

- Program Team – Activity suspended. This team will be convened during the summer to discuss digital programming opportunities.

COVID-19 Impacts

The City continues to work on its transition plan, “Moving Toward New Normal as an Adaptive Organization.” Heritage House site review has occurred, and staff continue to anticipate reopening on September 10, 2021, although with some modifications. Limitations on tour size and the permitted number of event participants will likely affect immediate operations. The City continues to encourage and facilitate vaccinations.

Historic Houses

Review committees are recruited and ready to be scheduled as soon as the two Requests for Proposal (RFPs) are released by the City’s Purchasing Division: 1) architectural services for Phase I of the Harada House rehabilitation and 2) architectural services to oversee demolition and prepare design and construction documents for the reconstruction of Robinson House as the Harada House Interpretive Center.

Research continues on potential funders who may support the Harada House campaign. The Museum was not successful in its bid for Community Benefit Funding submitted through Congressman Mark Takano’s offices by the Museum in partnership with the Civil Rights Institute of Inland Southern California (CRI). However, none of the other projects submitted by the City was successful either, a reminder of the great range of needs that exist in all areas relative to limited available funding.

The Museum is pleased to announce that Heritage House was awarded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to address Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-related replacement of the paths at Heritage House. This major, long-awaited project will be scheduled to occur during the regular summer closure in 2022.

Staff are under way with a handful of projects for Heritage House, with the goal of completing them before the scheduled reopening in September. Projects include resurfacing the parking lot and improving its perimeter irrigation, door and window work, replacement of porch steps, and installing a new HVAC unit.

A two-decade process concluded recently with the completion of the period-appropriate reupholstery of the Heritage House parlor furniture. This project was funded by the Riverside Museum Associates.

Staffing

With the academic term ending, the Museum’s UCR internships are also concluding. Graduate intern Takahito Tanaka wishes to renew for the next term, which is very welcome news to the staff. The interns provide valuable support, particularly when their interests lie with collection documentation and education.

Profiles of Museum staff continue this month with Amanda Langevin, Office Specialist. Danielle Leland, Associate Curator of Education-Science, will present at the July meeting.

Budget Updates

Budgets for fiscal year 2021-2022 continue through the approval process, with final approval expected by City Council on June 22, 2021. A biennial budget cycle will resume in 2022 for the years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. The Museum’s budget for the coming fiscal year is substantially similar to the past couple of years’ budgets.

Collections

Further discussions relating to the manner in which certain kinds of material are held by the Museum continue. Documenting every digital photo or brochure is not feasible, and staff are determining a way to ensure that the most important content is received into the appropriate collection while other supporting content is retained in a retrievable way without creating a documentation burden.

Rehousing of selected collections also continues as well as packing of the remaining geology and paleontology collections for relocation from the main museum to offsite storage. A certain sequence of events needs to occur in storage that will end with the final configuration and anchoring of the new cabinetry. Anchoring must happen before collections can be moved into the new cabinets and out of temporary storage in the aisles.

Artifacts to be repatriated to the Hoopa tribe in northern California tested negative for arsenic, so plans are now under way for representatives of the tribe to come to Riverside to retrieve them.

Exhibitions and Programs

Planning continues on *Catharine’s Closet*, the small “mini-museum” that will eventually be installed in a public site in the Casa Blanca neighborhood, and on a panel exhibit about the Haradas for the county courthouse.

With the impending reopening of Heritage House comes planning for events such as Moon Festival (September 20, 2021), *Behind the Black Veil* in October, and Christmas Open House. Digital programs continue to be released on a rolling schedule with additional programs in various stages of development. An opportunity for Board member participation at Moon Festival is anticipated.

Marketing and Communications

Until the Museum is able to begin to use its new brand and overhaul website, social media remains our primary avenue for communication.

Volunteer and Support Opportunities

The Museum is again in limbo regarding formal resumption of the volunteer program, but it is now understood that the long gap between past and upcoming volunteer service will *not* require Livescans to be repeated. The City continues to require a Livescan for each new volunteer.

Board members are encouraged to connect with their respective Council members to share Museum news, including signing up for ward newsletters at: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CARIVERSIDE/subscriber/new?preferences=true#tab1%22>. The chart below includes Council Assistants’ contact information:

Council Member	Assistant	Assistants’ emails	Assistants’ phones
Ward 1 – Erin Edwards	Paloma Montes	pmontes@riversideca.gov	951-826-5242
Ward 2 – Andy Melendrez	Miguel Lujano	mlujano@riversideca.gov	951-826-5419

Ward 3 – Ronaldo Fierro	Caleb Ragan	cragan@riversideca.gov	951-826-5905
Ward 4 – Chuck Conder	Frank Arreola	farreola@riversideca.gov	951-826-2318
Ward 5 – Gaby Plascencia	Araceli Ruiz	aruiz@riversideca.gov	951-826-5328
Ward 6 – Jim Perry	Sandy Garcia	sgarcia@riversideca.gov	951-826-2528
Ward 7 – Steve Hemenway	Lizeth Vega	lvega@riversideca.gov	951-826-5024

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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