Pima County / Tucson Women's Commission
Annual Report
July 2017 - December 2018

Last year was a year of re-organization and renewal for the Pima County / Tucson Women’s Commission. We are re-branding, discussing and changing our vision. We said goodbye to several commissioners and welcomed others. Being a non-profit and commission solely run by working professional volunteers can be challenging. Yet, we initiated a process of creating new operating procedures while laying the groundwork for brand new programming.

One of the first steps in October of 2018 was to offer a Women’s Night Out After Advocacy event, which brought Tucson women together in a women-only space to begin what role in advocacy they can start playing after they cast their votes in the November election. We have made plans to raise new funds to renovate our historic building and reach our strategic goals of providing financial empowerment workshops, women’s health awareness, youth ambassador program as well as a community roundtable discussion on women issues.

It has been a great year and the Commission is excited to share what has occurred over the past year
- New Leadership Team
- New Commissioners
- Building is being prepared and appropriate steps were taken to preserve it
- The Commission has had exciting community events
- Exciting Fun Facts

New Leadership:
- On April 7, 2018 the Commission nominated members to the Executive Committee. The new positions included a new Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, who joined the returning Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.
  - MaryAnn Phininzy - New Chair of the Pima County / Tucson Women’s Commission
  - Amanda Monroy - New Vice Chair
  - Alma M. Hernandez - New Secretary
Brandi Smith - Treasurer (continuing)
Annie Sykes - Assistant Treasurer (continuing)

The new leadership is excited to be a part of the commission and help expand upon its work.

New Commissioners: The Commission added a lot of new faces:
- Katherine Cooper
- Alison Dumka
- Carol Dart
- Alma M. Hernandez
- Olivia Lundin
- Amanda Monroy
- MaryAnn Phininzy
- Maria Parham
- Kenna Smith
- Christa Steiner
- Maria Vianey Valdez-Cardenas

The Building: The Commission owns a historic building in the downtown area
- The building has undergone some repairs this year to help maintain it and allow it to be a place for women and girls from all over Pima County and the City of Tucson to gather, learn and share. Some of the repairs and renovations included;
  - Repairing the roof
  - Painting two offices
- Opened up two offices for rental

Events from the Year
- Women's Equality Day
  - This Annual Celebration took place on August 26th at the Dusty Monk. Dianne Post, well known for her work as an attorney whose career has focused on fighting one of the chief causes of poverty and injustice in the world--the inequality of women--spoke with passion, creativity and great effect, to a packed room on the importance of equal rights for all women.
  - This event was sponsored by a collaboration and partnership with the YWCA, National Organization of Women (NOW), three branches of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Women’s Studies Advocacy Council (WOSAC) and the Women’s Commission and was planned over several months.
**Women in Government Celebration**

- This Bi-Annual Celebration took place on September 21st with full ballroom at the Tucson Convention Center. This event honors and recognizes City and County women leaders who go above and beyond their daily responsibilities. Over 200 outstanding women employees were nominated in the following categories; Leadership, Unsung Heroine, Rising Star and Synergy. The Mayor of Tucson, and several City Council members and County Supervisors were in attendance to recognize hundreds of deserving female employees for their dedication and hard work.

- The event is put on by the Women’s Commission in partnership with the City of Tucson and Pima County.

**Running and Winning**

- Led by The League of Women’s Voters, the event took place at Desert View High School on September 13th. It had a great turnout of women and girls who were very engaged. Because of this event a grant collaboration has emerged with the Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona to educate middle and high school girls in works of advocacy. This project will be a year-long event. The Commission is proud to be one of the co-sponsors of this event.

**ME Action Day and Celebration**

- Another success was the work of our previous chair Deena Stewart-Hitzke, EdD, who spearheaded and worked with the MEAction Group. This group is comprised of members from our community who meet monthly at the Women’s Commission to provide a welcoming, safe environment for those suffering from Myalgic Encephalomyelitis, or otherwise known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. The MEAction group received a proclamation by the Mayor, proclaiming May 12, 2018, ME/CFS Awareness Day. On this day an educational fundraising event took place, called Together We Act Day, to support research on the disease and enhance health care professional education and resources for patients with ME/CFS seeking assistance.

**Women’s Only Advocacy Training**

- This hour-and-a-half training that occurred in late October provided women with a judgment-free space to learn techniques on how to stay engaged after the November election.
Exciting Fun Fact

- Commissioner Alice Flick (AJ) has a new book out; *Toxic Rage: A Tale of Murder in Tucson*. She will be one of the authors presenting at the Tucson Festival of Books.

**Commissioners as of December 2018**

MaryAnn Phininzy, Chair; Amanda Monroy, Vice-Chair; Alma M. Hernandez, Secretary; Brandi Smith, Treasurer; Annie Sykes, Assistant Treasurer; Katherine Cooper, Carol Dart, Allison Dumka, Alice (AJ) Flick, E. Liane Hernandez, Olivia Lundin, Shirley Muney, Maria Parham, Kenna Smith, Christa Steiner, Maria Valdez-Cardenas, Dr. Kathleen Williamson

Respectfully submitted,
MaryAnn Phininzy, Chair