



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL      DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 2016**  
**FROM: MUSEUM & CULTURAL AFFAIRS      WARDS: ALL**  
**SUBJECT: CAL NATURALIST TRAINING PROGRAM AT AMEAL MOORE NATURE CENTER**

## **ISSUE:**

The issue for City Council consideration is authorization for the Riverside Metropolitan Museum to host the Cal Naturalist Training program at the Ameal Moore Nature Center at Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the City Council:

1. Authorize the Museum & Cultural Affairs department to host the California Naturalist Training program; and
2. Authorize the Finance Department to establish project accounts to receive the tuition revenue and expend those revenues for the California Naturalist Training program course.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The California Naturalist Training program is a course offered by the University of California's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources in partnership with the Riverside Metropolitan Museum. A partnership agreement was executed between the City of Riverside and the Regents of the University of California for the California Naturalist Training Program on June 15, 2015 (Attachment 1).

The 40-hour course will emphasize the uniqueness of the Inland Empire's environment--from chaparral and sage scrub to the Santa Ana River and the desert's edge. Participants will be prepared to become a part of a committed corps of citizen scientists and volunteer naturalists ready to take an active role in local conservation, education, and restoration (Attachment 2).

Participants in the course will receive hands-on, expert instruction through lectures, activities and field trips, plus exposure to real-world environmental projects. Through presentations and conversations with experts in their fields, this course will cover basic ecology, watershed concepts, geology, wildlife, plants, and global environmental issues, as well as offering tools for collaborative conservation and interpretation. The curriculum is designed to inspire participants to enhance their personal connection with the natural world and become active citizen scientists. Participants are encouraged to complete 40 hours of volunteer program support, interpretation/education,

restoration/conservation and/or citizen science.

To receive the UC California Naturalist certification, participants engage in seminars, attend field trips, keep a field journal, read the course text, and complete a Capstone Project. Upon completing certification requirements, participants are also eligible for four academic credits through [UC Davis Extension](#) for an additional nominal fee (Attachment 3).

The Spring 2016 Riverside Metropolitan Museum California Naturalist course will run from March 10, 2016 through May 19, 2016. Classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:30-9, with field trips on three Saturdays (dates to be announced). Evening classes will convene at the Ameal Moore Nature Center at Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park, with occasional meetings at the Riverside Metropolitan Museum. Saturday field trips will be taken to variety of natural areas, including locations along the Santa Ana River, White Water Canyon, and a UC Reserve.

Total cost for the course is \$350 per participant. Students must also purchase the textbook which is not included in the course fees. A website has been created at [BrownPaperTickets.com](#) to collect payments for the course. Funds received will be used to pay the contract course instructor as well as to pay entrance fees to field trip venues and an honorarium for one of the guest speakers.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Course fees are paid by registrants with the funds used to pay course expenses. There is no financial impact to the General Fund.

Prepared by:	Sarah S. Mundy, Museum & Cultural Affairs Director
Certified as to	
availability of funds:	Brent A. Mason, Finance Director/Treasurer
Approved by:	Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form:	Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

### **Attachments:**

1. Agreement
2. Course Description
3. UC Davis Extension credit