



Museum Board Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: METROPOLITAN MUSEUM BOARD **DATE: AUGUST 10, 2016**

FROM: SARAH S. MUNDY, DIRECTOR **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK HARADA HOUSE NEIGHBORHOOD VISION PLAN

ISSUE:

Recommend that City Council approve the National Historic Landmark Harada House Neighborhood Vision Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Museum Board forward a recommendation to the City Council to approve the attached National Historic Landmark Harada House Neighborhood Vision Plan for City Council approval.

BACKGROUND:

On February 3, 2014, the Museum & Cultural Affairs Department (Department) applied for a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to develop a Neighborhood Vision Plan (NVP). The NVP addresses an essential component of the Department's stewardship of the National Historic Landmark Harada House located in the Heritage Square Historic District: to draft a sustainable NVP that incorporates the Robinson House as an interpretive center for the National Historic Landmark Harada House.

On August 12, 2014, City Council approved acceptance of a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the amount of \$3,000 and acceptance of gift funds from the Riverside Museum Associates in the amount of \$5,000 for the Harada House Community Forum and NVP. The Department budget contributed an additional \$2,000.

On February 22, 2015, a Neighborhood Block Party provided an opportunity for the Harada House neighbors to learn more about the National Historic Landmark Harada House history and how they could become engaged in the NVP. Invitations were mailed to all owners and distributed to each residence of the Heritage Square Historic District as well as letters and emails were sent to stakeholders, community members, scholars and educators. The Neighborhood Block Party featured booths and activities to familiarize the approximately 40 attendees with the story of the Harada family, the significance of the National Historic Landmark Harada House, learn about historic preservation in the City of Riverside and opportunities to get involved with the Department's stewardship efforts for this site.

On September 9, 2015, a subject matter expert workshop was held at the Riverside Metropolitan Museum to foster a conversation between stakeholders, scholars, educators and professionals in related fields that would guide the objectives and recommendations for the 2016 NVP. A

summary of this session is included in Appendix A of the NVP.

On October 2, 2015, a public forum was held at The Box. It provided community members an opportunity to learn more about future plans for the Harada House and Robinson House Interpretive Center. The 14 attendees received a comment form, Appendix B of the NVP, to provide input on the project. The discussion at the public forum and responses from the comment cards indicated understanding of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II varied widely, the Harada story personalizes history in a way that makes it meaningful to visitors, the Harada story is a local example of ordinary people with an extraordinary story and provided suggestions for programming, partnerships and outreach.

In November 2015, an on-line questionnaire was distributed to approximately 200 recipients that had been identified by the Department as individuals with relevant interests and/or experience. The questionnaire and results are summarized in Appendix D of the NVP.

DISCUSSION:

The National Historic Landmark Harada House NVP project is a collaborative community outreach program focusing on the Department's National Historic Landmark Harada House to develop a viable neighborhood vision plan. The purpose of the NVP is to address the unique circumstances of the NHL and strive to identify and engage Riverside residents as preservation leaders in their neighborhoods and the community at large.

The NVP is founded on three fundamental concepts: engagement, interpretation and opportunity. The information gathered from the public engagement processes informed the development of potential programming and opportunities as short-term to mid-term to long-term goals. These goals will be integrated into the Department's Stewardship plans for the National Historic Landmark Harada House and the Robinson House.

The historic significance and relevance of the National Historic Landmark Harada House requires that the NVP project proactively engage the residents/owners in the Heritage Square Historic District, the Asian Pacific Islander American community, historic preservation and interested members of the public. In partnership with the City's Community Development Historic Preservation Office, the Department worked with the Historic Resources Group, a historic preservation architectural consulting firm, to coordinate the development of the NVP.

After approval from City Council, the NVP will be sent to the National Trust for Historic Preservation to comply with grant requirements. The NVP will also be incorporated into the Department's strategic plan to ensure appropriate stewardship of the National Historic Landmark Harada House.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by:	Sarah S. Mundy, Museum and Cultural Affairs Director
Approved by:	Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager

Attachment:	Harada House Neighborhood Vision Plan
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