



Museum of Riverside Board Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: MUSEUM OF RIVERSIDE BOARD **DATE: SEPTEMBER 28, 2022**
FROM: MUSEUM DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**
SUBJECT: DIRECTOR'S UPDATE REGARDING THE MAIN MUSEUM RENOVATION, HISTORIC HOUSES, COLLECTIONS, EXHIBITIONS AND PROGRAMS, ADVISORY TEAMS, VOLUNTEER AND SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS, AND STAFFING

ISSUE:

Receive and file Director's Update regarding the main museum renovation, historic houses, collections, exhibitions and programs, advisory teams, volunteer and support opportunities, marketing and communications, and staffing.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Museum of Riverside Board receive and file Director's Update regarding the main museum renovation, historic houses, collections, exhibitions and programs, advisory teams, volunteer and support opportunities, marketing and communications, and staffing.

DISCUSSION:

Main Museum Renovation

As of the date this report was drafted, staff continue to aim to present to City Council in September to seek approval for a professional services agreement with Pfeiffer, a Perkins Eastman Studio (formerly Pfeiffer Partners), for completion of the architectural design of the main museum's renovation and expansion. Upon approval to proceed, meetings with the architect will resume, as will community engagement sessions as the design development proceeds. The *Press Enterprise* reported on the prolonged closure of the main museum in a front-page article on August 29, 2022.

Historic Houses

A workshop involving IS Architecture and their consultants took place on September 12 at Harada House and its future Interpretive Center. Work is progressing at the expected pace.

The project to complete minor wood repairs and repaint Heritage House is on schedule. Due to summer heat, the repainting is scheduled for September, so will be under way after the house opens for the season on Friday, September 9, 2022.

Collections

The project to paint selected walls in collection storage—which necessitated complicated measures to protect collections that could not be moved—is proceeding. Painting is a prelude to anchoring new cabinetry in these spaces.

The new, short video series called “In the Vault” began with three videos:

- Released August 2022, Nevin’s barberry in herbarium:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTidHy9JFzY>
- Released August 2022, whist counter:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_TGQpE5uT4
- To release in October, baskets relating to Indigenous makers killed in 1899 earthquake:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bZreO-O5ME>

Exhibitions and Programs

An exhibition drawn from the permanent collection, *It’s Your Move: The Games We Play*, opened on September 9, 2022. It includes historic games selected and interpreted by Collections Registrar Katie Grim. The games are exhibited throughout the house and accompanied by a gameboard-styled brochure. Special programs inviting the public in to play games are scheduled during the run of the exhibition as is a Christmas-related finale.

Upcoming programs and volunteer needs are identified in the table below:

Date	Program	Volunteers Needed
October 2022	“Behind the Black Veil” tours return at Heritage House!	N/A
October 1, 2022	Let’s Explore Riverside, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. – both Heritage House and Harada House are on the itinerary	Currently Recruiting
October 2, 2022	First Sundays resume with an Indigenous People’s Day theme, 1 – 4 p.m.	Currently Recruiting
October 6, 2022	Artswalk 6 – 9 p.m.	Currently Recruiting
October 7, 2022	Nights with the Museum featuring David Oglesby, “What’s Shakin’, Riverside?”	N/A
October 13, 2022	Long Night of Arts & Innovation	Currently Recruiting

A new self-guided auto tour under the In/VISIBLE, Un/HEARD: Riverside’s Civil Rights Stories heading is coming together for Saturday, April 8, 2023. Information will follow when confirmed.

Advisory Teams

The staff-level advisory teams meet intermittently. All of these teams would benefit from broader community participation, and recommendations for new members are welcome.

- Collections Committee – The committee’s next regularly scheduled meeting is October 12, 2022.
- Harada House Project Team – The next regularly scheduled meeting is October 7, 2022.

- Branding and Marketing Team – This Team continues to await the opportunity to review the first iteration of the overhauled website. Staff received encouraging news in August but continue to await the first draft of the new website.
- Design Team – This Team will resume meeting when the main museum architects have the next stage of design development ready for review. A meeting prior to the end of 2022 is anticipated.
- Program Team – This Team will meet next on November 2, 2022.

Volunteer and Support Opportunities

Volunteer assistance is always encouraged. Assistance with the following would be most appreciated:

- **Regular programs:** Artswalk, first Thursday of the month, 6 – 9 p.m., in front of the main museum.
- **Touring docents:** Heritage House (staff provide the required special training)
- **Events:** Examples are Moon Festival, Ice Cream Social, and Christmas Open House. Staff are also better able to participate in other organizations' activities when volunteer assistance is available.
- **Collection support:** Staff provide the required special training to detail-oriented individuals with interest.

Marketing and Communications

Board members on social media are always encouraged to share Museum communications, as social media remains a key method of announcing programs.

Staffing

Staff are working toward beginning recruitments for a Curator of History and an Exhibition Designer. Both positions are critical to the Museum's moving forward. Staff await necessary tasks to be completed in Human Resources before being able to recruit for the educator's position vacated by Danielle Leland.

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 and invites Board input, providing information on volunteer

opportunities and involvement on community advisory teams. This Report describes partnerships the Museum is pursuing. Advancement of the Harada House site work and the main museum renovation and expansion restores trust in the City's commitment to open these important cultural resources for the public.

2. **Equity** – The Director's Report describes the diverse range of programs Museum staff and partners are implementing to study and celebrate the full diversity of Riverside. Programs in preparation continue to reflect an emphasis on equity and access.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – The Director's Report updates the board on the transparent and rigorous process to select contractors and steward the Museum's resources well. The Museum seeks non-City funding regularly, and 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. 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, develop solidly researched and affirming interpretation, and give voice and visibility to those who made and make Riverside what it is today.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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