



Museum of Riverside Board Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: MUSEUM OF RIVERSIDE BOARD **DATE: MARCH 26, 2025**

FROM: MUSEUM COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: ACCESSION INTO THE PERMANENT COLLECTION ONE (1) ITEM OF SHEET MUSIC FROM A LOCAL DONOR AND SIX (6) COMMEMORATIVE FLAGS

ISSUE:

To recommend to City Council to approve accession into the permanent collection of one (1) item of sheet music from a local donor and six (6) commemorative flags.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Museum of Riverside Board recommends that City Council approves accession into the permanent collection of one (1) item of sheet music and six (6) commemorative flags.

BACKGROUND:

At its meeting on January 29, 2025, the Museum of Riverside’s Collection Committee voted unanimously in support of recommending that the Museum of Riverside Board forward the recommendations regarding the sheet music and the flags to City Council.

DISCUSSION:

To “accession” an object is the process of including it formally in a museum’s permanent collection, which is the category of collection for which the greatest effort will be made to preserve the object in perpetuity and document it fully.

SHEET MUSIC:

The sheet music is for the song “A Perfect Day,” composed by Carrie Jacobs-Bond, notable singer, songwriter, and pianist of the 1890s–1940s. Bond wrote “A Perfect Day” while staying at the Mission Inn in Riverside in 1909. She was inspired to write the song after taking a trip up Mt. Rubidoux to watch the sunset. The song was even played on the carillon (bell tower) at the Mission Inn at dusk each evening for visitors to enjoy. Additionally, Bond has a room named after her at the Mission Inn (Room 417) in the hotel’s famed “Authors’ Row” on the top floor of its Spanish Wing.

The sheet music is in stable condition and would require minimal materials for storage: one (1) letter-sized archival quality/acid-free sleeve and file folder. It is offered by a private donor as a gift to the Museum.



FLAGS:

With City Council approval, a series of commemorative flags was raised at City Hall as follows to recognize nationally established moments honoring segments of the population:

1. Juneteenth – 19 June 2023
2. LGBTQ+ Pride Month – 1–30 June 2023
3. International Holocaust Remembrance Day – 26 January 2024 (raised)
4. Black History Month – 1-29 February 2024
5. Women’s Suffrage Victory – 1-29 March 2024
6. Disabilities Pride Month – 1-31 July 2024

DISCUSSION:

City Council adopted resolution 23947 on January 17, 2023, establishing a flag policy and the limitations under which commemorative flags would be flown at City Hall. Following this, the City flew six flags recognizing a range of historic dates and categories of people. However, the policy to fly commemorative flags was not without controversy, and on September 17, 2024, City Council repealed the resolution and returned to the previous policy of flying only the U.S. flag, the California flag, and the City of Riverside flag.

Raising these commemorative flags was a first for Riverside, and repeal of the resolution to allow them indicates that the first time these flags flew is also the last. The adoption and fairly

rapid repeal of this policy reflect in a specific, local action the larger national circumstance of political and social divisiveness.

The Museum’s Collections Development Plan calls for targeted attention to recent history and local history. This recommendation supports those goals. These flags would join other flags of local and historic significance that are already part of the permanent collection, including the current City of Riverside flag.

The flags are made of a durable synthetic material and are in like-new condition. They each measure approximately 3 feet by 5 feet. They will require rolled storage but may be rolled together onto a single core to economize on storage space. They do not require a demanding preservation environment or significant storage space. The flags are an inter-departmental transfer from the General Services Department in cooperation with the Arts and Culture Division of the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department.



Juneteenth



LGBTQ+



Holocaust Remembrance



Black History Month



Women's suffrage



Disabilities Pride Month

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The activities of the Museum of Riverside align with the Strategic Priority, “Arts, Culture and Recreation” and in particular goal 1.1 (strengthening Riverside’s portfolio of arts, culture, recreation, senior, and lifelong learning programs and amenities), goal 1.2 (enhancing equitable access to arts, culture, and recreational service offerings and facilities), and goal 1.5 (supporting programs and amenities to further develop literacy, health, and education of children, youth, and seniors throughout the community).

Museum programs further support the Strategic Priority, “Community Well-Being.” Specific goals supported by Museum programs and partnerships include goal 2.3, which includes strengthening neighborhood identities, and goal 2.5, which points to fostering relationships between community members and partner organizations.

1. **Community Trust** – The Museum’s Collections Committee is composed of Museum staff, Museum Board members, and members of the Riverside community. Strengthening the Museum’s collections in accordance with the Museum’s Collection Development Plan and with the involvement of community members builds community trust and supports the Museum’s mission.
2. **Equity** – New collection resources enrich the stories that the Museum can tell across all neighborhoods through exhibitions and programs that are offered equitably.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – These proposed accessions pose minimal demands on current storage and recordkeeping resources.
4. **Innovation** – New accessions into the Museum’s permanent collection expand the diversity and flexibility of collection resources, enabling more programming options.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – Strengthening the Museum’s collections in accordance with the Museum’s Collection Development Plan, collection management policies, and mission enhances the City’s ability to preserve Riverside’s history for the future in a considered and judicious manner.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Robyn G. Peterson, Ph.D., Museum Director