



### Historic Houses

The Harada House project required additional soils assessment to meet new code requirements. The process delayed the project for over three months as well as the need to amend the architects' agreement to include design of the garage reconstruction. Staff await delivery of the 100% construction documents from K+R Design so they can be reviewed, plan-checked, and the Museum can move on to the long-awaited bidding and start of construction.

Staff made a presentation to the Cultural Heritage Board on May 20, one result of which was a new Certificate of Appropriateness (CoA) for the Harada House project. The previous CoA was for only a portion of the project and was approaching expiration.

A few objects need to be removed from the house, but this step requires input from the architects.

Staff plan to organize a public engagement session at Harada House just prior to construction to orient neighbors, donors, and others to the plans, but we cannot schedule that until we are certain that site work is imminent.

Onsite work by Holden Films took place at Harada House in late May, which was successful in spite of the current state of the site.

The Museum offered its condolences to the extended Harada family on the passing of Roy Hashimura, the adopted son of Jukichi and Ken Harada. The last of his generation of the Harada family, Mr. Hashimura died in April at the age of 107. A memorial took place at the Riverside National Cemetery at the end of May.

Some progress has been made closing the gaps that exist between funding in hand and funding needed for Harada House construction and completion of the documentary. Two grants totaling \$45,000 were recently awarded, which will assist with the documentary. Two additional applications with the potential to result in another \$115,000 will be pending a decision by the time of this meeting. Additional funding is needed, however, and staff are searching for potential sources.

Heritage House will close for the season on June 28, 2026. Anticipated summer site improvement projects include upgrades to the restrooms and installation of lighting in the portion of the carriage house used for exhibition.

### Collections

A long-standing project to identify objects in storage that, for a variety of reasons, are in limbo is moving forward. Many museums have objects identified as FIC ("found in collections"), which refers to objects that have become unmoored from whatever documentation they may originally have had or objects that were accepted but never fully processed. Older museums and those with periods in their history without dedicated collections staff (the Museum qualifies on both counts) are more likely to have objects identified as FIC. Collections Registrar Katie Grim is locating many such objects and initiating processes to accession them into the permanent collection. The archival accession recommendations before you today are among the first wave of these objects.

Archivist Steve Mandeville-Gamble is also forging ahead at an impressive pace with the scanning, documentation, and reorganization of the Harada Family Archives.

The fall 2026 exhibition in Heritage House, *Gilded: The Art of Heritage House*, has given staff the opportunity to obtain good new photographs of many works and clean up their records.

Exhibitions and Programs

Insect Fair saw a record crowd in April, and we extend thanks to all of you who were able to stop down or volunteer to assist. It is likely that the Museum will assume full control of the organization of this event beginning in 2027 and will relocate it back to Mission Inn Avenue.

At Heritage House, *A Victorian Heritage: Riverside's Butterfly Man* closes on June 28. A final program highlighting the exhibition will occur on June 27 (see below). This exhibition about lepidopterist Captain Charles Montagu Dammers was curated by Curator of Natural History Ian Wright and has been a success. Mr. Wright's Nights with the Museum program on butterflies was well attended, as have been his nature walks.

The Museum is one of several City departments offering programs in conjunction with the country's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Staff introduced patriotic enhancements to Ice Cream Social on May 17, which was very well attended. New event sponsor Thrifty Ice Cream pulled out all the stops and is prepared to come back again next year. Also planned in recognition of the 250<sup>th</sup>, staff will open Heritage House for tours on July 5 when it would normally be closed. Please see the list below for additional 250<sup>th</sup> programs.

Museum Director Robyn Peterson offered two presentations during the recent California Preservation Foundation's annual conference, held in Riverside in early May. While neither drew a very large crowd, both the session featuring the main Museum and the other featuring Harada House put the Museum in touch with devoted supporters of historic preservation and inclusive historic storytelling.

The Museum normally offers fewer programs during the summer, but the country's 250<sup>th</sup> is ensuring that we have extras to offer.

Date	Program	Location	Volunteer opportunity?
June 25, 2026	Nights with the Museum, the City's Chief Innovation Officer George Kahlil will speak about "The Fifth Spark: AI and the Next Chapter of Human Evolution," 6:00-7:30 p.m.	Main Library Community Room	No
June 26, 2026	Movies on the Lawn, <i>Jumanji</i> , gates open 8:00 p.m.	Heritage House	No
June 27, 2026	Painting with Nature: Art in the Garden, noon-4:00 p.m.	Heritage House	No
July 2, 2026	Artswalk, Plastic Bag Free Day, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Main Street	Yes
July 5, 2026	Special U.S. 250 <sup>th</sup> tours of Heritage House, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Heritage House	Yes, if you are a docent
July 7, 2026	Trivia Night in honor of the U.S. 250 <sup>th</sup> , 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Back to the Grind coffee house	No
July 16, 2026	World Snake Day, 10:00 – noon	Heritage House	Possibly
July 23, 2026	Nights with the Museum, Jen Tilton and others will discuss local Black history, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Main Library Community Room	No
July 24, 2026	Movies on the Lawn for the 250 <sup>th</sup> , <i>Yankee Doodle Dandy</i> , gates open at 8:00 p.m.	Heritage House	No

Budget

City Council will have met the day before this Board meeting regarding approval of the City's biennial budget for FYs 2026-2028. As we approach the end of FY25-26, current year General Fund expenses continue to track at or under budget.

Staffing

New Marketing and Outreach Assistant Roberto Hernandez began his duties on April 24, 2026. He reports to Chantal Downing, Institutional Advancement Coordinator. Mr. Hernandez has several years of diverse marketing experience, much of which was in higher education. Once he's fully settled, staff will schedule an introduction to the Board.

Recruitment is under way for a new Curator of History.

Advisory Teams

Please contact Robyn Peterson if you have not yet signed up for an advisory team.

Committee / Team	Meeting interval	Role	Chair	Next meeting
Collections	Every other second Wednesday	Advising on collections activity	Jennifer Dickerson	July 8, 2026
Harada House Project Team	Every other first Friday	Programs and communications regarding Harada House	Acting chair Robyn Peterson	August 7, 2026
Grand Reopening Steering Team (to evolve after 2027 into the Marketing Advisory Team)	Expect meetings to increase in frequency up to reopening	All aspects of reopening events, communications, PR, and website	Chantal Downing	Meeting approximately monthly
Programs	Every other first Wednesday	Program development, implementation, and coordination with partners	Jennifer Dickerson	July 1, 2026
Immigration exhibition Community Advisory Team – MEMBERSHIP CLOSED	Intermittent beginning late January 2025	Advising during planning for the immigration exhibition, estimated to be two years	Robyn Peterson	Pre-set meeting scheduled has concluded. Next meeting TBD as exhibition finalization becomes more clear.

Volunteer and Support Opportunities

We encourage all Board members to go through the entire process to become City volunteers, if you have not already. Register with the City's volunteer management system (<https://riversideca.cervistech.com>). **Please note:** talk to Museum Educator Teresa Woodard about available volunteer opportunities and create your profile on Cervis before proceeding to additional steps. This applies as well to those you may wish to recommend as new volunteers.

Marketing and Communications

Please check in with our new website often. Observations from you regarding what would improve our website are welcome. We are building content continually and striving to keep the calendar populated with upcoming programs.

Advocacy

Please stay in touch with your Councilmember. Please note: Councilmembers' support staff change from time to time. Check their individual webpages to make appointments or share

announcements. Please sign up for all seven Councilmembers' newsletters. This can be done individually through each of the Councilmembers' web pages: <https://riversideca.gov/council>.

Spreading the word about Museum programs is a tremendous help to the Museum. Please let us know if you need flyers, links, or other assistance in order to share updates with others.

Scheduled Board meetings

Regular meetings of the Museum of Riverside Board occur on the fourth Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m. The meeting schedule for FY2026-2027 follows. Please note that the holidays conflict with the regularly scheduled meeting times in the months of November and December and that a single special meeting is typically scheduled to take the place of these two meetings.

A meeting cannot be held without a quorum of five (5) Board members. Early communication regarding whether you can attend a meeting is greatly appreciated so that we can determine whether we will have a quorum.

July 22, 2026
August 26, 2026
September 23, 2026
October 28, 2026
November 25, 2026
December 23, 2026
January 27, 2027
February 24, 2027
March 24, 2027
April 28, 2027
May 26, 2027
June 23, 2027

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Robyn G. Peterson, Museum Director  
Reviewed by: Ann Lovell, Manager of Operations

Attachment: Museum Public Calendar through 7.16.26