



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: APRIL 25, 2017**

FROM: MUSEUM & CULTURAL AFFAIRS **WARDS: ALL**

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

ISSUE:

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

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council authorize the return of grant funds in the amount of \$3,000 to the National Trust for Historic Preservation and \$5,000 to the Riverside Museum Associates.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

On March 22, 2017, the Metropolitan Museum Board voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council authorize the return of grant funds in the amount of \$3,000 to the National Trust for Historic Preservation and \$5,000 to the Riverside Museum Associates.

BACKGROUND:

On August 12, 2014 the City Council accepted grant funds in the amount of \$3,000 from the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) and \$5,000 in grant funding from the Riverside Museum Associates (RMA) for the Harada House Community Forums and Neighborhood Vision Plan (Project). The Project was a collaborative community outreach program focusing on the Riverside Metropolitan Museum's (RMM) National Historic Landmark Harada House (Harada House).

The Project was intended to address an essential component of RMM's stewardship of the Harada House to draft a sustainable Neighborhood Vision Plan that incorporates the Robinson House as an interpretive center. The Project was also 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 by creating online resources to ensure the continued involvement of all stakeholders.

This effort resulted in the preparation of a draft Neighborhood Vision Plan that was ultimately not adopted nor implemented.

DISCUSSION:

Unfortunately, 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 RMA.

The NTHP requires that the project be completed within 12 months after the grant award and that a final report be submitted 30 days after project completion; this should have been completed in September 2015 at the latest. Even after an extension was granted verbally, the project remains incomplete as of March 2017. Given that the grant obligations were not met, the Museum & Cultural Affairs Department will refund the \$3,000 and \$5,000 grants to the NTHP and RMA, respectively.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact of this action totals \$8,000. Funds are available in the Museum's budget for the Harada House (Account No. 5305000-450031) to facilitate the reimbursement of \$3,000 to the NTHP and \$5,000 to the RMA. Funding for preparation of the draft Neighborhood Vision Plan was absorbed by the department's budget.

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

Attachments:

1. City Council Memorandum – August 12, 2014
2. Metropolitan Museum Board Minutes – March 22, 2017