



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL      DATE: DECEMBER 13, 2016

FROM: CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE      WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: RIVERSIDE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM RE-ACCREDITATION UPDATE, AND  
REQUEST TO REPURPOSE \$75,000 IN FUNDS SET ASIDE FOR THE  
EXTERNAL AUDIT OF THE MUSEUM TO BE USED FOR MUSEUM  
CONSULTANT – FUND TRANSFER

## **ISSUES:**

Receive an update on the Riverside Metropolitan Museum's re-accreditation application, and approval to repurpose \$75,000 in funds set aside in the fiscal year 2015/16 budget for the external audit of the Riverside Metropolitan Museum to be used for museum consultant.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the City Council:

1. Receive update on the Riverside Metropolitan Museum's re-accreditation application;
2. Approve the repurposing of \$75,000 in funds set aside in the fiscal year 2015/16 budget for the external audit of the Riverside Metropolitan Museum to be used to hire a museum consultant; and

## **INTRODUCTION:**

The Riverside Metropolitan Museum (RMM) was reviewed by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) earlier this year for re-accreditation. After an extensive process that included the museum's self-study report, review of supporting documents, site visit and interviews, the AAM elected to table its decision for the museum's accreditation. The AAM decision letter is attached.

## **BACKGROUND:**

According to AAM, accreditation offers high profile, peer-based validation of your museum's operations and impact. Accreditation increases your museum's credibility and value to funders, policy makers, insurers, community and peers. Accreditation is a powerful tool to leverage change and helps facilitate loans between institutions.

Accreditation is based on the core standards for museums: the Characteristics of Excellence. The accreditation process is centered on self-study and peer review and takes 8-16 months to complete, every ten years.

The RMM was last accredited by AAM in 2002.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The AAM's tabling of its accreditation decision for Riverside means they are giving us approximately one year to develop plans to address the problems identified by the accreditation committee. In this timeframe, RMM must:

1. submit a progress report on or before April 1, 2017, and
2. submit a final report for review at AAM's February 2018 meeting

The deadline for the final report will be assigned after AAM's review of the city's progress report.

Staff requests that City Council approve repurposing the \$75,000 funds set aside in the fiscal year 2015/16 budget for the external audit of the RMM to be used to hire a museum consultant with the required expertise to assess the depth and breadth of the museum's problems, and to assist in developing the plan to gain AAM accreditation.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The adopted budget for FY 16/17 includes funding for the City Manager's External Audit Program. The Program has sufficient funds to allow the reallocation of \$75,000 to the RMM's professional service account while also completing the three remaining external audits.

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Approved by:	Al Zelinka, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form:	Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment:	American Alliance of Museums' Accreditation Commission letter to Riverside Metropolitan Museum (November 1, 2016).
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