



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# Museum Board Memorandum

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**TO: METROPOLITAN MUSEUM BOARD** **DATE: MARCH 22, 2017**

**FROM: ALEXANDER T. NGUYEN, ACTING MUSEUM DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT: RETURN GRANT FUNDS IN AMOUNT OF \$3,000 TO NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND \$5,000 TO RIVERSIDE MUSEUM ASSOCIATES**

## **ISSUE:**

Return of grant funds in amount of \$3,000 to National Trust for Historic Preservation and \$5,000 to Riverside Museum Associates.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Metropolitan Museum Board forward this report to the City Council for approval.

## **BACKGROUND:**

At the August 12, 2014 City Council meeting, City Council voted to accept a \$3,000 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) for the Harada House Community Forums and Neighborhood Vision Plan (Project).

The Museum also received \$5,000 from the Riverside Museum Associates (RMA) for this project at that time.

In addition to the NTHP \$3000 grant and the RMA gift of \$5,000, the Museum Department budget contributed an additional \$2,000. In all, this was a \$10,000 project.

The National Historic Harada House Community Forums and Neighborhood Vision Plan project was a collaborative community outreach program focusing on the Riverside Metropolitan Museum's (RMM) National Historic Landmark (NHL) Harada House and worked to develop a viable neighborhood vision plan. In partnership with the City's Community Development Historic Preservation Office, the RMM worked with the Historic Resources Group, selected under the Historic Preservation Master Agreement.

The project was intended to address an essential component of RMM's stewardship of the NHL Harada House located in the Heritage Square Historic District - to draft a sustainable Neighborhood Vision Plan that incorporates the Robinson House as an interpretive center. The Project was to continue to engage the community by developing an ambassadors program to provide walking tours as part of Riverside's Japanese American heritage context; establishing a

Neighborhood Watch program; and creating on-line resources to ensure continued involvement of all stakeholders.

### **DISCUSSION:**

It is unclear why this initiative was undertaken in 2014 given the deteriorating condition of the Harada House. Whatever the rationale was, the fact remains that the project was not completed on time, is woefully overdue, and does not meet the level of care to which the City of Riverside aspires in dealing with partners and granting agencies such as the NTHP and the RMA.

The NTHP requires that the project be completed within twelve (12) months after the grant award, and that the final report be submitted thirty (30) days after project completion, which should have been approximately September 2015 at the latest. Even after an extension was granted verbally, the project remains incomplete as of March 2017. Hence, the grant obligations were not met, and the Museum will refund the \$3,000 to the NTHP and \$5,000 to the RMA.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The National Trust for Historic Preservation will be reimbursed \$3,000 from the Museum's Harada House line item 5305000-450031.

The RMA will be reimbursed \$5,000 from the Museum's Harada House line item 5305000-450031.

Prepared by: Alexander T. Nguyen, Acting Museum Director/Assistant City Manager

Attachment: 8-12-2014 City Council Memo report 33