



Riverside Metropolitan Museum

Date

Place

Presenter

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Introduce yourself – name, position on board, what drew you to the Museum.

HISTORY – FOUNDING COLLECTION



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A bit of history...

The Museum's founding collection by owned by Cornelius Earle and Mary Elizabeth Rumsey who were avid collectors of Native American crafts and artifacts.

The collection was donated to the City in 1924 by Cornelius Earle Rumsey's widow, Mrs. Rumsey.

HISTORY OF LOCATION



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In 1924, the Museum was housed in the basement of what was then the City Hall.

In 1945, the U.S. Government sold the Post Office building across the street (Orange Street) to the City of Riverside for \$15,000.



The building became headquarters of the Riverside Police Department in 1947.

It's also about this time that city government expanded and space at city hall started to become more valuable for office space. Around 1948, the Museum began vacating the basement of City Hall and started storing its collections across the street in the basement of the Police Department. From one basement to another...

In 1950, the Museum moved to the Police Station

PAST & PRESENT



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The Museum began collecting objects in the areas of History, Natural History and Anthropology in the years leading up to the war—birds eggs, taxidermy specimens, rocks and fossils, Civil War memorabilia, polo equipment, photography, documents, and many other objects.

By the late 1940s, the Museum needed more space and moved some of the collections to the police station.

From its inception, the Rumsey Museum had continued to collect Native American materials, mainly from local collectors with the wealth to expand their collections and the desire to show them off. Up until World War II, more attention was given to the donors/loaners than to the objects themselves.

Moving forward to present day, the Museum is a mission driven entity. One of the many reasons for this, is the Museum's accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums which is predicated on the Museum's commitment to Museum best practices and the actualizing of its mission.



Since being established in 1925 with the donation of a few display cases and the an exhibit of Native American baskets and artifacts, the Museum now oversees 4 historic sites, has over 210,000 objects in its collections and served over 41,000 visitors in 2015.

(Read Mission Statement on Slide)

The Riverside Metropolitan Museum achieves this mission by providing educational programming and exhibits to the community.



An important part of collecting and preserving history is stewardship - **The three photos are representative of the different faces of stewardship.**

The Museum acts as the steward for the over 210,000 objects in the Museum collections which cover the cultural and natural history of the Riverside region and 4 historic sites. We'll discuss more about the sites and collections in a bit.

The photo on the left shows the Main Museum in downtown Riverside.

The middle photo is of collections storage. The artifacts pictured here were used in the Force of Arms exhibit which reflected on the Civil War, World War I and World War II through artifacts and invited veterans to share stories and photos.

The photo on the right is of the National Historic Landmark Harada House, which was gifted to the City of Riverside in 2004.

MAIN MUSEUM



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Main Museum – clockwise from top left – outside of Riverside Metropolitan Museum – on Mission Inn Avenue, directly across from Main Library and diagonally across from Mission Inn Hotel.

Top right & bottom right – some before and after photos of a project in the Main Museum's first floor lobby which leads into the Natural History gallery. As you can see, it really makes a difference to have the arches opened up.

Bottom left – the Nature Lab at the Main Museum – this is a space with live reptiles, amphibians and insects where visitors can see living specimens up close and learn about the natural world.



The Riverside Metropolitan Museum has ongoing programs such as:

Discovery Days on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, which is geared towards kids from 3-10 and focuses on hands-on activities about nature and science

First Sundays which offers programs for children and teens at several locations in downtown.

ArtsWalk evening activities the first Thursday of the month.

Special events like the 2nd Annual Insect Fair that took place in 2016.

EXHIBITS



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The Museum has exhibits at the Main Museum and what are called “pocket exhibits” at different locations throughout the city.

Pocket exhibits feature a few objects and are in places like libraries, the Courthouse and hospitals.

Exhibits at the Main Museum change - our current exhibits are:

(SEE CURRENT EXHIBIT CARD)



One of the Historic Sites the Museum oversees is the Heritage House on Magnolia Avenue. The Heritage House is a 1890s Victorian home – a visit to the Heritage House is like stepping back in time to experience life in the 1890s.

Volunteer docents dressed in period costumes explain what life was like in the late 19th century and walk visitors through rooms filled with exquisite Victorian furnishings and art.

Central air did not exist in the 1890s, and the house is closed to the public in the summer months, but is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons from Labor Day through June.

There are some fun events at the Heritage House throughout the year – a Christmas Open House, a Summer Ice Cream Social and Springtime Etiquette Teas.

A dedicated team of volunteers through the Riverside Museum Associates organization work to put on these events and provide Heritage House Tours

FUN FACT: The Heritage House has a working orange grove that yielded 4,800 oranges in 2016. Local Girl Scouts were able to use the picking and packing of these oranges to donate to Feeding America as a service project.

HERITAGE HOUSE PROGRAMMING



Chinese Moon Festival
at Heritage House
- Lantern-painting activity

Citrus sizer demonstration at
Heritage House



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The Riverside Metropolitan Museum fulfills its mission as a Center for Learning through educational programs and exhibits.

The top left photo shows children painting lanterns as part of the annual Chinese Moon Festival which occurs in the fall. Visitors can celebrate this family holiday and learn about Chinese Culture with activities like the one shown above, see Lion Dancers and enjoy tea and moon cakes.

The photo in the lower right shows a citrus sizer demonstration – this piece of equipment is part of the City's citrus heritage and was a way for citrus packing houses to select oranges that were appropriately sized to sell.

AMEAL MOORE NATURE CENTER at SYCAMORE CANYON WILDERNESS PARK



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The Ameal Moore Nature Center at Sycamore Canyon is a joint venture with the City of Riverside Parks Department and was established through a grant. The Nature Center is located in the Canyon Crest neighborhood and offers nature hikes and nature-themed programming for children and adults.

The Museum offered its first California Naturalist Course in Spring of 2016 in partnership with The University of California's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Designed to offer students overview of California's natural history, the course focused on ecology, water, geology, botany and wildlife. The Museum graduated 25 newly certified naturalists who were trained to share their new knowledge through their careers and volunteer work.

AMEAL MOORE NATURE CENTER PROGRAMMING



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Left Photo: Botany craft project at Ameal Moore Nature Center and guided hike.

Riverside Citizen Science is a collaborative program between Riverside Metropolitan Museum, Riverside Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, UCR, the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (RCRCD), Smithsonian Institution, and US Forest Service (Pacific Southwest Research Station) and is facilitated by planning grant with the National Park Service. The goal of the program is to infuse science into community through documentation and observation of Riverside's natural environment. Projects have included "Focal Trees", bio-blitzes in Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park and the development of the "Nature Spotter" App.

By downloading the the Nature Spotter App on a smartphone, visitors can take a photo of an interesting or unknown plant or animal and submit the it to be identified by experts and have its location mapped.

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK, HARADA HOUSE



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The photo on the left shows Sumi Harada in front of the Harada House. Built in 1884, this house is located on Lemon Street in Downtown Riverside. The 1916-1918 case of *California v. Harada* was an early constitutional test of the California Alien Land Law of 1913. At issue was the right of the American-born children of Japanese immigrant Jukichi and Ken Harada to own the house. That right was upheld, setting precedent for related challenges to such laws.

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK, HARADA HOUSE



The photo on the left highlights the complexity of the case. Three minors are presented in a national civil rights case. The family prevailed...communities were strengthened.

Center photo – This family portrait represents the actualization of the American Dream. Jukichi and his wife Ken came to Riverside in pursuit of their American Dream and through hard work, a respect for the American judiciary system and tenacity were able to own a home, educate their children and leave a positive legacy.

Photo to the right – Despite the family's achievements, clear commitment to their country, the Haradas were relocated to internment camps - like every other Japanese American family/individual.

These three pictures represent the family's complex Japanese American immigrant experience, one that can be identified with throughout the United States. This is why the United States Government deemed the Harada House a National Historic Landmark in 1990s. The National Historic Landmark plaque dedication ceremony took place in 2001.

SCHOOL TOURS



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Over 2,700 students came to Museum facilities as part of school field trips last year. The Museum's volunteer support group – the Riverside Museum Associates sponsored a bus grant that assisted schools that needed funding for transportation.

BY THE NUMBERS (2015)

- 38,878 visitors served
- 2,775 students served through school tours
- 4,299 hours open to the public
- 238 volunteers
- 6,016 volunteer hours
- 210,000+ objects in Museum collections



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RIVERSIDE MUSEUM ASSOCIATES



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The Riverside Museum Associates (RMA) are the Museum's volunteer support organization with over 400 members. This non-profit 501(c)3 organization's mission is to support Museum's Mission. The RMA helps the Museum through fundraising for education programming, conservation and preservation. The RMA is crucial to the success of the Heritage House and Main Museum: it provides docents and visitor services, produces and supports events and is responsible for both gift shops. The group also volunteers for various other city events representing the Museum throughout the City. In addition, the RMA hosts the Multicultural Festival for the Riverside Community.

The Riverside Museum Associates are absolutely mission critical to the Museum. If you would like to be a part of this fantastic organization see me after the presentation.



As just mentioned the Riverside Museum Associates are a great partner but we have quite a few partnerships/affiliations we enjoy:

Industry Memberships and Affiliations:

American Alliance of Museums, California Association of Museums, Smithsonian Affiliates...just to name a few

Colleges and Universities:

UCR, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State San Bernardino, RCC, Cal Baptist

Community and Business Organizations:

Citizen Science, 9 Cahuilla Tribes, Old Riverside Foundation, Riverside Downtown Partnership, etc.

Downtown Businesses:

The Mission Inn Hotel and Spa, Riverside Art Museum

Other Departments:

RPD, RFD, General Services, Public Works, Library, Parks, Public Utilities

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!



THANK YOU!



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