



City Council Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: DECEMBER 13, 2016**
FROM: MUSEUM & CULTURAL AFFAIRS **WARDS: ALL**
DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF MUSEUM COLLECTIONS DONATIONS

ISSUE:

Approve donations of artifacts made to the anthropology, archives, history and teaching collections of the Riverside Metropolitan Museum in 2015.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve the donations made to the anthropology, archives, history and teaching collections of the Riverside Metropolitan Museum as recommended for acceptance by the Metropolitan Museum Board.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

On September 15, 2015 and December 15, 2015, donations made to the anthropology, archives, history and teaching collections were unanimously approved by the Metropolitan Museum Board.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

In 1925, City of Riverside Ordinance No. 419 established the Riverside Museum and states that all gifts and donations made to the Riverside Metropolitan Museum are to be filed with the City Clerk.

BACKGROUND:

In 1924, the Cornelius Earle Rumsey Indian Collection was the first donation to what is now the Riverside Metropolitan Museum (Museum). This collection primarily consisted of 600 Native American objects.

December 12, 1924, was the official grand opening of the Museum which was located in the basement of City Hall with Mayor S.C. Evans, Jr. acting as the Museum's first director.

DISCUSSION:

The Museum's mission is to collect, preserve, explore and interpret the cultural and natural history of Riverside and its region. Objects in the Museum's collections provide material for exhibits, research and educational programs.

1. Archival Collection: The Archival collection documents the history, growth, and development of Riverside and surrounding areas before its founding in 1870 up to the present through approximately 3,000 cubic feet of photographs, documents, manuscripts, and ephemera collections. The Riverside Metropolitan Museum's Archives are open to the public by appointment.
2. Anthropology Collection: The Anthropology collection contains objects from all over the world and includes a substantial collection of American Indian artifacts.
3. History Collection: The History collection contains three-dimensional objects of all kinds relating to the history of the City and its surrounding region. It ranges from items such as saddles made and used prior to the City's founding up to casino playing cards used only months ago.
4. Teaching Collection: The teaching collection includes historical/reproduction objects used for educational programs, exhibit supplements for historic sites and books added to the staff research library.

Donations to the Museum's collections enrich the museum's exhibits, research, and educational programs.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager
Certified as to
availability of funds: Scott G. Miller, PhD, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by: Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachments:

1. RMM Acquisitions Report 2015
2. Metropolitan Museum Board Minutes September 2015
3. Metropolitan Museum Board Minutes December 2015