

The focus at Heritage House is on preparations for the summer 2023 path work, which is the last major project anticipated to be required at Heritage House for some time.

Collections

Progress continues on the many multi-year projects that have long been underway to improve collections storage and documentation, but no one project can yet be considered complete. Staff continue to field research requests from members of the public, make inquiries in response to offers of donations to the collections, and work to identify objects for inclusion in the 100th anniversary exhibition. The upcoming round of “In the Vault” collection videos will feature a Rin Tin Tin artifact, Harada family Christmas ornaments, and a mammoth tooth. These are scheduled to release in November, December, and January respectively.

Exhibitions and Programs

The temporary exhibition *It’s Your Move: The Games We Play*, coordinated by Katie Grim, closed at Heritage House shortly before Thanksgiving and is considered to have been a great success by staff and as indicated by anecdotal response.

Upcoming programs appear below. The schedule is much lighter over the holidays. There will be no Artswalk or First Sunday in January. **Please note that as of 2023, the location for Nights with the Museum programs has been changed to the Riverside Main Library’s Community Room.** We thank the Back to the Grind coffeehouse for allowing us the use of their basement for the first year of this fascinating lecture series.

Attendance is requested at our programs whether you are able to volunteer to assist staff in offering the program or not.

Date	Program	Volunteer opportunity?
December 11, 2022	Christmas Open House at Heritage House	Yes
January 6, 2023	Nights with the Museum featuring Nancy Melendez, “Adelante! The Trujillo Adobe and La Placita de los Trujillos,” 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., Riverside Main Library Community Room	No

Staffing

Recruitment for the following vacancies is under way: Curator of History, Exhibition Designer, and Associate Educator. The Museum did not host interns during the fall of 2022 but has made the universities aware that opportunities exist for the spring term 2023.

Advisory Teams

The staff-level advisory teams are open to new members. Community members who bring special expertise or interest in the following areas are also sought.

- Collections Committee – The committee meets every other month. It is scheduled for a regular meeting on December 14, 2022, to consider the remaining few deaccessions relating to the Museum’s compliance with the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).
- Harada House Project Team – This team focuses on programming and public communications regarding Harada House and its forthcoming Interpretive Center. It complements the independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit Harada House Foundation, whose

primary role is fundraising. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Harada House Project Team is February 3, 2023. This team will be invited to assist as the Museum moves ahead with its plans for a Harada documentary.

- Branding and Marketing Team – Members of this team have commented individually on the earliest, very skeletal iteration of the new website. Staff hopes to convene the entire committee for a group critique when the new design is more fully developed. Redesign of the website is overseen and scheduled by the City's Marketing Department. It may yet be several months before the new website is live, so the Museum Director was recently trained by the IT department to make text edits to the existing website. This not only permits staff to maintain current information on current programs but allows staff to correct content that may be retained in the transfer to the new site.
- Design Team – This Team's role is bringing public users' perspectives to the redesign of the main museum. It will resume meeting when the main museum architects offer the next stage of design development for review. A meeting shortly after the first of the year is anticipated. This advisory team will sunset upon the grand reopening of the main museum.
- Program Team – This Team provides input on program plans in progress and helps brainstorm potential future programs. "Programs" include exhibitions, education programs, collaboration with the schools, and mission-based events. Its next regular meeting will be January 4, 2023. The team is assisting with 100th anniversary and reopening exhibition ideas.

Volunteer and Support Opportunities

Volunteer assistance is encouraged and appreciated. A few recurring opportunities are:

- **Regular programs:** Artswalk, first Thursday of the month, 6 – 9 p.m., and First Sundays, 1 – 4 p.m. in front of the main museum. ***Please note that Artswalk and First Sundays are cancelled for January 2023.***
- **Touring docents:** Heritage House (staff provide the required special training).
- **Events:** Upcoming examples include Christmas Open House (December 11, 2022) and the Ice Cream Social (May 21, 2023). Further, staff are also better able to participate in other organizations' activities when volunteer assistance is available. Examples include the Tamale Festival, Mission Inn Run, Earth Day events, and UCR events.
- **Collection support:** Staff will provide the required special training to detail-oriented individuals with interest.

Marketing and Communications

Board members who are on social media are encouraged to share Museum communications. Social media outlets are our primary and most regular means of announcing programs. Staff appreciate Board members identifying when programs are identified on calendars or included in advertisements.

February utility bills will include a flyer promoting an exhibition to be on view at Heritage House in the Spring, *In Tents Moments: Risk to Life and Limb in Victorian Camping*. The exhibition, coordinated by Museum Educator Teresa Woodard will feature historic photographs from the collection and century-old camping gear. This will be the museum's first utility bill insert to promote programming.

Staff efforts continue to post programs on community calendars, distribute flyers, and place features and listings in publications.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The activities of the Museum of Riverside align with the Strategic Priority No. 1, “Arts, Culture and Recreation.” Specific programs and activities mentioned in this report support, in particular, Goal No. 1.1 (strengthening Riverside’s portfolio of arts, culture, recreation, senior, and lifelong learning programs and amenities), Goal No. 1.2 (enhancing equitable access to arts, culture, and recreational service offerings and facilities), and Goal No. 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 No. 2, “Community Well-Being.” Specific goals supported by Museum programs and partnerships include Goal No. 2.3, which includes strengthening neighborhood identities, and Goal No. 2.5, which points to fostering relationships between community members and partner organizations.

1. **Community Trust** – The Director’s Report comprehensively familiarizes the Board with operating conditions, invites Board input, provides information on volunteer opportunities, and describes partnerships the Museum is pursuing. Progress on the Harada House projects and progress on the main museum renovation and expansion restore trust in the City’s commitment to open these important cultural resources for the public.
2. **Equity** – The Director’s Report describes the programs Museum staff and partners are implementing to study, celebrate, and serve the full diversity of Riverside. Programs in preparation continue to reflect an emphasis on equity and access. Efforts to reach into neighborhoods and connect with a wide variety of demographics promote access.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – The Director’s Report updates the board on ongoing efforts to operate within the Department’s budgets and apply a transparent and rigorous process when selecting contractors. The Museum seeks non-City funding regularly. Museum budgets consistently run in the black, demonstrating responsible use of taxpayer dollars.
4. **Innovation** – The Director’s Report reports on the development of original, locally relevant programming, as well as methods to achieve programmatic ends through proactive cultural partnerships and efficient promotions. Projects designed to extend the Museum’s reach beyond its walls during the main museum closure employ innovative techniques and designs.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – The Director’s Report reflects staff emphasis on cultural sustainability. The Report includes efforts to streamline operations, preserve Museum assets, deliver value to the taxpayer during the extended closure, model and teach cultural and environmental preservation, and develop solidly researched and affirming interpretation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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