



30 under 30



50 over 50

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50 Over 50!

Yvonne Garrett
City Manager, City of La Mesa

A word from Yvonne

Parks and Recreation made me a creative thinker and problem solver. In 2000 I became the Director of Community Services for the City of La Mesa via a non-traditional path. I started my career working for a small rural non-profit organization. After 15 years with the organization, I decided to seek a new challenge and landed in La Mesa. I was hired because I didn't have municipal experience but was experienced in community building. The City Manager was looking for a new model for parks and recreation, one where city funding was replaced by private and corporate revenue for programs and capital improvements. A non-profit was formed. This unique model required forging new partnerships and finding creative ways to show businesses the benefit of supporting traditional city functions. Through our work we built a better community and improved relationships. These skills continue to be invaluable now as the City Manager.

About Yvonne...

Yvonne Garrett is the City Manager for the City of La Mesa. She was appointed City Manager in August of 2016. Mrs. Garrett previously held a dual role of Assistant City Manager/Director of Community Services and Director of the La Mesa Park and Recreation Foundation, a private non-profit organization that raises funds for park improvements and facilitates recreational education and cultural programs in La Mesa.

During her tenure, Mrs. Garrett has handled special projects for the City, most notably the development of a health and wellness element for the General Plan and completion of the first ever Parks Master Plan. Other projects led by Mrs. Garrett include the award winning PARKS Project, the La Mesa Teen Center and the nationally recognized "ready...set... Live Well" Community Wellness Initiative. She and her team have developed Conditional Use Permit regulations and procedures for a voter approved medical cannabis ordinance approved in 2016.

Mrs. Garrett has 32 years-experience working in both municipal and non-profit community services. She is an ICMA Credentialed Manager and has her Master's Degree in Public Administration from Ashford University in Clinton Iowa. She has worked for the City of La Mesa since 2000.