



# Museum of Riverside Board Memorandum

*City of Arts & Innovation*

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**TO: MUSEUM OF RIVERSIDE BOARD**                      **DATE: APRIL 26, 2023**  
**FROM: MUSEUM DEPARTMENT**                      **WARDS: ALL**  
**SUBJECT: DISCUSSION REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE PLANNING FOR THE MAIN  
MUSEUM RENOVATION AND EXPANSION**

## **ISSUE:**

Receive, discuss, and file a presentation on the status of the planning for the main museum renovation and expansion.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Museum of Riverside Board receive, discuss, and file a presentation on the status of the planning for the main museum renovation and expansion.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Museum of Riverside's (Museum) main site at 3580 Mission Inn Avenue was closed in September 2017 for renovation. A process to identify an architectural firm was undertaken in 2018. The firm selected—Pfeiffer Partners—developed early concepts during 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic paused the project for more than two years. New cost estimates were obtained at the end of 2021 and, after required presentations to the Budget Engagement Commission, City Council approved on October 4, 2022, completion of the architectural design work. At this time, City Council also granted the City borrowing authority up to \$35 million for the full anticipated scope of the project.

## **DISCUSSION:**

An architectural planning process typically has four stages: concepts, schematic design, design development, and construction documents. The main museum renovation and expansion is nearing the end of the schematic design phase. As the process moves forward, opportunities to change direction or revise details become more difficult and more costly.

Beginning with the current discussion session with the Museum of Riverside Board, opportunities for public input on the planning direction to date will be scheduled for the Spring and Summer. The staff of the Museum seeks public input at this stage to ensure that the outcome of the project will meet community needs for regionally relevant exhibitions and programs.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

The main museum project of the Museum of Riverside aligns with the Strategic Priority No. 1, “Arts, Culture and Recreation,” specifically 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). The completion of the main museum project is specifically called out as Action 1.1.3 in the Operational Workplan: “Complete the Museum of Riverside renovation and expansion project to enrich the Mission Inn Avenue cultural corridor.”

The project also supports the Strategic Priority No. 6, “Infrastructure, Mobility & Connectivity,” specifically Goal No. 6.2, which is to “Maintain, protect and improve assets and infrastructure with the City’s built environment to ensure and enhance reliability, resiliency, sustainability, and facilitate connectivity.”

Moving toward completion of this project and reopening of the main museum also support the Strategic Priority, “Community Well-Being.”

1. **Community Trust** – A status report on the main museum project familiarizes the Board with progress to date, invites Board input, and demonstrates commitment to restore this important cultural amenity to the public.
2. **Equity** – This status report is offered in a public forum, available to all, in order to seek broad input transparently. The project itself prioritizes equitable access and equitable representation of the community’s many histories and cultures.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – This status report notes staff and design team efforts to make responsible use of taxpayer dollars while striving to achieve a memorable cultural landmark.
4. **Innovation** – This status report notes ways in which the design team will integrate historic and contemporary architecture and facilitate the staff’s long-term ability to offer interdisciplinary and engaging programming.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – This status report notes design team efforts to greatly improve the Museum’s environmental footprint, refresh exhibitions and programs efficiently, and provide a forum for discussion on sustainability and many other topics of critical contemporary interest.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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

Attachment: Presentation