



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

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TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: MAY 1, 2018**
FROM: MUSEUM DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**
SUBJECT: ACCESSION OF 2017 MUSEUM COLLECTIONS OBJECTS

ISSUE:

Approve accession of objects donated in 2017 into the permanent collection of the Riverside Metropolitan Museum.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve accession of objects donated in 2017 into the permanent collection of the Riverside Metropolitan Museum, as recommended by the Metropolitan Museum Board.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

On April 12, 2017, two lots of objects acquired by donation for the Riverside Metropolitan Museum permanent collection were approved by the Metropolitan Museum Board, with one abstaining vote.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

In 1925, City of Riverside Ordinance No. 419 established a Municipal Museum for Riverside (now the Riverside Metropolitan Museum) and states that all gifts and donations made to the museum are to be filed with the City Clerk.

BACKGROUND:

The first donation to what is now the Riverside Metropolitan Museum (Museum) was the Cornelius Earle Rumsey Indian Collection in 1924. This collection was primarily comprised 600 American Indian objects. On December 12, 1924, the Museum held its official grand opening, which was located in the basement of City Hall with Mayor S. C. Evans, Jr. acting as the Museum's first director. The Museum has collected regionally associated historical objects and natural science specimens since its founding.

DISCUSSION:

As a center for learning, the Riverside Metropolitan Museum interacts with the community to collect, preserve, explore, and interpret the cultural and natural history of Riverside and its region. Objects in the Museum's collections provide material for exhibitions, research, and educational programs.

The Museum's history collection has extensive holdings that represent the history of the community, including holdings from its citrus heyday through mid-20th-century industrialization to the present.

The objects approved by the Board on April 12, 2017 for addition to the Museum's history collection include:

- 1) 64 souvenir pennants from the United States, Mexico, Canada, Denmark, Lebanon, Australia, Japan, and Singapore, c. 1940-1969 – a gift from a lifelong Riverside resident; and
- 2) Four wood side chairs with upholstered backs and side from New England, ca. 1850 – a gift from a longtime Riverside family.

These objects were donated to the museum and their acceptance was approved by the Museum Board prior to the current moratorium on acquisitions. Following the moratorium, the only accession approved by the Museum Board was a winnowing machine that was accessioned for the purpose of deaccession as recommended by the Museum Board on November 30, 2017 and approved by City Council on December 19, 2017.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Robyn G. Peterson, Museum Director

Certified as to

availability of funds: Adam Raymond, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer

Approved by: Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager

Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment: April 12, 2017 RMM Board Minutes