



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM: 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: April 2, 2014

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(f): Consideration of resolution authorizing staff participation in the NAI International Heritage Interpretation Conference in Suncheon Bay, South Korea.**

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the adoption of a resolution authorizing staff participation in the NAI International Heritage Interpretation Conference in Suncheon Bay, South Korea April 18 - 23, 2014.

Background: Staff has submitted, and been accepted, to present two sessions at this international event. The theme of this event is "Bridging the Gap: Interpretation Links People and Nature and will feature presentations and panel discussions on this theme by participants from over 20 different countries. The first MRCA session, presented by naturalist Andy Bleckinger, is "Utilizing Community Partnerships to link People and Nature" and will present as a best practice model MRCA's work with our urban community partners. The second, "City Kids in the Wild: Nature Experiences for Urban Teenagers through a Youth Development and Leadership Program" will be presented by Chief of Interpretation Jamie Cabral, and Outdoor Leaders (Junior Ranger Graduates) Jamie Vance and Zuriel Chester. Amy Lethbridge, MRCA Deputy Executive Officer Amy Lethbridge will give the opening keynote speech, "Interpretation makes connections across boundaries."

Consideration: Staff recommends a not to exceed budget of \$5,000 from unrestricted funds. Further, while airfare for Lethbridge, Cabral and Bleckinger are not included in this amount, this amount does include the airfare for Vance and Chester, both of whom are students working as apprentice Outdoor Leaders on a very part-time schedule. This amount is very low for 5 people because the majority of Lethbridge's expenses are being paid for the Korean hosts. It is possible that more expenses will be underwritten, potentially lowering the costs further.