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Orinda Accepting Proposals for Community Grants Program

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Grant beneficiary Orinda Chamber of Commerce for the Orinda Restaurant Tour Photo provided L-R: back: Candy Kattenburg, Keith Miller, front: Gail Wocnak, Patty Camras, Victoria Smith

Money seems to be in short supply pretty much everywhere these days, so nonprofit and community groups will be pleased to learn that City of Orinda has some greenbacks on hand to help fund the right idea for a project or event that would benefit the City. Proposals for the Orinda Community Grants Program are being accepted through October 22nd.

"The Community Grants Program was adopted by the Council to provide encouragement and financial support to our nonprofit groups who work so hard to promote Orinda as a great place to live, work and play, and who support our natural environment, the arts, our business community, and our families and seniors," states Mayor Victoria Smith.

Recently, the Orinda Chamber of Commerce received a \$5000 grant to financially support the first-ever Orinda Restaurant Tour, which attracted over 250 Orindans and area residents to Theater Square. The Chamber also received a grant to help support the Shop Orinda campaign. Other community events supported by the grants over the past year included a creek clean-up day (Friends of Orinda Creeks), Orinda Idol (Orinda Arts Council), evening programs sponsored by the Orinda Historical Society, and a Creative Writing Contest for students (Orinda Junior Women's Club).

Written proposals will be screened by the City Manager based on the group's ability to meet the grant criteria. The top candidates' proposals will be presented to the City Council for approval. The City has at total of \$14,000 available for the Program in 2008-2009

"I encourage nonprofits to prepare a written plan of action and to present in the application their vision of how to enhance the quality of life in Orinda," adds Smith.

To obtain the grant application criteria or to submit a proposal, contact Monica Pacheco at mpacheco@cityoforinda.org or (925) 253-4220.

Reach the reporter at: andrea@lamorindaweekly.com

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