



Museum of Riverside Board Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: MUSEUM OF RIVERSIDE BOARD DATE: SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

FROM: MUSEUM DEPARTMENT WARDS: ALL

**SUBJECT: DISCUSS, RECEIVE, AND FILE THE STRATEGIC PLAN STATUS REPORT
FOR THE QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30, 2023**

ISSUE:

To discuss, receive, and file the Strategic Plan status report for the quarter ending June 30, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Museum of Riverside Board discuss, receive, and file the Strategic Plan status report for the quarter ending June 30, 2023.

BACKGROUND:

At its meeting on April 27, 2022, the Museum of Riverside Board recommended approval by City Council of a new five-year Strategic Plan for the Museum Department for the fiscal years 2022-2023 through 2026-2027. At its meeting on July 5, 2022, City Council approved a revised and renewed five-year Strategic Plan for the Museum Department for the years 2022-2023 through 2026-2027. The plan now current identifies specific alignment with the City's Envision Riverside 2025 Strategic Plan, which was approved in October 2020.

DISCUSSION:

This report covers the final quarter of the first year of the five-year plan for 2022-2027. For detail on individual actions, please refer to the status lines in red on the attached copy of the plan. All status reports are as of June 30, 2023. Progress continues to be reported only on strategic actions in the plan; established regular programming and standard operating procedures are not included. At the end of the first year of the plan, the Museum can report good progress and no immediate need to revise projections. All objectives continue to converge on the goal of offering improved, increased, and engaging programs to the Riverside community. Further, the goal is to achieve this outcome in collaboration with many other cultural partners at exciting sites that are unique to Riverside's cityscape and history.

Progress Highlights

1. The main museum architectural design process progressed toward the third of its three key phases (schematic, design development, construction documents). An Open Lobby event was held on May 18, 2023, which elicited positive response from community members. An exhibition design firm will be selected to join the team in FY23-24, Q1.
2. The Harada House, Phase I, design development phase nears completion. Staff are analyzing engineering challenges that may result in some revision to the schedule. The Harada House Interpretive Center will now proceed as a rehabilitation, and construction documents for this project will begin soon.
3. The Heritage House path resurfacing project was approved by City Council at their June 27, 2023, meeting.
4. Good progress has occurred on 100th anniversary (2024) plans, including the exhibition, which will be on view July 25, 2024 through January 5, 2025, and the calendar of 100 programs that will take place throughout 2024.
5. The Museum has learned that it can look forward to a website support staff member dedicated to the Museum's and Library's needs.
6. The Casa Blanca mini-museum installed on May 5, 2023, has been well received.
7. New staff members are enabling increased progress on many fronts. They include Associate Educator Kim Cobb (start date April 14, 2023) and Exhibition Designer Elise Burgos (start date June 9, 2023). A new Curator of History and Curator of Natural History are expected in FY23-24, Q1.
8. Conservation work on selected collection objects has prioritized objects that are slated for exhibition as well as those with urgent needs.
9. Council approval of the Museum's ethics policy is expected at the September 5, 2023, Council meeting.
10. The Museum continues to work closely with its supporting non-profit organizations, the Harada House Foundation and the Riverside Museum Associates, as each develops or revises its own operations.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The activities of the Museum of Riverside align with the Envision Riverside 2025's Strategic Priority, "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, "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 Museum's department-specific strategic plan guides staff to adhere to the Museum's mission; keep promises to share and interpret the collections and stories that stem from that mission; and build collaborative programs, relationships,

and volunteer opportunities.

2. **Equity** – The Museum’s department-specific strategic plan articulates a range of approaches to ensuring diverse, inclusive, and equitable programming that examines, shares, and celebrates the full diversity of Riverside.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – The Museum’s department-specific strategic plan limits the range of activity to what the Museum can support within its allocated budgets and contributed revenues. Transparent processes to select contractors protect taxpayer interests and reflect staff efforts to secure best value for the City in the selection of both goods and services.
4. **Innovation** – The Museum’s department-specific strategic plan includes a range of actions that are original, one-time activities designed to reflect unique local histories and circumstances. The plan guides staff to achieve programmatic ends through proactive cultural partnerships. Innovative approaches to reaching audiences while the main museum remains closed are continuing to be developed.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – The Museum’s department-specific strategic plan includes actions that reflect staff efforts to streamline operations; conserve the Museum’s assets; model and teach cultural and environmental preservation; and give voice and visibility to those who made Riverside what it is today whether recognized in their time or not.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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Attachment: Strategic Plan 2022-2027 updates as of 6/30/2023