Calendar

This week and next week at the arts and entertainment venues in the Downtown, 4th Avenue, and Main Gate areas . . .

Rialto Theatre, 318 E. Congress St.

Wednesday, June 12, 8:00pm. “**Summer of Strange Tour 2013 with Krizz Kaliko**” all ages.

Friday, June 14, 7:00pm. “**Local Love Presents Metal Fest**” all ages.

www.RialtoTheatre.com

Fox Theatre, 17 W. Congress St.

Saturday, June 15 & Sunday, June 16. “**Field of Dreams**” (film)

www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Ongoing

Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N. Main Ave.

Ongoing exhibition, Opening Saturday, January 26 and ending June 16:

“**Desert Grasslands**,” “**Feminina: Images of the Feminine from Latin America**,” and “**Elements in Western Art: Water, Fire, Air, and Earth**”

www.TucsonMuseumofArt.org

Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), 265 S. Church Ave.

Current exhibition: “**Peter Young: Capitalist Masterpieces**”

Hours: Wednesday to Sunday, 12:00 to 5:00pm.

www.Moca-Tucson.org

Children's Museum Tucson, 200 S. 6th Ave.

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm; Saturdays & Sundays: 10:00am - 5:00pm

www.childrensmuseumtucson.org

Jewish History Museum. 564 S. Stone Ave.

Open Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday, 1:00-5:00 and Friday, Noon to 3:00pm

Special hours for school and group tours, for more information call 670-9073

www.jewishhistorymuseum.org

Meet Me at Maynards

A social walk/run through the Downtown area

Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too!

Maynards Market and Kitchen, 400 N. Toole Avenue, the historic train depot

Check-in begins at 5:15pm.

www.MeetMeatMaynards.com

Tucson Farmers' Market at Maynards

Saturdays 9:00am – 1:00pm

On the plaza at Maynards Market & Kitchen. 400 N Toole in the Historic Train Depot

Santa Cruz Farmers' Market Mercado San Agustin, 100 S. Avenida del Convento
Thursdays, 4:00 – 7:00pm.

For other events in the Downtown/4th Avenue/Main Gate area, visit these sites:

www.MainGateSquare.com

www.FourthAvenue.org

www.DowntownTucson.org

Other Community Events

Loft Cinema www.loftcinema.com/

Arizona State Museum – Woven Wonders (beginning April 28)

The Arizona State Museum is debuting a sample of 500 pieces from the world's largest collection of Southwest American Indian basketry (over 25,000 pieces). Visit

www.statemuseum.arizona.edu for more information.

UA Mineral Museum – Ongoing

“100 Years of Arizona's Best: The Minerals that Made the State”

Southern Arizona Transportation Museum – 414 N Toole Ave.

Tuesday – Thursday, Sunday: 11:00am - 3:00pm; Friday & Saturdays: 10:00am - 4:00pm

<http://www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org/>