

From: cwa1989@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2017 7:10 PM
Subject: [External] Museum Closing
To: Gardner, Mike <mgardner@riversideca.gov>

Mike - Attached is my response to the report Alex included in the agenda packet for the Riverside Metropolitan Museum Board meeting on Wednesday, June 14th. I will be providing copies to the Board members and any of the public which may be attending.

In addition to the concerns I have mentioned in the response, I can't help but think this is either an example of amazingly poor work on the part of the City Manager's office or the result of that office having already formulated a plan that it is unwilling to share with the Board and the public. The rationale for closing the museum for three years, one can assume, exists some place, but certainly not in this report.

Cheers, Chuck

Sent from Windows Mail

Response to “Need To Shutter The Museum...”

The Acting Museum Director has shared an abundance of verbiage relating to problems and concerns at the Riverside Metropolitan Museum. The report provides clear information on the process of selecting a new Director, as proposed by the museum consultants hired to evaluate the museum several months ago. If this process begins in mid-June, as suggested by the consultants, the new director should be selected by the first of November.

What the report fails to do is follow this good example by providing a time line for resolving any of the problems noted in either the consultants’ evaluation or the suggestions of the AAM accreditation team report. In addition there is no connection made between the problems noted by the consultants and the AAM team and a closure of the building, much less one for a three year period.

The Acting

Director calls for focus on the Harada House, completing a collections inventory, fixing internal systems and processes, initiating the search for director, and beginning planning for museum renovation and possible expansion. While all of these are lofty goals, NONE require a closure of the building. These are all program and administrative needs, not building renovation or construction. Indeed, even the planning for building changes is not suggested until a new director has been in place.

At some point there may well be the need to shut the museum for a period of time, but it should be linked to a specific project, not a pie in the sky number of years. This report finds it more convenient to focus on the negative than to provide a program for positive progress. Nobody denies there are problems, but simply reiterating them without presenting a program to fix them is a waste of time for all of us.

Let’s assume all of the Acting Director’s concerns are legitimate. If so, the following questions arise.

1. Has the collection survey, which was described in one of the reports as an “immediate” need, been started?
 - a. What inventory system has been selected
 - b. How much information will that system allow for input
 - c. How many staff and at what level will be/are involved in the inventory
2. What are the internal systems which need to be fixed?
 - a. Who will be responsible for the fix
 - b. How long will it take for the fix
 - c. What are the specific goals of the fix

One logical answer to these questions might be that they would be addressed by a new Director. However, this report does not state that would be the case.

If the Acting Director has something more concrete in mind for what he thinks should happen to the current building and how long it would take to accomplish the task, now would be a good time to share that with the public. The current report to the Riverside Metropolitan Museum Board presents an unsupported suggestion for a three year closure and a list of known problems without a proposed program to resolve them.

Chuck Wilson

Riverside Metropolitan Museum Board Member

June 2017

From: Darleen DeMason <demason@ucr.edu>

Date: June 26, 2017 at 3:55:40 PM PDT

To: "Soubirous, Mike" <msoubirous@riversideca.gov>, "MacArthur, Chris" <CMacArthur@riversideca.gov>, <jperry@riversideca.gov>

Subject: [External] Sudden layoff of Kevin Hallaran at the Metropolitan Museum

Dear Councilmen,

I am deeply concerned about the sudden layoff of Kevin Hallaran, Archivist at the Metropolitan Museum. I have come to have a wonderful relationship with Kevin over the past year. It started last fall when I called the Museum to ask for an historical article about John Muir and his visits to Riverside. My husband and I had seen a Muir exhibit in the Museum, which we frequent often, and I wanted a "follow-up" for Victoria AveNews.

Kevin wrote a delightful, playful but extremely well researched and important article on both John Muir and Riverside's first Urban Forester, John Reed. They were great friends. It was the lead story in that issue - Winter issue of this year. The issue is attached. You will also note the superb illustrations that he provided for the article from our City's extraordinary archive collection. In fact, he provided at least 3X as many pictures and allowed me to pick my favorites. A short version of this story was wildly popular on our Facebook page and garnered over a thousand views.

For the subsequent issue of Victoria AveNews (Spring 2017), I made arrangements with local historian, Joan Hall who wrote another delightful article entitled "Victoria Avenue Without Rails" which was the lead story. Because Joan could not provide any illustrations for the article, I contacted Kevin again. He was pleased and enthusiastic about providing archival pictures to help illustrate the article. Again, he provided many more pictures than could be used and helped me (with background on each illustration) pick out the most appropriate. I acknowledged his efforts at the end of that article. This newsletter is also attached.

In the meantime, Kevin and I have discussed other topics that would be of interest to members of Victoria Avenue Forever or just Avenue enthusiasts. We decided on an article about Franz Hosp who was an early landscaper in Riverside and designed both Victoria Avenue and White Park, among many other lifetime accomplishments. Kevin had worked with Dr. Dan Hays and the nonprofit called Victoria Avenue Restoration Project on their successful grant proposal in 2000 to get approval in Sacramento and in Washington DC to put Victoria Avenue on the Register of Historic Places. Kevin had contacted and worked with an historian in San Francisco to provide details on Franz Hosp for the grant and was happy to provide a version to us for publication. Unfortunately, Kevin had to hastily send a draft and pictures. The draft is also attached. The article provides very significant information about this historic Riverside figure, his family and their relationship to Riverside. I have not had the opportunity to discuss this article further with Kevin, because he was suddenly terminated.

Victoria Avenue Forever has always felt that education of the citizens of Riverside is a significant responsibility, not only of the current plantings but also of the Avenue's history and its intersection with Riverside's history. The loss of our interactions with Kevin Hallaran and sealing of the Riverside's Archives will seriously impair our ability to provide this City with significant and informative historical articles in our newsletters. It is truly a shocking loss.

I do not understand why Kevin Hallaran was laid off BEFORE any public dialog or City Council discussion of the Metropolitan Museum which I understand is scheduled for July 11th. It appears that discussions with citizens and their elected officials is not respected. I am personally opposed to

shuttering the Museum as well. My family has frequented it often for decades and there are always lots of other patrons in the Museum on weekends when we are there.

Further, if the Museum needs to close for remodeling, Kevin should be allowed to continue his work in an alternative location for the Community. Riverside's Archives belong to all of us and we should not be prevented from access EVER. Also, Kevin's expertise is absolutely necessary for future upgrades of the archives. He is an excellent archivist, is intimately familiar with the content, and is a wonderful liaison with the community at large. I hope this poor, and untimely decision can be reversed and I can continue my interactions with Kevin soon.

Thank you for your time,

Dr. Darleen A. DeMason, President
Victoria Avenue Forever



Victoria Avenue Forever

Victoria AveNews

February, 2017

Volume 25—No. 1

John Muir's "Delightful Introduction" to Riverside—by Kevin Hallaran, Archivist, Riverside Metropolitan Museum

John Muir's June 1907 visit to Riverside—his first—started with a disappointment when the whole reason for the trip failed to materialize. Nevertheless, after the inauspicious beginning, the trip offered a series of pleasant surprises waiting around virtually every corner.

The excursion began on June 6 in Pasadena where Muir was visiting with his friend, A. C. Vroman, photographer and founder of Pasadena's premier bookstore (still operating on Colorado Blvd. in 2017). Muir's visits to southern California, especially late in his life, were frequent, but have been overshadowed by his association with the northern part of the state. Indeed, he worked on many writings while visiting the southland. This particular trip to Riverside had the specific intent of meeting with Frank Miller of Mission Inn fame. Miller had recently acquired the concession for a luxury hotel in Yosemite Valley from Miller's acquaintance and Muir's personal friend, President Theodore Roosevelt. Muir was anxious to hear what Miller's plans for the hotel entailed, and perhaps to offer some helpful suggestions. Alas, a meeting was not meant to be, at least not on this occasion: Miller, it turned out, was traveling in Scandinavia, Scotland and other European destinations seeking inspiration for the Yosemite hotel. (Note: Miller's Yosemite hotel would never be built. Precarious financing, interminable negotiations, and Miller's own refusals to compromise on details all conspired to make the hotel an impossible dream.)

Not to be undone, Muir and Vroman opted to see some of the sights of the city beginning with a drive up the newly opened road to the top of the city's major landmark, Mt. Rubidoux, in Vroman's Maxwell. As they rounded a turn near a large boulder they caught sight one of the mountain's several commemorative copper —[cont. pg 3](#)



John Muir (right) examines a palm tree on Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, 1907 (From the Riverside Metropolitan Museum Collection)

Inside this issue:

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VAF receives state funding to plant trees—by Darleen DeMason

In January VAF partnered with the Board of Casa Blanca Home of Neighborly Services (CBHNS) and the Villegas Park Advisory Committee (VPAC) to submit a grant proposal to Sacramento to request funding to plant more than 100 trees in our City. We were recently awarded the grant and we are actively working to commence the work. In this article I describe the original problem that inspired the search for outside funding, the funding source and the trees that will be planted at the three sites: Victoria Avenue, Villegas Park and CBHNS.

One of the many glories of Victoria Avenue is the ancient trees planted on the parkways. Among the most impressive trees planted were more than 300 eucalypts. Unfortunately, many of the original trees have failed due to insect infestation (borers and lerp psyllids), fungal infections, structural failures and lack of water. Reforestation of the parkway trees has not been possible due a lack of irrigation for any young trees that could be planted for replacements on many blocks. Therefore, VAF looked for state funding to pay for —[cont. on page 2](#)

President's Corner

The year is roaring forward, and it is hard to keep up with all the activities that *VAF* has on its plate. In October we took over maintenance of the Dr. Lewis and Hal Snyder Gardens. Lori Yates is the chair of the new Garden Committee. The rain has made life easier for us since there are various irrigation issues that need attention, but the rain has also promotes a phenomenal amount of weed growth. We had an impromptu workday in the Lewis Garden (see [pg 6](#)) and we plan to have one in the Snyder Garden soon.

I am excited about our feature story on John Muir's first visit to Riverside by a invited author from the Museum.

The 'Save the Eucalypts' project is going well and we paid for a major trimming of two giant trees on the inbound parkway between Horace and Anna. It was very exciting to be a benefactor for these trees and I took quite a few pictures of the trimming process (see [pg 6](#) and our Facebook page for more pictures). We have been so humbled by the donations that our members have supplied for this project. A donation form is printing on [page 7](#), if you want to support evaluations and remediation on additional blocks.

We are also excited to inform our members about a new grant that we just obtained to plant 112 trees in Riverside at three locations. This will allow us to add irrigation and plant 88 new *Eucalyptus* to reforest 5 relative empty blocks where the original trees were removed and not replaced (see [pg 1](#)). This is our 4th and biggest grant so far and will make a big impact on the 4 blocks in the historic section of Victoria Avenue. We thank CA ReLEAF for the funds.

You will notice on [page 4](#) that we have received a large number of memorial contributions over the past 3 months and we have recruited 2 new Board members.

On the [last page](#) we have an updated calendar of events for the coming year, please come out and help us plant those new trees!

Finally, we are planning another Victoria Avenue Day for April 29th.



—cont. [pg 7 Grant](#)

irrigation installation and for replacement trees.

Funding Source - The immediate source of our new grant is CA ReLEAF (<http://californiareleaf.org/>) which is a statewide alliance of community member organizations, like *VAF*. Among their activities, they provide grant funding for an array of urban forestry projects that include tree education, through training volunteers, and outreach or a combination of each. The funding of our project came to them from the CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as part of the California Climate Investment Program.

Current Project - In recent years grant funding through CA ReLEAF has required demonstration of benefits for and collaborations with disadvantaged communities. Fortunately for us, the parkway blocks most urgently in need of *Eucalyptus* replacements on Victoria Avenue are in the Casa Blanca Neighborhood. These blocks are Washington to Madison, both sides of the street and Madison to St. Lawrence on the outbound side. On a very windy, threatening day, Robert Filiar, Urban Forester, Maria Kosteki, Landscape Maintenance Inspector, Doug Whitley and I walked these blocks, identified trees that needed removal and locations for planting new trees. Doug was able to provide GPS coordinates for each tree and map them on aerial photographs for the grant proposal. **Project Goals for this location:** remove 6 unsafe *Eucalyptus* trees, add irrigation to 5 parkway blocks and plant 88 new *Eucalyptus* trees on March 11th.

We next looked for other locations within the Casa Blanca community that needed trees. With help from the City, we decided to include Villegas Park and the Casa Blanca Home of Neighborly Services. Both of these locations have significant importance to the Community. Casa Blanca

Home of Neighborly Service (*CBHNS*) has recently become a non-profit, but has a long history as a City Community Center providing services in the Casa Blanca community. Board member, Doug Whitley and Robert Filiar attended a *CBHNS* Board meeting to inquire about their interest in a partnership with us and including their site for tree planting. Since they were happy to participate, I worked with their President, Jacob Hernandez to assess their needs. **Project Goals for this location:** remove damaged shade tree from grassy area and replace with a Red Flowering Gum; and add 7 Citrus trees, including 2 Valencia oranges, 2 Navel oranges, 2 tangerine trees and a lemon tree on Railroad Avenue.



Maps, like this one of CBHNS, were required for each site.

Villegas Park is a City Park that is located in the center of the Casa Blanca Community. It is named —cont on page 7

—cont. from page 1—Muir

plaques. This particular plaque was dedicated to Henry E. Huntington, owner of the Pacific Electric Railway whose money had financed the building of Miller's Mission Inn, collector and financier of the Huntington Library and Botanic Gardens, and who with Miller and others, was then developing Huntington Park, a subdivision on the lower slopes of Mt. Rubidoux. Inscribed on the plaque were the words:

"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves."

Familiar words to Mr. Muir. He had written them nearly fifteen years earlier for his book, *The Mountains of California*.

Muir told the *Riverside Enterprise* about the climb up the mountain the following day, saying, "The view is charming. I had never seen this country before and this was a delightful introduction. The view from the top of the mountain is one of the most characteristic that could be obtained."

Touring other parts of the town, the two travelers



John Muir reading the Huntington plaque on Mt. Rubidoux, 1907

Dedicated to Henry E. Huntington, a portion of the copper plaque included a quote from John Muir's *The Mountains of California*, 1894

came upon Magnolia Avenue, then the longest such divided avenue in the United

States. Vroman took Muir's photograph as he stood pondering (who knows what) while staring at a palm tree on Magnolia Avenue ([see photo on page 1](#)). Perhaps he was comparing it to the more familiar trees of the High Sierra.

Towards the end of the day, Muir and Vroman encountered Riverside's tree warden, John Henry Reed. In the photograph attributed to Vroman, Muir is seated in what is presumably Vroman's Maxwell. John Reed, who had been almost completely deaf for most of his life, is listening to Muir through his (Reed's) ear trumpet. For those passing by, the conversation probably didn't need such an appliance. Indeed, one passerby, Secretary May of the Chamber of Commerce told the *Daily Press*:

"I have never heard anything that quite equaled the hour conversation between John Muir and J. H. Reed . . . These gen-

tleman got together last night near the Glenwood [aka Mission Inn] and I had the pleasure of listening to their remarks. Mr. Muir did most of the talking and that is what Mr. Reed wanted. He had called upon him to get information regarding trees and surely something valuable was proffered by the noted naturalist . . . I wish that everyone who has an interest in trees and nature, in general, might have heard Mr. Muir's remarks."

Some of Muir's specific remarks to Reed were to



John Muir and John Reed in Riverside, 1907

By successfully managing the orchards at his in-laws' farm in Martinez, California, Muir gained a reputation as a talented horticulturalist. During his 1907 visit to Riverside, Muir took time to meet and talk with John Henry Reed, who in 1904 had been designated "tree warden" for Riverside. (In this photo, Muir is seen stopped in a car at Seventh and Main streets in front of the Mission Inn. He is talking into Reed's "ear trumpet," Reed having suffered from a hearing disability since he was a young man.) Muir's accounts of his favorite tree species were so exciting that Reed remarked that he "wished all the tree lovers in Riverside could have seen and heard him." (Attributed to A.C. Vroman. (*From the Riverside Metropolitan Museum Collection*))

suggest possible tree plantings for the Rubidoux slopes, perhaps some he had seen growing on the dry mountain sides of Australia. He also let it be known that he disliked pepper trees immensely and that they belonged to a poisonous family.

Muir and Vroman stayed the night at the Mission Inn. Before leaving town to return to Pasadena the next morning, Muir engaged in a conversation with State Assemblyman and local attorney, Miguel Estudillo. —cont on page 4

from page 3—Muir and Estudillo were already acquainted with each other. It was partly due to Muir's coaxing that Estudillo had presented a bill to the Assembly to return the Yosemite Valley to the jurisdiction of the federal government, removing it from the disastrous management of the State of California. It was a pet measure of Muir's and its passage in the assembly with Estudillo's guidance created "a warm feeling" between the two men, as reported in the *Riverside Daily Press*.



John Henry Reed (1832 to 1920) A modest man, who once described himself as a "deaf old farmer," Reed was an outstanding naturalist and horticulturalist. By serving as "tree warden," he made Riverside the first western city to have an official urban forester. (From the *Riverside Metropolitan Museum Collection*)

As 10:30 a.m. on June 7 rolled around, Muir and Vroman said their good-byes, climbed back into the Maxwell, and left for Pasadena. Muir would return to Riverside at least one more time before his death in 1914. In 1911, at the invitation of Frank Miller, Muir took part in the Mission Inn's First Conference on Peace and Arbitration. Also in attendance were Muir's friend John Burroughs [together they were sometimes called "the two Johnnies"] and journalist Ida Tarbell, among other notables. Three years later Muir would come down with pneumonia while visiting his youngest daughter Helen in Daggett, east of Barstow. He was taken to a hospital in Los Angeles, where he died a few days later.

"When a man plants a tree, he plants himself. Every root is an anchor, over which he rests with grateful interest, and becomes sufficiently calm to feel the joy of living. He necessarily makes the acquaintance of the sun and sky. Favorite trees fill his mind, and, while tending them like children, and accepting the benefits they bring, he becomes himself a benefactor."

---- Excerpt from Muir essay, *The San Gabriel Valley*, 1877

Trucks on Victoria Avenue —by Darleen DeMason

Recently a *Frito-Lay* truck hit a Peruvian Pepper tree on the Avenue near Jane St. The impact of the truck was so great that the tree was completely destroyed. I also recently saw a large big-rig with a beer advertisement on it run the stop sign at Maude St. traveling more than 40 miles per hour. I am taking this opportunity to make sure our members are aware of the fact that commercial trucks weighing more than 5 tons are banned from travel on the Avenue to protect our trees. Riverside Municipal Code Section 10.56.020 states: "When signs are erected giving notice thereof, no person shall operate any commercial vehicle exceeding ten thousand pounds (5 tons) gross weight at any timeexcept that such vehicle may be operated thereon for the purpose of delivering or picking up materials or merchandise or the performance of services in connection with and in aid of a property in the block, and then only by entering such street at the intersection nearest the destination of the vehicle and proceeding thereon no farther than the nearest intersection..." **Please report any infractions to (951) 826-5311!**

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Contributions

November - January 2017

Thank you to all who contributed to *Victoria Avenue Forever*.

Your gifts will be used to help protect and care for Riverside's living legacy – Victoria Avenue.

General Contributions and for trees/upkeep

Josephine Guzzetta, Nancy Hovdey, Robert & Susan Krieger, Robert Lennox, Elayne Lohr, Thomas Obrecht, Michael & Georgie Raftery, Jenny Rechel, Karl Reibold, Margaret Robinson, Anthony Serra, Roger & Julie Slininger, Betty Springs

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Snyder Garden

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Lorraine Small Rose Garden

Harold & Mary White

Memorial Contributions

Recently there has been an outpouring of donations in memory of **Mark Ward**: Lorraine Anderson, William & Rosemary Bailey, Alfred & Betty Jo Bonnett, Stephen & Liz Cunison, Ann Dale, Ruthella Dole, Mr & Mrs Robert Duncanson, Charlie & Virginia Field, Dallas & Patricia Holmes, Betty Kelly, Robert & Anita Kimmel, Gerry Marr, Carol Matulich, Mr & Mr. Robert Michalka, Janice Mickelson, Mr & Mrs John Miller, Pollyanna Miller, David & Barbara Moore, Linda Mullen, Mr & Mrs Burdette Nelson, Basil & Barbara Pafe, Elizabeth Parks, Christin Perry & David Fortune, Rosemarie Richardson, S. Rothenberg-Gutierrez, Helen Timmons, Thompson & Colgate LLP.

Continued outpouring of donations are coming in memory of **Clinton Marr**: Howard & Joan Hall, Evelyn Guin, Carol Matulich, Mr. & Mrs. John Miller.

Another outpouring of donations have come in memory of **Mary Thomas**: Charles Dutton Jr., Howard & Joan Hall, Betty Kelly, Mr. & Mrs. Darrel Lee, Carol Matulich, Janice Mickelson, Mr. & Mrs. John Miller.

Gerry Marr	In Memory of Phil Washburn
Carol Matulich	In Memory of Phil Washburn
Mr. & Mrs. John Miller	In Memory of Dr. Robert Friend
Mr. & Mrs. John Miller	In Memory of Phil Washburn
Pollyanna Miller	In Memory of Phil Washburn

Commemorative Tree Donations

Robert Lennox	In Memory of Cathy Lennox
Lalla Neblett	In Memory of John & Emily Neblett
Joan Miller	In Memory of John Miller
Joan Miller	In Memory of Jim Miller
Joan Miller	In Memory of Art Miller
Mr. & Mrs. John Miller	In Memory of Mark Ward
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Lowanna Maxwell	In Memory of Mark Ward
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If you own a business, or know a business, that would like to be a sponsor of
Victoria Avenue Forever,
Please let us know!!!!

Recent Events and Activities

Improptu Workday – December 10th—A group of VAF Board members and two general members (Dan Straus and Nancy Hovdey) and one worker from Merchants worked in the Dr. Lewis Garden. The two water wise Gardens (Hal Snyder and Dr. Lewis) have been maintained by an outside contractor hired by the VAF Board. This contractor resigned after 5 years of service to us. During this time, many of the shrubs have gotten overgrown and several trees have not thrived. The new Garden Committee; Lori Yates, chair, Jenny Rechel, Adam Timura and Darleen DeMason have decided to have VAF maintain these Gardens ourselves until we decide their future. We spent a little over two hours removing overgrowth, dead branches and weeds. We thank Public Works and our *ex-officio* Board member, Robert Filiar for arranging for the City to provide a truck for hauling away debris and Jesus, who continued to work after we went home. We removed a lot of biomass, but more work is needed to tame this Garden. Thank you to all who helped.



‘Save the Eucalypts’ Activity – December 19th West Coast Arborists showed up at Horace and Victoria Avenue at 9AM to trim two centenarian Sugar Gum (*Eucalyptus clad-*

calyx) trees on the inbound parkway between Horace and Anna. This project was paid for by VAF members who contributed to our ‘Save the Eucalypts’ Fund and was commissioned by the VAF Board. I thank the members of the Committee, Doug Whitley, chair, Bill Bailey and Marilyn Harris for overseeing the project.

The weather was perfect for tree trimming – sunny and windless. The goal was to trim dead branches from two trees on this parkway; the 3rd and 10th trees from Horace. Four workmen were present and three vehicles; a truck, a chipper and a cherry-picker. The foreman was Curtis Worth. They started with tree 3. Two workmen were hoisted up in the “bucket” with a chain saw. Directing bucket placement was a challenge because they had to avoid damaging branches of the target tree and adjacent trees. The workmen moved carefully into the canopy to areas of dead branches. One workman held the branches and the other cut them with the chainsaw. If the area below the site was clear, the severed branch could be carefully dropped to the ground. If not, they accumulated the severed branches in the “bucket” with them and moved out from the tree and dropped them. After finishing tree 3, they moved to tree 10. This tree required “climbing” to remove branches because there was insufficient room for the boom. Trimming and cleaning up took a full day of work. The cost was \$2000.



Completion of work on this block requires removal of two trees that are beyond repair and are a public hazard. They are trees 6 and 7. The City of Riverside will fund this activity. *—cont on page 7.*



Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift to support *'Save the Eucalypts'*

My tax-deductible
contribution is for:

___ \$50 ___ \$75

___ \$100 ___ \$150

___ \$200 ___ \$250

___ \$300 ___ \$500

Name _____ Date ____/____/____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make Checks Payable to: Victoria Avenue Forever **Send to:** PO Box 4152, Riverside, CA 92514

—*from pg 2 Grant* for a former resident, Ysmael R. Villegas, who was a Silver Star and Medal of Honor recipient for his actions during WWII. The Villegas Park Advisory Committee (VPAC) has citizen oversight responsibility for park programs and activities. I met with two members of Parks, Recreation and Community Services employees, Lee Withers, Senior Administrative Analyst and Andrew Emery, Park Superintendent, and Robert Filiar to ascertain tree needs for the Park. We determined that the greatest needs were the parkways on Esperanza Street, which had no trees, missing locations on parkways of Margarita Street, and the large tree lawns on both sides needed more shade and flowering color. Subsequently I met with VPAC to inquire about their interest in participating in planting these trees. They also agreed to be a collaborator. **Project Goals for this location:** add ten Crape Myrtle trees to parkways on Esperanza Street, and 7 Jacaranda trees to the lawns and parkways of Margarita Street.

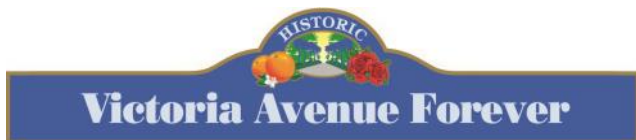
We were notified in January that our grant was approved. A community meeting to present the grant goals and final planting dates will be hosted by CBHNS in February. Our first major planting workday will be on Victoria Avenue on March 11th, California Arbor Week. We will plant 55 Eucalyptus trees between Washington and Madison on both sides of the street. In April we will plant at one of the other sites, and on May 13th for the Great American Clean-up we will plant at the third site this year. Next year we will plant the remaining *Eucalyptus* trees on Victoria Avenue, from Madison to St. Lawrence on the outbound side. And in the final year of the grant, we will replace any trees that did not survive.

We thank Augie Vega and Jacob Hernandez for their help and friendship and Nola Tainter, Field Representative for Councilman Paul Davis, who helped facilitate the collaboration. We also thank Riverside Public Works and Parks and Recreation for their support for this project.

—*cont from page 6 Events & Activities*

Small Rose Garden Workday – January 21st —Two students from Gage Middle School (Riley Niemi, and August Strong), three people from Kroger Foods (Marsha Martinez, Daniel Hernandez and Geraldo Macies), Nancy Hovdey and VAF Board members planted 42 roses, raked up debris and pulled out palm seedling weeds in the Lorraine Small Rose Garden. That Saturday was a perfect break between two rain events which softened the soil in advance of planting and rained the new roses in. Thank you to everyone who participated!





PO Box 4152
Riverside, CA 92514

Phone: 951-286-1036
website: www.victoriaavenueforever.org



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VAF 2017 Volunteer Calendar

Tree Planting

February 25, 2017 at 9AM

Meet at **Adams and Victoria**

California Arbor Week Tree Planting

March 11, 2017 at 9AM

Meet at **Jane and Victoria**

Tree Planting at Villegas Park

April TBA, 2017 at 9AM

Meet at **Esperanza and Villegas St**

Great American Cleanup with KRCB

May 13, 2017 at 9AM

Meet at **Jane and Victoria**

WALK WITH THE MAYOR

VICTORIA AVENUE DAY

APRIL 29, 2017

8am to 11:00am

POLY HIGH SCHOOL

(Central Ave. and Victoria Ave.)

**Wear walking shoes, hats and
appropriate clothing for
weather**



April, 2017

Volume 25—No. 2

Victoria Avenue Without Rails —by Joan H. Hall

Frank Miller, manager of the Riverside and Arlington (R&A) Street Railroad, appeared before the Riverside City Trustees on May 25, 1898, where the following announcement was made: “City Ordinance #253 granting Frank Miller, his assignors, a franchise to construct, operate, and maintain an electric railway along certain streets in the City of Riverside – single or double tracks from Main and 14th streets to Park Avenue, to Date, to Myrtle at the southern terminus of Victoria Bridge, along Victoria Avenue to Van Buren Avenue to Magnolia Avenue.”

This Victoria Avenue street car route would then join a proposed Magnolia Avenue line and the combined tracks would be known as the Loop Line. After the City developed a municipal power plant in 1896, an ambitious Frank Miller, owner of the Glenwood (Mission Inn) Hotel, and his R&A railroad associates, developed an electric streetcar line from downtown, traveling southerly to Magnolia Avenue, continuing down the center median and terminating at Van Buren Boulevard. Opening day of the new electric streetcar, April 11, 1899, was a most gala occasion with free streetcar rides all day.

Riverside’s electric streetcars were a huge success, and a colossal tourist —[cont on pg 4](#)



Frank Miller, photographed by GP Tresslar, ca 1895

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Something Wicked this Way Comes: The Invasion of Southern California by the South American Palm Weevil—Mark S. Hoddle and Christina D. Hoddle, Department of Entomology, UC Riverside

Each year, on average, about nine new species of arthropod establish in California and about a third of these become pests that require some form of management. The latest introduction to plague California is the South American palm weevil (SAPW), *Rhynchophorus palmarum* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), and although it is an unwanted addition to California’s insect fauna it has claimed the title of California’s largest weevil species!

SAPW is a notorious palm pest in its native range, which includes parts of Mexico, Central and South America. Weevil larvae kill palms by feeding on the apical meristem, or the palm heart, and this feeding damage causes irreparable damage to the palm’s growing region. The threat posed to palms by SAPW is amplified by its ability to vector a pathogenic nematode, *Bursaphelenchus cocophilus*, the red ring nematode (RRN), which causes a lethal palm malady, red ring disease.

SAPW was found killing Canary Islands date palms (CIDP) in Tijuana Mexico —[cont. on page 7](#)

President's Corner

During the process of assembling articles from contributors, preparing the standard pages, like the contributions page, and formatting everything for this newsletter, my overall feeling is that of being overwhelmed by all the support I see for Victoria Avenue and for *VAF*.

I am overwhelmed by:

- The positive interactions and support we receive from the City, Public Works, our liaison, Robert Filiar ([below](#)), our Councilmen MacArthur and Soubirous, and from Mayor Bailey.
- The generosity of our members who contribute all the financing we need to complete our projects ([see pg 5](#)).
- All the volunteers who come from the community and nearby communities to plant trees and roses with us on Victoria Avenue ([see pg 6](#)).
- The support we receive from other community organizations: KRCB, the Riverside Sailing Club, the Riverside County Master Gardeners, Villegas Park Advising Committee, Casa Blanca Home of Neighborly Services, etc.

- The expertise we tap from the University of California and the science faculty who care so much about our environment ([see pg 1](#)).
- The rich history of Riverside and that of Victoria Avenue that plays such an important role in it ([see pg 1](#)).
- The beautiful trees, roses and other shrubs that dazzle the eyes in all seasons of the year, especially this year with all the rain.
- AND for the hard work and time commitments that all the members of the *VAF* Board of Directors put in every year to make all we do a reality ([see pg 4](#)). **They deserve a round of applause.**

This newsletter was put together in the three weeks before our Victoria Avenue Day celebration, which includes a guided tour of Victoria Avenue and a Walk with the Mayor. Everyone is working hard to get the event off the ground. But, this newsletter had to come out at a time that was too late to provide any updates on the event. **I hope we saw you there.**

Victoria Avenue Hero—Robert Filiar—by Tina English, Deputy Public Works Director

Robert Filiar has been a valued City employee for over 16 years. He began his career in 2001 and has worked in various roles for the City in Public Works, Parks Recreation and Community Services and Public Utilities. Robert is known for his extraordinary initiative, exceptional reliability, proactive efforts and overall excellent customer service. In recognition of his hard work, Robert was Employee of the Year for Public Works in 2008.

After starting as an entry level employee in 2001, Robert took the initiative to educate himself and take on challenging new roles, being promoted through several positions and eventually becoming the Urban Forester in 2006. Taking on additional responsibilities and a leadership role, he was promoted to his current position of Urban Forester Manager in 2015.

Robert is a Certified Arborist and is responsible for managing the City's Trees and Landscaping Division, providing for the care and maintenance of 150,000 City street trees, 22,000 trees along utility lines and 500 acres of roadway landscaping. This includes managing many large contracts and providing special care of many trees over 100 years old and comprehensive care of many landscaped boulevards including the Historic Victoria Avenue which was established in 1892.

Robert excels in working with residents and community groups to foster positive relations and efforts to partner together in support of the City's landscaping and trees. He has facilitated and been a hands on partner in countless volunteer events to plant trees, shrubs, and vines throughout the City to keep it looking beautiful.

Through his long term commitment to the City's urban forest along with support and funding from the Riverside City Council, Robert has furthered the City's long standing support of street

trees, earning recognition as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation since 1987. Robert is a tremendous asset not only to the City, but to the community.

Editor's Note: *Victoria Avenue Forever* has enjoyed working with Robert for over three years as its formal liaison with the City of Riverside. He has provided important supportive roles for the 'Save the Eucalypts' committee, grant writing and execution, tree selection, garden upkeep, planning and execution of workdays, 'Ragged Robin' rose plantings every fall, and keeping us apprised of all updates on the Avenue and in the City regarding Victoria Avenue. We are happy to recognize him as a Victoria Avenue Hero!!! Thank you Robert, for all you do, from all of us!!!



Robert Filiar (right) and Guy Tanaka (left) at our March 11th tree planting event

New Trees in the Dr. Lewis Garden—by Darleen DeMason

This year we removed four trees from the Dr. Lewis Garden that had not thrived and added three new trees. The removed trees were: three Yellow Trumpet Trees (*Handroanthus chrysotrichus*) which had been planted in 1993, and a Peppermint Tree (*Agonis flexuosa*) planted as a memorial tree in 2011. The VAF Board decided to choose replacement trees for this garden that are not planted elsewhere on City property on the Avenue. We choose two Maidenhair trees (*Ginkgo biloba*) to replace the Yellow Trumpet trees, which are now dedicated to Clinton Marr and a Firewheel Tree (*Stenocarpus sinuatus*). Both of these tree species are of botanical interest and thrive elsewhere in Riverside.

Ginkgo biloba (Maidenhair Tree) The Ginkgo tree is a living fossil and is not a flowering plant, but is a very primitive Gymnosperm related to cone-bearing conifers and cycads. In the western world this species was known first from the fossil record (Jurassic Period) before plant explorers found it growing in Japanese temple gardens in 1690. It is now widely cultivated and exists as wild stands in the mountains of southeastern China. Ginkgo is easily recognized by its fan-shaped leaves that are produced mainly on short shoots along the long branches. The leaves turn a golden color in the fall and drop rather suddenly. It is, therefore, deciduous. *Ginkgos* are insect, pest and smog resistant and tolerate the urban environments. The species is dioecious, which means that individuals are either male or female. The male trees produce “catkin-like” shoots with naked pollen-bearing organs and the females produce fleshy, naked seeds. The flesh has high levels of butyric acid and smells like rancid butter (or worse!) as it ages. Nursery trees are always male. Hal Snyder and Bill Kleese have two large *Ginkgo* trees in their front yard at Maude and Victoria. One of them is a female. The variety we chose is called ‘Jade Butterfly’.

Stenocarpus sinuatus (Firewheel Tree) This tree species was selected by then, Park Designer, Ric Catron and the Vegetation Committee of *Victoria Avenue Forever* in the planning for the Dr. Lewis Garden in 1992. But, last year I discovered that the tree at the back of the garden that we had thought was *Stenocarpus*, was in fact a *Banksia* (*Victoria AveNews*, April 2016). Therefore, we decided to plant this tree to honor the original tree list for the Dr. Lewis Garden. *Stenocarpus* (and *Banksia*, as well) are members of a Southern Hemisphere family, Proteaceae. *Stenocarpus* is from Australia, like many members of the family. It is an evergreen, densely branched tree with shiny, deep green leaves that are lobed on juvenile plants but unlobed on adult plants. It is slow-growing to approximately 30 ft tall and 15 ft across. We do not expect it to flower for a number of years, but when it does, it will have red and yellow, tubular flowers arranged like spokes on a wheel. The tree we planted came from a nursery in Santa Barbara, so we will watch it closely and hope that the dramatic climate change to Riverside will not cause it too much stress. So far it is fine.



Our new Stenocarpus tree (upper) and flowers produced by this species (lower).



One of our new Ginkgo trees—tree at planting in February (right) and same tree in early April with new leaves expanding.



Fully expanded fan-shaped leaves on a Ginkgo long shoot, with its lateral short shoots all bearing leaves.

from page 1—Streetcars attraction to the delight of local merchants and hotel owners. The cars, manufactured in the Midwest, had the identical rail gauge as a heavy freight train (see figure below). Thus, streetcars traveled west on their own wheels and were pulled along by heavy engines. And this fact put residents in Arlington Heights on high alert.

The possibility of noisy and heavy freight trains traveling back and forth along Victoria Avenue was not well received by many Riversiders. But, some Arlington Heights citrus growers thought it might be easier, and less expensive, to transport their citrus crops to the downtown packinghouses via train rather than by wagons. Construction of a Loop Line became a hot issue with certain financial advantages weighed against future development of Arlington Heights with loss of its peaceful, rural tranquility along Victoria Avenue.



R&A Railway Electric Trolley, near the corner of Main and Seventh Streets, in front of Mission Inn ca 1905.

By 1900, the R&A Street Railroad Company had strengthened the Victoria Bridge for electric streetcar service to the south end of the bridge. Here the streetcar would reverse directions and return to 14th Street and downtown. However, in 1904, the streetcar route was extended easterly, half a block, to the entrance of the Victoria Clubhouse.

The R&A Railroad Company had been experiencing financial problems for some years as income did not meet expenses. Frank Miller received help from his friend, Henry E. Huntington, head of the Pacific Electric Railway, who in 1903, bought his franchise for the Victoria Avenue route with an expiration date of May 1906. It was rumored that Miller practically gave the franchise to Huntington.

With a new developer who was financially able to construct a streetcar line down the median of Victoria Avenue, it seemed to be a “done deal.” Arlington Heights residents were not pleased with the impending intrusion on their lifestyle. However, it was no secret that Henry Huntington was not enthusiastic about the project. Consequently, 1904 passed without mention of the line; 1905 slipped away with no mention of the streetcar line, and finally the expiration of the franchise came due in May 1906. Since no action had been taken regarding Henry Huntington’s franchise, it was deemed void and invalid.

Although Victoria Avenue streetcars and freight trains many have helped a few citizens, the landscaped Avenue with its tree-lined median, has become one of the most important landmarks in Riverside.

Acknowledgements: Factual information is from an unpublished book by Joan H. Hall regarding Cornelius Rumsey. The two historic pictures were provided by Kevin Hallaran, Archivist, Riverside Metropolitan Museum.

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Flowering crabapple flowers in April

Contributions

February - March 2017

Thank you to all who contributed to *Victoria Avenue Forever*. Your gifts will be used to help protect and care for Riverside's living legacy – Victoria Avenue.

General Contributions and for Trees/Upkeep

John & Betty Addink, Richard & Lorraine Anderson, Rosalie Anderson, Kathleen Asper-Williams, William & Rosemary Bailey, Dave & Peggy Barnhart, John Beal, Mary Bean, Leslie & Scott Bloom, on behalf of the Poly High School Class of 1977, Barbara Brown, Louisa Buroker, Jim & Barbara Delorenzo, Richard & Rosie Francisco, John & Janet Gless, Cecille Graffi, Frank & Lucy Heyming, Lyle & Gay Hill, Dallas & Patricia Holmes, Mary Humboldt & Bob Buster, Monika Ittig, Thomas & Charlotte Johnson, William Johnson Jr, Raul & Cecilia Jordan, Jay & Debbie Keller, Larry & Marlene Kirby, Robert & Sue Krieger, Dorothy Leeper, Elayne Lohr, Ron & Marsha Loveridge, Roger & Peggy Luebs, Chris & Jolyn MacArthur, Edward Mackey, Marion McCarthy, Carol Matulich, Susan McClintock, Dick & JoAnn Messer, Patricia Miller, Jim Montgomery, David & Barbara Moore, Elaine Muir, BJ & Terry Mylne, Walter & Betty Parks, Tom & Valerie Payne, Valentin Pechan, Malcolm & Chari Pond, Dennis & Janet Ponsor, Michael & Georgie Raftery, Doris Rhine, CP & Suzanne Rowlands, Dr. Gerald Saks, James & Shirley Sandoval, Susan Simonin, Hal Snyder, Betty Spriggs, Carole Stadelbacher, Anne Stalder, Kerry & Linda Stevens, Mary Ann Steward, Dwight Tate, Ron & Le An Teunissen, Adam Timura, Steve & Sally Tavaglione, Giles Waines, George & Mary Weimer, Chuck & Susan Wheat, Doug Whitley, Ruth Wilson, and Lori Yates

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Save the Eucalypts

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Darleen DeMason & Dan Straus,
Ray & Marilyn Harris

Lewis Garden

Suzy Marzalek,
Doris Morton

Snyder Garden

Cecille Graffi, Thomas & Charlotte Johnson, Ken & Debbie Phillips, Rosemarie Richardson

Commemorative Tree Donations

Anita Baumel	In Memory of Robert Gillis Sr
Tom &	
Charlotte Johnson	In Memory of Jerry Dennington
Kimmel Conspirators	In Memory of Anita Kimmel
Fredrick Morey	In Memory of Clinton Marr
Walter & Betty Parks	In Memory of Anita Kimmel
Betty Spriggs	In Memory of Everett Spriggs
Lyla Wiley	In Memory of Paul Wiley
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	In Memory of Harold Taylor

Memorial Contributions

Mary Bean	In Memory of Eleanor Hampson
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Liz Neblett	In Memory of Anita Kimmel
Liz Neblett	In Memory of Eleanor Hampson
Tom Obrecht	In Memory of Matti Obrecht
Basil & Barbara Pafe	In Memory of Harold Taylor
Micheal & Georgie Raftery	In Memory of Carol Richardson
Micheal & Georgie Raftery	In Memory of Mark Ward
John & Sally Warjone	In Memory of Lane Cash



Flowering pear trees between Mary and Washington Streets.

If you own a business, or know a business, that would like to be a sponsor of VAF,

Please let us know!!!!

Recent Events and Activities

Tree Planting— February 25th

Approximately 50 trees were planted in the median of Victoria Avenue. About 40 volunteers showed up, many from Poly High School's National Honors Society and from UCR Alpha Phi Omega. Almost all of the trees were replacements for previously dedicated trees and they were planted on many blocks necessitating many car trips. Also, three new trees were planted in the Dr. Lewis Garden ([see page 3](#)).



Tree Planting—March 11th

Our first tree planting event sponsored by our recent state-funded grant (Cal Fire and Ca ReLeaf) resulted in the planting of 41 Lemon Scented Gums between Washington and Madison Streets (both parkways) and 10 Silver Dollar Gums on the outbound parkway between Madison and Grace Streets. We had over 50 volunteers turn out. The trees went in so fast it was hard to take pictures of the activities. We thank the City of Riverside, especially Robert Filiar ([see page 2](#)) who had 6 unsafe trees removed and had Merchants install irrigation in advance of the planting. The Riverside County Master Gardeners supported the event by sending out several members to help volunteers plant the trees. The collaborating partners for our grant are Villegas Park Advisory Committee (VPAC) and Casa Blanca Home of Neighborly Ser-

vices (CBHNS). We have two additional events on May 13th with KRCB ([see page 8](#)).



New Bench at Jane Street School Crossing

At the request of parents and grandparents of students at Washington School, long-time VAF member and crossing guard at Jane Street, Gordon Williams contacted Councilman Mike Soubirous, who then contacted the Deputy Director of Public Works, Tina English to request installation of a new bench at that corner. The VAF board was asking for their input. We were happy to support the suggestion.

We are now happy to announce that the new and particularly beautiful bench was installed in March. See picture [on page 8](#).

-cont from page 1-Palm beetle in December 2010. It had likely spread through arid desert areas because of the planting and irrigation of non-native palms in areas where they don't grow naturally. These artificial palm "oases" probably provided stepping stones through inhospitable habitat that would normally have acted as a barrier to natural spread. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), with funding support from the USDA, commenced monitoring SAPW incursions into San Diego and Imperial Counties using pheromone traps. Over the trapping period 2011-2013, CDFA captured 111 weevils, 109 in San Diego County and two in Imperial County. The monitoring program ended when Federal support ceased. Captured weevils were dissected and examined for RRN. The nematode was not detected.

In early 2016, reports of CIDP's dying in San Ysidro in San Diego County, about 2 miles from Tijuana were received. Examination of these palms by entomologists from UCR and the San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner's Office confirmed SAPW was responsible for killing the palms. By June 2016, the weevil had spread as far north as Chula Vista in San Diego. It has likely killed hundreds of CIDP as it has spread across the urban landscape (we have observed this in Tijuana). CIDP is the preferred host palm, but we have recently received reports from experienced arborists stating that ornamental date palms in San Ysidro are being killed by SAPW. There have been no reports of RRN or evidence of red ring disease in SAPW infested palms.



Dead Canary Islands date palm in San Ysidro, San Diego County, CA

The SAPW invasion and the likely inevitable arrival of RRN has the potential to greatly alter the look of the iconic California urban landscape that is largely characterized by spectacular plantings of palms, especially CIDP. The only effective way to protect palms, especially high value heritage or specimen palms, is through prophylactic pesticide applications. In palm production areas, pesticide treatments are used in combination with pheromone traps and eradication of infested palms. Together, these techniques can effectively re-

duce rates of palm loss from SAPW. However, these programs are expensive and require perennial maintenance.

At this time there is no funding supporting any type of SAPW monitoring, control, or research program. However, we have not been idly sitting around doing nothing. Weekends and public holidays have been spent setting up and monitoring pheromone traps around Chula Vista to measure weevil flight activity over time (traps are checked monthly, and the numbers of weevils caught in traps by month are recorded). We are also using a drone to map palm mortality and to monitor rates of spread from infestation foci. And, of course, the inevitable and inescapable reality of grant writing and submission has been undertaken to garner funds to commence larger scale research programs on this pest (funding decisions have not yet been made by these agencies). To keep people informed of developments we are posting blogs, updating web pages on SAPW, and we have developed a web page for reporting suspect palms that may have been killed by SAPW. These resources are available on the Center for Invasive Species Research website (www.cisr.ucr.edu). Stay tuned, as there will be many new developments over the upcoming months.

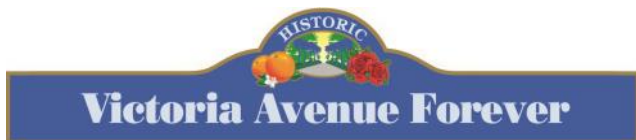


Adult (upper) and larva (removed from its fibrous cocoon)(lower)

Additional information on SAPW is available here:

<http://cisr.ucr.edu/palmarum.html>

<http://cisr.ucr.edu/blog/invasive-species/palmageddon-are-california%E2%80%99s-palms-about-to-face-the-perfect-storm/>



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New bench at Jane Street



VAF 2017 Volunteer Calendar

Great American Clean-up with KRCB—two locations:

Tree Planting at CBHNS

May 13th, 2017 at 9AM

Meet at 7680 Casa Blanca Street

Clean-up on Victoria Avenue

May 13, 2017 at 9AM

Meet at Jane and Victoria

Franz Philip Hosp: Riverside's First Master Gardener

by Denise Bradley and Kevin Hallaran

Born in Switzerland in 1853, Franz Philip Hosp came to New York City around 1872 at the age of 19. It is not certain if he had formal training in horticulture, but his first employment in New York was as an assistant to his cousin, William Fisher, a landscaper in Frederick Law Olmstead's Central Park. The work apparently lacked sufficient challenges for the young Hosp, so he packed up and moved to the bright lights of Columbus, OH where he became a nurseryman and florist who at one time owned 21 greenhouses filled with flowers for the florist trade. He also developed florist businesses in New York City and Cincinnati.

His wanderlust kicked in again in the late 1870s and with a wife and children in tow (he married Margaret Bender in 1878—together they had five children), Hosp sold his businesses and moved west where he became a station landscaper for the Santa Fe Railroad, a position he held for some 17 years. While with the railroad, Hosp laid out the grounds for stations from San Francisco to San Diego and east to Albuquerque, NM. Perhaps his most important designs and plantings were those for the gardens of the El Tovar Hotel in the Grand Canyon National Park.

Hosp and family, perhaps while he was still working for the Santa Fe moved to Riverside, CA in 1886. Soon after arriving, he was contacted by the Smiley brothers of Redlands to landscape their Smiley Heights estate. After that, he became more active in planning and installing the gardens and landscapes of many of the homes along Victoria Avenue and Arlington Heights. In 1892, Riverside Trust Company officers, Matthew Gage and William Irving, hired Hosp to plan and oversee the first tree plantings along Victoria Ave. Eucalyptus, Ragged Robin roses, and several other tree and shrub species were soon planted. Once the city abandoned plans for a center median street car line, the modern-thinking and foresightful Hosp put in drought resistant plantings. Around the same time he was commissioned by Ethan Allen Chase to design terraces and plantings on Victoria Hill.

One of his most notable projects landed in his lap soon after being appointed Riverside's official Landscape Gardener in 1892. Based on a plan approved by the City Trustees for the new City Park (now known as White Park) Hosp planted lawns, weeping willows, mountain ash, cypress hedges, and evergreens. The city's Lower Canal, which passed through the park, afforded water for the many plantings. Hosp told the newspapers, "It is my aim finally to have this little park represent a variety of every ornamental plant that can be successfully grown in this part of the state. The park will then be a botanical garden." To that end, Hosp paid numerous visits to the area then known as the Devil's Garden, an area of desert between the Whitewater River and Morongo Canyon, that was home to numerous varieties of cacti. Hosp collected samples of many of the cacti while the park's namesake, Albert S. White, Chairman of the City Parks Commission, inspired by "Mr. Hosp's Miniature Desert," ordered from Philadelphia "175 [more]

varieties of cacti, 25 varieties of century plants, and 50 other plants of the same variety,” thus making Riverside’s City Park the California’s finest cactus and century plant garden.

In 1894, Hosp discovered a climbing sport (a naturally occurring mutation among rose species) thriving among the rose plantings in White Park. After cultivating it, he named it “Cecile Brunner” and planted it against the park’s pergola. Four years later, he discovered another climbing sport in the park and named it the “Papa Gontier.” Hosp also planted these near the pergola.

Hosp’s home and nursery operation were originally located at Ninth and High streets, now Ninth and Victoria. From here, he sold seeds, bulbs, plants, shrubs, trees, fruits, vegetables, and myriad other plants to gardeners and landscapers from Riverside and virtually all of southern California. He was also a much-sought after expert in horticulture and landscaping. One frequent visitor to the nursery was Kate Sessions, Balboa Park’s notable landscaper. Together they would often get wrapped up in long discussions of their favorite plants—the aloes.

In 1913, Hosp and family opened a florist’s shop at Seventh (now Mission Inn Avenue) and Main streets that served the community for many years. Alice Gouty and Della Hosp, two of Hosp’s daughters, managed the shop for many years. Her father, in the meantime, tended to his many acres of cut flower plantings in Oceanside and Carlsbad, an enterprise that provided much of southern California with cut flowers throughout the 1920s and 1930s.

Hosp died on March 9, 1936 at age 83. Services were held at Olivewood Cemetery. In April 1940, the city placed a plaque in White Park near the original Cecile Brunner and Papa Gontier plantings, honoring Franz P. Hosp had many contributions to horticulture, landscape architecture, and the beautification of the City of Riverside’s parks and gardens.

Franz Hosp was a major force in shaping the landscape aesthetic of Riverside, most especially in the area of Victoria Avenue-Arlington Heights. His experience and influence in the design of public spaces in Riverside and elsewhere in southern California during the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was significant in promoting southern California as a garden paradise.

Franz Philip Hosp: Riverside's First Master Gardener

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Franz Hosp was a major force in shaping the landscape aesthetic of Riverside, most especially in the area of Victoria Avenue-Arlington Heights. His experience and influence in the design of public spaces in Riverside and elsewhere in southern California during the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was significant in promoting southern California as a garden paradise.

From: "**kimjj61@aol.com**" <kimjj61@aol.com>

Date: Wed, Jun 21, 2017 at 1:22 PM -0700

Subject: [External] How to Access Museum Archives?

My Name is Kim Jarrell Johnson. I do research and writing on local history, including Riverside history. I frequently need to know if the Riverside Metropolitan Museum archives contain information on a certain subject or person. Now that the museum no longer has an archivist, I am truly stumped as to who to contact to request information. Previously, I would contact the archivist, he would see what they had, and would pull the information for me to come down and look over.

I would appreciate your help in identifying the person I can now contact who will look things up in the archives and, when appropriate, pull files and photos and make arrangements for me to come to the museum to review the pulled items.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Kim Jarrell Johnson

Blogger, Local History Author

Blog: <http://womaninthemid.com/>

Books: *Jurupa*, *Rubidoux*, *Riverside's Mission Inn*, *Wicked Jurupa Valley*, *A Brief History of Eastvale*, *Back in the Day Vol I and Vol. II*

“If you don't know history, then you don't know anything. You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree.”
— **Michael Crichton**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "**Leslie Lockwood**" <lhlockwood@gmail.com>

Date: Sat, Jun 24, 2017 at 7:28 AM -0700

Subject: [External] Please don't shut down the Riverside Metropolitan Museum!

To: "Gardner, Mike" <MGardner@riversideca.gov>

There is not earthly reason which would justify the closing of this amazing and wonderful museum. It has links to RCC, UCR, the Downtown Library, and the History of this area of California.

I am sorry I will be unable to attend the City Council meeting on July 11th. My family has plans and reservations to visit Avalon on Catalina Island. Otherwise I would be there. Will send a couple of friends in my stead.

Your Constituent,
Leslie Lockwood
3720 Castle Reagh Place

PS: Thank you, Councilman Gardner, for your assistance last year with items placed on my curb being ticketed. I greatly appreciate your assistance and willingness to help in all matters.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "**Kathi McIntyre**" <kathi.mcintyre@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Jun 23, 2017 at 9:45 PM -0700

Subject: [External] Riverside Museum

To: "Gardner, Mike" <MGardner@riversideca.gov>

Mike Gardner,

This is the same note I put on the Museum Page:

I don't believe it is in the best interest of Riverside children and adults to close this museum for "Three Years"????? I take my grandchildren to see the snakes, amphibians, insects, microscopes, educators & volunteers on the second floor. The activities that are provided are such confidence builders. After this fun encounter, we are ready to see the special exhibit area and then walk the first floor displays. It's always a learning experience. They are older each time & see things differently as they mature. I have used the museum as a one on one date time with Grandma. One grandchild has a Madagascar hissing cockroach as a pet for almost 2 years. She has observed and learned from her visits to this museum that insects are interesting. Her desire, at this time, is to become an entomologist. How many children will miss out on a learning experience

THREE YEARS IS MUCH TOO LONG TO KEEP THIS WONDERFUL MUSEUM SHUTTERED.

Subject: FW: [External] Missouri History Museum, Oh My!

From: Dr. Vincent Moses <vincate@att.net>
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2017 10:54 AM
Subject: Re: [External] Missouri History Museum, Oh My!
To: Gardner, Mike <mgardner@riversideca.gov>

Hello again Mike,

Let me reaffirm to you that I truly do support the MHM as one top model for expansion and retooling the RMM. One issue still dogs me, however, and that goes to the important, but unilateral decisions the ACM is making about core collections and museum direction. While the old gal needs a facelift, that surgery should only be done by a professional(s), with experience and intricate knowledge of the process and the patient. I'm sore afraid that Alex is not that surgeon, but thinks he is.

Charging around the RMM like a well-meaning, though uninformed, bull in a china shop holds the potential of severing a vital artery (to mix metaphors badly).

1. Archive closure

The precipitous firing of the archivist and closure of the archive is one very public and prime example. That action was obviously taken without prior consultation with City Hall stakeholders such as CHPO (Erin), or outside stakeholders such as the UCR History Department Program in Public History, CRM consultants such as Bill Wilkman and LSA, or any number of others who desperately rely on that repository almost every day, including researchers such as Cate and I, who write books based on the holdings in the archive. It could have also had the unintended consequence of jeopardizing economic development for projects such as Ratkovich and Wegglund that trigger review by CHPO or the CHB, which have to construct COAs to allow the project to go forward under CEQA. Most of the information resides in that archive.

After the public outcry, Alex tried to correct part of the mistake by moving the "most used" (his definition) parts of the archive to the library, though without a professional archivist to assist with access. The remainder of the valuable resource goes into storage at the Rumsey Bldg. I submit to you that that is too little too late, and not a solution at all. he's just making an educated guess as to what researchers will need to access in that archive. moreover, I don't think he understands how often the thousands of historical photos in there are tapped to support books, EIRs, context statements, exhibition such as *Westward to Canaan*, and etc. I'm not sure they are even going to the Library for access.

2. Artifact Collections Under Threat

Clark Herbarium Collection

I understand that the ACM is negotiating with UCR Botany Dept to take the Clark Herbarium, a collection that links the Museum directly to the Smithsonian through our Affiliate status. Clark's nationally significant holdings were principally collected by Dr. Edmund Jaeger, the famous RCC desert scientist of days of yore. If correct, don't you think you and the Council need to know, and have a say? These kinds of decisions have ramifications well into the future, and ought to have stakeholder and professional input. They are nuanced and subtle, requiring institutional knowledge, and an understanding of what part they have played in the history of the Museum and the community, at least I think they do. Yet the ACM is forging ahead.

Native American Artifact Collections

At the recent board meeting, Alex chided the staff and the collections committee for taking acollection of Sioux objects, saying that they have nothing to do with this region, and therefore represent what he means by misguided collecting. Here's the problem with that reasoning. The RMM originated in 1924 from a donation of Native American artifacts, including local and Plains Indian materials, by the widow of the late Cornelius Rumsey, a multimillionaire Riverside orange grower. The City accepted the donation and created The Rumsey Indian Museum in the basement of old City Hall. The core of the Museum's Native American collections came from that initial donation, and they have national significance, which again tie us to the Smithsonian and the National Museum of the American Indian. He's flat wrong about the Sioux additions, but the board didn't know that, and neither did he it appears.

If the CM wants to change the mission of the RMM, and jettison the Clark or Native American materials, even with their obvious connection to local history, then shouldn't it be debated by the community and by professionals, including the local tribal councils, before an important decision such as this is implemented quietly by those who don't understand the basics or the nuances?

Mike, these are just two examples of what I mean, and I'm not bringing them to you in order to impede progress. I do, however, think you should slow the train down before it plows through more valuable collections on its way to the ultimate destination, a retooled and expanded Museum. Otherwise, we might find "next stop the Twilight Zone!"

The Museum is not a playground, or a day care, or a theme park. Its an educational institution with incredibly significant artifact and archival holdings. Its significance is not always reflected in attendance numbers.

Best regards,

Vince

On 6/15/2017 2:25 PM, Gardner, Mike wrote:

Thank you Vince. This is certainly a model for the future of the Riverside Metropolitan Museum. I look forward to seeing it next month.

Mike

From: Dr. Vincent Moses [<mailto:vincate@att.net>]

Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2017 12:36 PM

To: Russo, John A.; Nguyen, Alexander; Bailey, Rusty; Gardner, Mike

Subject: [External] Missouri History Museum, Oh My!

Mr. Mayor and Councilman Gardner,

Congratulations on the allocation of up to \$15 million for the renovation and expansion of the RMM! After fighting for it for over 25 years, I'm well pleased . Thank you!

On that note, I really hope you enjoy your trip to the Missouri History Museum. If it's the model City Manager Russo is touting for RMM, he rocks!

Best regards,

Vince--

Herman Vincent Moses, PhD CEO & Principal VinCate & Associates Museum and Historic Preservation Consultants

From: "**Walter Parks**" <wparks909@charter.net>
Date: Tue, Jun 20, 2017 at 7:08 AM -0700
Subject: Re: [External] Riverside Museum
To: "Gardner, Mike" <MGardner@riversideca.gov>

Mike,

You rightly scolded me for listening to the word on the street about the museum. However since that time, I have read the reports and listened to the staff presentation at the Museum Board meeting last Wednesday. I also listened to the over thirty speakers in opposition to the museum closing. Mike, in all my years of listening to public debate, I have not heard a more impressive series of coherent, logical arguments advocating a position. It is clear that 1.) the Museum does not have to close to begin the process of rehabilitation and 2.) closing the Museum will have a deleterious effect on ongoing educational and cultural programs, research, and relationships that will take years to reestablish. Obviously, when actual construction starts in 2-3 years, a temporary closure of the building (not the programs) might be necessary. The presenters included a wide range of stakeholders, including UCR professors, other educators, and several with extensive Museum management experience. The clear course is for staff to follow the recommendations of its own consultants – starting with hiring an experienced director (this could be a temporary hire) and then developing a plan.

Unfortunately, it appears this is all moot. The decision as far as the staff is concerned is already made. The archive was shut down to outside research on June 2 and the archivist fired.

Closing the Museum will be a significant setback to our City, but I guess there is nothing that can be done about it.

Thanks for reading through this. You have always listened.
Walter

From: [Gardner, Mike](#)
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 1:19 PM
To: 'Walter Parks'
Subject: RE: [External] Riverside Museum

Walter,

At this point I would take what the word on the street says with a grain of salt. I think it is important to actually see and understand the staff recommendation and the Council's reaction before getting too excited. I think the Council has made its commitment to the museum clear by tabbing \$4.9 Million in Measure Z funds for renovation and expansion over the next five years.

Mike

From: Walter Parks [<mailto:wparks909@charter.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 11:50 AM
To: Gardner, Mike
Subject: Re: [External] Riverside Museum

Mike,

Thanks for the quick reply (and for your kind remarks about Steve Spiller). I fully understand that you cannot interfere with personnel matters. However, the problems at the museum are not the fault of the hardworking

staff there. The City staff's plan to solve these problems is draconian and shows little understanding of the museum/archive function. If what I hear around is at all correct and not just talk, the issue is going to be very controversial.

You always listen and respond Mike, and I appreciate it. Thanks.

Walter

From: [Gardner, Mike](#)

Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 10:59 AM

To: 'Walter Parks'

Subject: RE: [External] Riverside Museum

Thank you Walter. The staff will be presenting a plan for the future of our museum to the council in the next few weeks. I think the long range idea of perfecting the inventory (which I understand is in pretty bad shape), updating exhibits and changing them more frequently, and expanding both the museum storage and exhibit space are all good. I remain unconvinced of the best way to get from here to there.

Staff hiring decisions, but for the City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk, are expressly reserved to those three officers by the City Charter. I do not fully understand Kevin's departure, nor am I sure it is a good thing. Nonetheless, it is not an area I can delve in to. I think we have some exciting times coming and feel good about the ultimate outcome, but the process is troubling and I am afraid may be contentious. I am hopeful that won't be the case.

Best regards,

Mike

From: Walter Parks [<mailto:wparks909@charter.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 9:56 AM

To: Gardner, Mike

Subject: [External] Riverside Museum

Mike,

There is quite a stir in the museum/research community over the firing of Kevin Halloran. I have known and worked with Kevin for years consider him to one of the best archivists and local historians ever in Riverside. My opinion is shared by many others. People are baffled as to why he was made the scapegoat for the museum's problems. The word is that jobs of all experienced museum people are in jeopardy. For many in the local research and educational fields, the museum archives are an important asset. It is typical for those in top administrative positions not to understand how museums work. Here in Riverside, it appears a plan is underway that certainly will cause short-range problems and could cause serious long-range damage. This issue bears looking into at the council level.

Thanks,
Walter Parks

From: Walter Parks <wparks909@charter.net>
Date: June 21, 2017 at 5:29:21 PM PDT
To: Rusty Bailey <rbailey@riversideca.gov>
Subject: [External] Riverside Metropolitan Museum

Rusty,

I have read the reports and listened to the staff presentation at the Museum Board meeting last week. I also listened to the over thirty speakers in opposition to the museum closing. In all my years of listening to public debate, I have not heard a more impressive series of coherent, logical arguments advocating a position. It is clear that 1.) the Museum does not have to close to begin the process of rehabilitation and 2.) closing the Museum will have a deleterious effect on ongoing educational and cultural programs, research, and relationships that will take years to reestablish. Obviously, when actual construction starts in 2-3 years, a temporary closure of the building (not the programs) may be necessary. A wide range of stakeholders spoke at the meeting, including UCR professors, other educators, and several with extensive Museum management experience. The clear course is for staff to follow the recommendations of its own consultants – starting with hiring an experienced director (this could be a temporary hire) and then developing a plan. The consultants cost \$50,000 and their 29 steps to correct museum deficiencies make total sense. None of the steps suggest closing the museum. Unfortunately, the staff is sure they will prevail. They have already closed the archives to researchers and fired the archivist. My appeal is that you use your considerable influence to head off the closing.

My understanding is that you will be visiting the Missouri History Museum. This museum has an excellent reputation and would provide an appropriate model for Riverside.

Walter

From: "**Bob Reynolds**" <bob.reynolds220@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Jun 24, 2017 at 9:55 AM -0700
Subject: [External] Metropolitan Museum Fossils
To: "Gardner, Mike" <MGardner@riversideca.gov>

Dear Councilman Gardner

I am disappointed to hear that the Riverside Metropolitan Museum (RMM) will be closing for four years. I understand that this will be a period of renovation and inventory, which is sometimes for the better, once completed.

However, the RMM has received fossils collected under the guidelines of CEQA and NEPA. Those guidelines require that collected fossils be housed in a repository where they are retrievable to researchers and stored under climate controlled conditions. Please consider protection of and access to these resources during any period of museum closure.

Robert Reynolds

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "**Nicolette Rohr**" <nrohr001@ucr.edu>
Date: Sat, Jun 24, 2017 at 1:00 PM -0700
Subject: [External] Riverside Metropolitan Museum
To: "Gardner, Mike" <MGardner@riversideca.gov>

Dear Councilman Gardner,

I've written to you about this issue already but wish to reiterate my concern, and because I am unfortunately unable to attend the city council meeting regarding the Riverside Metropolitan Museum.

The RMM Board was right to reject the proposal to close the museum for three years, and the City Council must do the same. The proposal is drastic, vague about important details, and does not reflect the input of the public or expertise of museum professionals, many of whom, along with public historians, archivists, curators, preservationists, anthropologists, paleontologists, and many citizens of Riverside, came to the board meeting and voiced well-reasoned opposition to the plan. The city manager's office seems to be trying to characterize those opposed as people with "professional interests," afraid of losing their jobs, but that misunderstands the very many people and very many reasons against closing the museum.

"Shuttering" the museum will jeopardize funding, undermine the museum's credibility, damage the trust of donors and researchers, and, of course, limit public access to the museum and its collections. The city manager's office has yet to provide a defensible reason why the museum must close for three years, a detailed scope and timeline of work to be completed, or a clear and strategic plan for the future. Neither the reaccreditation report from American Association of Museums nor the consultant report recommended closing the museum, so why would the city take such a drastic action when none of the museum professionals involved have made this recommendation? They claim that time is needed for evaluation and inventory, so why would they lay off key personnel with the knowledge and training to do that work? They say RMM needs to focus on fundraising and community relations, so why are they excluding community stakeholders when they should be engaging them? They tout Riverside as a city of arts and innovation and invest in downtown as a cultural center, so why would they board up the city museum, right across the street from the Mission Inn and the new "Cheech," in the heart of the city? Changes and improvements can be made at the museum without closing it down, and temporary closure should begin only when a renovation plan is shovel-ready.

Plans for the museum need to undergo a more transparent process of public input and involve far more input from museum professionals. Until then, there's no clear reason to support this plan, and many reasons to oppose it, and to be concerned by the way the city manager's office is handling our public museum.

I know you have shared this opinion previously and I hope you will speak up and ask these imperative questions of the city manager's office.

On a quite unrelated note, thanks for your support of the interfaith iftar last week. That was a truly special occasion and a beautiful example of why our community is so special.

Thank you,

Nicolette Rohr

From: Mary A Stalder [mailto:xcoachrs@icloud.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 10:08 AM
To: Gardner, Mike
Subject: [External] City Museum

Councilman Gardner

Please vote to keep the Riverside City Museum open. Can you please explain to me why the "City of Education" has no future plans for a museum in tack before closing the present museum? This does not sound like a very educated city to me or maybe I'm way off base.

Respectfully,

Rich Stalder
3732 Beechwood Place
Riverside, CA 92506
951-204-7193

From: "Frances J. Vasquez" <francesjvasquez@gmail.com>
Date: June 25, 2017 at 11:47:06 AM PDT
To: "Perry, Jim J." <JPerry@riversideca.gov>, "Medina, Diana" <dmedina@riversideca.gov>
Cc: "Nicol, Colleen" <CNicol@riversideca.gov>
Subject: [External] **RIVERSIDE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM ~ NO CLOSURE, PLEASE...**

Hi, Jim:

As discussed last Wednesday, I look forward to meeting with you to discuss the status of the Riverside Metropolitan Museum. I attended the June 14th RMM Board meeting and was heartened to see that the Board rejected the Asst. City Managers recommendation to close the museum for three years, effective this July. Yes, close the doors; shutter the building without adequate community input.

The majority of the people present at the meeting want our Metropolitan Museum open to the public. Yes, we consumers of the museum want the City to mitigate the substandard storage conditions and other identified deficiencies.

The accreditation commission rightfully stated that "The solution lies with the political leadership."

The commission also stated that, "On average, 30 percent of all museums are tabled at each commission meeting." Riverside is not failing. The commission commended RMM core standards of excellence. The commission never recommended a 3-year closure - neither did the City's consultants. Shuttering the museum for such a long time deprives th

RMM issues can be resolved without drastic measures proposed by the management report. The City needs to hire a museum professional to lead the inventory of collections assets and address the issues diligently identified by the AAMA Commission. Closing the archives to the public and laying off the archivist sends a negative message about the City's priorities and interests in its own history. With five colleges and universities, and numerous schools in Riverside, the archives are well utilized by students, historians, researchers, government agencies, and writers.

Shuttering the museum limits the collecting ability and the credibility of the institution and could impact donations due to lack of trust. Page 8 of the AAMAC letter cited the City's error years ago in making RMM use its endowment fund... and eroded donor confidence. Let us learn from history.

The timing is bad, as the City brands itself as a "City of Arts and Innovation" Inventory and evaluation are apparently central to the needs of the museum, but how can this be accomplished without the curators and the institutional knowledge necessary to do this work? RMM needs more qualified staff, not less. Please see the attached eComments and Public Comments submitted by RMM consumers on June 14 to the RMM.

Please, NO shuttering of the RMM! Thank you,

Frances J. Vasquez
Ward 6 Resident

Miramontes, Eva

Subject: FW: [External] The Metropolitan Museum

From: Lee Wade [<mailto:leewade2@aol.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 10:53 AM

To: Gardner, Mike

Subject: [External] The Metropolitan Museum

How can we be the City of the Arts without museums? Part of the importance of this museum, not counting the collection, is the location--downtown--and the beautiful, historic building.

Sometimes I think I moved to the dumbest city in California.

Artye Wade
3509 Elmwood Court
Riverside 92506
951-321-0139

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "**Doris Weingart**" <doris-weingart@earthlink.net>

Date: Sat, Jun 24, 2017 at 6:14 PM -0700

Subject: [External] Museum

To: "Soubirous, Mike" <msoubirous@riversideca.gov>, "Gardner, Mike" <MGardner@riversideca.gov>

I want to add my voice to those who are protesting the closure of the Riverside Metropolitan Museum for a period of years. My understanding is that improvements that need to be made can be done without this terrible closure. I don't understand the reasoning behind this idea and I think the way the RMM board was informed of it shows great disrespect for them. For shame, gentlemen.

Doris Weingart



City of Arts & Innovation

Public Comment for April 12, 2017
Metropolitan Museum Board Meeting

Item	Name	Neighborhood	Position	Comments
6. RMM Board Harada House Project Committee	Frances Vasquez	Arlington South		<p>I support the allocation of City resources to establish and maintain a Harada House Museum.</p> <p>The Harada house is a City and National Historic Landmark. It is associated with a historically significant event during World War II, and the notable residents who contributed to the overthrow of the Alien Land Law of 1913.</p> <p>The Harada family was sent to an internment camp during the xenophobia of WW II. The parents did not survive, but the two Harada children returned to their home on Lemon St. Sumi Harada wrote My Mother, March 17, 1943, an elegy to her late mother, "I can see you at the old Eighth Street Restaurant. I can remember at Eighth Street restaurant. I can remember you at Ninth Street, and there at the Lemon Street House."</p> <p>The City of Riverside and we citizens should remember the house on Lemon Street. A Harada House Museum would serve as a historical record, a reminder for future generations that goodwill and citizen activism overcame fear and xenophobia. Thank you.</p>

To: Riverside Metropolitan Museum Board

From: Venita Jorgensen
Former RMM Board Member and Chair
4435 Mission Inn Avenue
Riverside, CA 92501

Re: Discussion of Three Year Closing Plan

As a former Board member I offer my empathy. Totally closing public access to Riverside's public museum for a multi-year period is a serious denial of a service for which the public has already paid. It is a drastic and possibly fatal response to the accreditation report. Other alternatives do not appear to have been examined. For example, the suggestion of closing a few days a week while remaining open the rest of the week is not considered. You have a heavy responsibility to consider this plan in a serious and deliberate manner. What I can offer is historical context.

Shortly after I joined the Board the then City Manager, Brad Hudson, arrived at one of our meetings with his Assistant City Manager, Tom De Santis to announce that our director had been "retired." No satisfactory explanation has ever been publically given for this decision. With the City Manager was his chosen selection for the position, Ennette Morton. She was an assistant of his. At first she was Interim Director and later made permanent. As an individual I protested the process used in the removal of the Museum Director and the appointment of the Interim Director to my councilman and the mayor. In the event I worked harmoniously with Director Morton.

Several positive developments occurred during Director Morton's tenure. The Museum building was repaired. Its roof was replaced, the interior was painted and the downstairs restroom was renovated and made ADA compliant. A number of exciting exhibitions were mounted. In this, the Museum benefitted from its partnership with the Smithsonian. For several years the Smithsonian sent out its staff for Smithsonian Week in Riverside. Carl Carey the City General Services man briefed us on the exhibit space we were to receive in the Fox Performing Arts complex. This did not happen. The site is now slated for use as a food court.

Director Morton left when her job was expanded from Museum Director to also include the entire Cultural Affairs operation. The Museum took a back seat. Another Interim Director, Sarah Mundy was brought in. She later stepped down and the newest City Manager sent in his assistant- Mr. Nguyen. Mr. Nguyen now holds two jobs, Interim Museum Director and Director of Cultural Affairs. I believe this is what the accreditation committee is getting at, the lack of a permanent director whose exclusive responsibility is the museum. I would point out that this is not a decision that can be blamed on the staff. It is a choice made in City Hall.

Staffing instability has not been confined to the director level. Soon after I joined the board, the Curator of History was let go because of budget cuts. Then in 2009 the museum was singled out for the largest portion of city budget cuts in anticipation of a three year drop in city revenue. The Curator of Anthropology was let go. Remaining staff stepped up to take on these additional responsibilities. When the economy improved, the two positions were added back only to be cut by the third City Manager who again found a serious deficit of city funds. Administrative staff was also cut. When the James Bryant, the most senior Curator retired, his position was not replaced. The staff of the Nature Lab has declined drastically.

Storage has also been a political football. When I joined the Board, we were given a tour of the storage facility. It was located in a former Safeway store. That location was taken away to make room for the Convention Center parking lot. Collections were quickly moved into the Stalder Building and the basement of the Museum. As you can imagine moving them was a challenge. Later the Board was offered half of the present storage building. The Board insisted on getting the whole building. Collections were moved a third time. Since additional funds were not forthcoming, the staff made do with repurposed shelving.

While on the board, we considered joining with the City Clerk to establish a comprehensive city archive. Several locations were considered and vetoed by city management. Our last suggestion was to give the Museum use of the old fire house when the fire department moved to new quarters. We were told the city needed to gain revenue from the old fire house. Using the old fire house as restaurant and night club was considered. In the event, the city chose to lease this city owned building to a charter school. It would have made a great place for the archives. It is just a block and a half from the Museum. Again, city management, not museum staff, failed to give available city owned property to the Museum and the archives remained in the basement because they had nowhere else to go. I believe it is this kind of political choice that the accreditation committee is addressing.

I served on the Harada House Committee. Efforts were made to make it a priority in the city budget. The most hopeful development was to acquire the Robinson House for a future interpretive center. The city chose to make repairs to the Heritage House, repainting it and fixing the roof, but it did not choose to make repairs to the Harada House. There is support for the Harada House from the public. I and others have contributed to its funding. Hopefully, the city will accept its responsibility to protect this property just as it has accepted responsibility to protect the Heritage House. But supporters of Heritage House will tell you that it took considerable public pressure to achieve that result.

In my view the Museum has suffered from inconsistent, intrusive and unreliable mismanagement originating in city hall. The Staff have suffered from inconsistent working conditions for years. I am not surprised they are demoralized. Now that the situation has gotten dire, they are being blamed as failures when the decisions that brought on the crisis were not theirs.

I am concerned that the harsh and the drastic solution of closing the Museum will result not in progress, but in a loss of services for our most vulnerable populations, a loss of public good will and a loss of volunteer support for the Museum. Riverside children will lose access to the very popular Nature Lab. Primary school students now in First Grade will not be able to go to the Museum until they are in Fourth Grade. Hundreds of school kids are now taken to the Museum on field trips. They will miss out on this important experience.

Closing for renovation, if it ever materializes, does not need to be for three years, but only for the length of actual construction. The plan to expand out the back of the Museum and to uncover the dome was first floated in the term of Councilman Beaty – two councilmen ago. Be skeptical of the chimera of new construction. Those sorts of things were promised to us and they never materialized. Ask yourself, do we have a new Downtown Library yet?

I support you in your role as stewards of the public interest. Consider all the input you can get. Do not allow anyone to rush or bully you into a rash decision. Remember, Mr. Nguyen's estimate for the

duration of the closing has increased 50%, from two years to three in the month since he first announced it in May.

From: Nathan Ellstrand <nathanellstrand@gmail.com>
Date: June 8, 2017 at 9:55:53 AM PDT
To: "Bailey, Rusty" <rbailey@riversideca.gov>
Subject: [External] Riverside Metropolitan Museum

Good morning Mr. Bailey,

I am a former Riverside resident, Poly High grad, as well as former intern and volunteer at the Riverside Metropolitan Museum.

I've been informed of the news about the temporary closure as well as restructuring at the museum. I'm saddened to hear about both especially given what an essential resource the place has been to the Riverside community for decades. Not only through its exhibits, but through its programs, the museum is vital to a thriving, educated and enlightened community. Were it not for the museum, I would not have the love for local history that I do today and continue on studying as a PhD student. Were it not for the museum, I would not have been engaged as a young Riversider through the First Sunday program. And were it not for the museum, I would not have built partnerships and gained mentors from the staff at the museum who are extremely valuable for maintaining the real legacy of the city.

Sincerely,

Nathan Ellstrand

cc: Mayor
City Council
City Manager
City Attorney
ACMs

6-14-17
public
comment

Hi, I want to thank you for taking the time to read what I have to say.

Let me start with pointing out that while the museum reports are very detailed and speak of a need of a vision for the museum, which is true, I feel the reports fail to take into account the actual people of Riverside city and the surrounding neighborhoods. The comparison with other museums nationwide seems to suggest charging an admission for museum visits. I would counter to say that the Riverside Metropolitan Museum should be commended for being the ONLY ONE that does not charge its visitors in a community where many potential visitors, especially families, are in debt and an added cost would be prohibitive of attendance. Cultural practices here in southern California included looking for the cheapest deal for entertainment and if a city building charges for admission people are more likely to turn away and complain that the city is charging them for a service they already pay taxes to support. For not charging an admittance fee, I would like to say the museum has expressed an understanding of the local economic climate and cultural norms. Charging fees at other museums nationwide may work in those localities but no comparative study was cited for similar museums that do charge for attendance in southern California.

I would like to speak from my own experience as a student and a new volunteer at the museum. I believe my point of view is one that could stand for many of my fellow students.

I'm a full time student at UCR studying anthropology. I've been considering a career in archaeology but the requirements for most jobs are beyond what the schools in the area offer, including the prestigious UCR where I am a student. Most employers require a bachelor's degree and at least a year of experience working with archaeology or cultural resource management. That is hard to come by around here. I've looked. With a large student community in Riverside and the surround neighborhoods we find ourselves either competing for jobs, which is normal, volunteering at places like the Riverside Metropolitan Museum, working at a fast food restaurant, or without any job and not enough experience through education alone to get a job in our field which we dedicate 3 to 8 years pursuing.

For me, the Museum allows me as a student the chance to get some experience in my field, build connections with other professionals, and a chance to teach other people what we have been taught. We get large groups of kids visiting the nature lab and other parts of the museum and for some of them it is their first time seeing or even thinking about the animals, biomes, and peoples of the inland empire. To see the excitement in their eyes and knowing that they are inspired to learn more about the world around them is amazing, and in line with the what people expect from a museum. More personally, I am depending on the museum being open in the summer for me to graduate as I have already signed up for volunteering for enough UCR credits to allow me to graduate at the end of summer. I will be continuing to volunteer after my graduation as well.

My own personal problems aside, I would like to see more students be afforded the opportunity to gain professional experience in their field through the museum and other city programs. It can be life saving if more paid jobs were open for us. I've met many students who are close or have graduated and have no idea where their next paycheck will come from. I've seen the despair in their eyes and I've felt a fair bit of it myself. I'm not paid to be a volunteer at this museum but I know the value of at least starting somewhere.

That said, I know there is much to be improved on.

In my own experience, I have seen the utter disconnect between city services and administration and the needs of the museum. I applied to volunteer at the museum several months ago using the city application process and was excited to work for my city's museum and aid in whatever way I can. However I had not heard back from the city for months. Eventually it took me contacting one of the staff at the museum for the city to begin processing me.

I know there is a lot of work to be done with the collections. I and many other experienced and trained students are willing to help with that, either through paid positions, internships, community events, a simply volunteering as I do.

I understand that this city is facing financial issues. To me it feels as if the city council does not have a vested interest in the museum and rather see it such down for an indefinite period of time while it sorts out whatever other issues the city is facing. But taking this vital opportunity away from students like myself would be a disservice to the Riverside community. Whatever your vision for this museum, please keep students of all ages in mind.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Stephen Marts

June 14, 2017

To the Riverside Municipal Museum Board of Directors:


I write representing a team of scholars and researchers from California State University, San Bernardino. We are in the process of surveying and researching a Chinese railroad camp site on the San Bernardino National Forest in the vicinity of the Cajon Pass. This site was identified as a result of the recent fire and in the process of surveying historic sites associated with the Caltrans road realignment for Highway 138. A Chinese camp site was discovered. That site is now a research site associated with the graduate programs in Applied Archaeology, Social Science and Globalization, and History. It is most importantly being surveyed to determine a mitigation plan for Caltrans and the San Bernardino National Forest.

Our first survey of the site was conducted Friday, June 9, 2017. Vital to this research is the collection at the Riverside Municipal Museum's archives from the Riverside Chinatown dig. We know based on preliminary research that the artifacts found in the Cajon Pass have similar characteristics to those found in Riverside. The research that will inform the way the San Bernardino National Forest directs Caltrans in its mitigation plan must be conducted in consultation with the collection held in the archives at RMM. Without access to these artifacts, research will be stalled, will be incomplete, and any reports completed will knowingly be partial. Access to the archives at RMM over the next few months and the coming year is vital for several agencies work (Caltrans, San Bernardino National Forest, CSUSB) and for graduate student research for completion of a thesis and graduation requirements. This is but one example of a project underway that would be harmed without access to the RMM archives.

Please do not close the museum and archives without a clear plan for renovation to minimize the length of the closure. Neither the reaccreditation report from American Association of Museums nor the consultant report recommended closing the museum. Closing the museum and archives will harm local projects that rely on access to the archives, and will harm the city's reputation with funders, academic researchers and various government agencies.

Please include people with museum and archive experience in the region (not just in Riverside) on your community outreach efforts as we have information and experience that could be beneficial in substantive ways moving forward.

Sincerely,



Cherstin M. Lyon, Professor of History, CSUSB
Coordinator, Social Science and Globalization MA; Public Oral History Program

909.537.5524 • fax: 909.537.7645

5500 UNIVERSITY PARKWAY, SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407-2393

6-14-17
chuck
wilson
item 2
~~item 2~~

Response to "Need To Shutter The Museum..."

The Acting Museum Director has shared an abundance of verbiage relating to problems and concerns at the Riverside Metropolitan Museum. The report provides clear information on the process of selecting a new Director, as proposed by the museum consultants hired to evaluate the museum several months ago. If this process begins in mid-June, as suggested by the consultants, the new director should be selected by the first of November.

What the report fails to do is follow this good example by providing a time line for resolving any of the problems noted in either the consultants' evaluation or the suggestions of the AAM accreditation team report. In addition there is no connection made between the problems noted by the consultants and the AAM team and a closure of the building, much less one for a three year period.

The Acting Director calls for focus on the Harada House, completing a collections inventory, fixing internal systems and processes, initiating the search for director, and beginning planning for museum renovation and possible expansion. While all of these are lofty goals, NONE require a closure of the building. These are all program and administrative needs, not building renovation or construction. Indeed, even the planning for building changes is not suggested until a new director has been in place.

At some point there may well be the need to shut the museum for a period of time, but it should be linked to a specific project, not a pie in the sky number of years. This report finds it more convenient to focus on the negative than to provide a program for positive progress. Nobody denies there are problems, but simply reiterating them without presenting a program to fix them is a waste of time for all of us.

Let's assume all of the Acting Director's concerns are legitimate. If so, the following questions arise.

1. Has the collection survey, which was described in one of the reports as an "immediate" need, been started?
 - a. What inventory system has been selected
 - b. How much information will that system allow for input
 - c. How many staff and at what level will be/are involved in the inventory
2. What are the internal systems which need to be fixed?
 - a. Who will be responsible for the fix
 - b. How long will it take for the fix
 - c. What are the specific goals of the fix

One logical answer to these questions might be that they would be addressed by a new Director. However, this report does not state that would be the case.

Good afternoon, Museum Board members. My name is Rosalind Sagara, and I'm an historian and historic preservation consultant. I'm a co-founder and serve as the board chair of the Save Our Chinatown Committee, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve and share the history of Chinese Americans in Riverside, a mission that over the years has been shared by this institution as well. I have volunteered at this museum for several years, helping to launch the Day of Inclusion program, which will celebrate its seventh year in 2017. Today I am focusing my comments as an historian and historic preservation consultant who is greatly concerned over the potential closing of the museum and its impact on city planning and development projects.

Historic preservation plays a vital role in maintaining Riverside's character and identity. Protecting our city's cultural resources have been a part of the City's community planning, development, and permitting processes for some time now. A historic context statement is the foundation for decisions about the identification, evaluation and treatment of historic properties.

In 2016, I served as the project manager and lead historian for the Chinese Americans in Riverside Historic Context Statement, which was funded in part with federal dollars from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, through the California Office of Historic Preservation, as a result of a competitive Certified Local Government (CLG) grant awarded to the City. I coordinated this project with City staff, advisors, CSUSB Public & Oral History Program, Riverside Metropolitan Museum, students, and community members. The museum's archives and staff expertise were an invaluable component in the successful completion of the historic context statement. Under my supervision, a team of researchers consulted with the museum's archives and archivist Kevin Hallaran on numerous occasions. Meeting space was provided for group research meetings. Historic photographs from the museum's collections

were consulted during the research phase and were included in the final report. In addition, the project included two community-collecting events, where we asked community members to share their private collections and personal histories related to the project. One of the two collecting events was held at the museum. We gathered valuable new information at this event, which was included in the final report. Lastly, the project team held a culminating event at Heritage House in partnership with museum staff, where we highlighted report findings to a wide audience. The successful completion of the Chinese Americans in Riverside HCS benefitted greatly from its partnership with the RMM and would not have been as thorough had we not been able to consult with its valuable archive and staff.

The closure of the museum and its archives may put federal funding for similar projects at risk, including the recently submitted Latino Historic Context Statement that is pending review and award of \$40,000 and the recently awarded \$50,000 African American Civil Rights grant from the National Park Service in which RMM is a named partner. In addition to the impact the potential closure of RMM will have on historic preservation professionals, closing the RMM will undoubtedly put City planning staff at a disadvantage when processing development projects that include historic resources, and will make it more difficult, or impossible for the public and developers to make inquiries regarding local history and potential development projects.

I strongly urge you to consider all the impacts a potential closure of the RMM will have on the public, City staff, and business community, and to express your opinions to City staff and the City Council. I look forward to participating in continued dialogue on this matter. Thank you for your time.

~~July 7, 2017~~
June

Riverside Metropolitan Museum Board
3580 Mission Inn Avenue
Riverside, CA 92501

Dear Museum Board Chairman and Members,

You serve on the Board of an institution that approaches its Centenary. In seven years the Riverside Metropolitan Museum (RMM) will have reached its first 100. But a question to be answered is will the Museum be left in the 20th century or living its potential in the 21st? Are you willing to seize this critical moment and lead the RMM forward?

Change is a constant in our lives and if we don't use opportunities positively we will stagnate. This Museum is at a cross roads. The museum world has evolved in recent years. The RMM has not! There are multiple issues that need to change; some were addressed in the Reaccreditation Report while others were identified by the Museum Management Consultants Report.

The City through its commitment to their Museum in its FY17/18 budget is providing an opportunity to take the challenge and make the leap forward to rethink, revitalize and recreate a renovated/expanded Riverside Metropolitan Museum. I have worked at the RMM since 1993 and this level of City assistance has not happened before!

I support the Museum shuttering which is necessary for all this to happen. It is an opportunity to fix what needs fixing. It is time we had a Museum we can all be proud of!!!

The RMM can't be everything to everyone. But what it must do is be the BEST. A great City with a great Museum goes hand in hand. A supportive Museum Board which reaffirms the City Council's vision can help lead the Riverside Metropolitan Museum into the 21st century.

Sincerely,

Brenda Buller Focht, Ph. D., Museum Curator

cc: City Council
City Manager Russo

June 13, 2017

Alex Nguyen, Assistant City Manager/Acting Museum Director
City of Riverside
3900 Main St
Riverside, CA 92522

Dear Mr. Nguyen

My name is Nancy Wilkeson and I am writing you about your recommendation to shutter the Riverside Metropolitan Museum for 3 years. I have been a member of the RMA for the last 30 years and had planned to attend the June 14 RMM board meeting, but due to a last minute conflict I was unable to attend.

Based on my years as a volunteer, I do want to express my feelings regarding the proposed shuttering. But first I want to give you a brief outline of my career and volunteer experience. I retired in late 1987 after 26 years with Pacific Bell Telephone Company. The last 10 years before retiring I spent as a training manager. I specialized in training employees in customer service and motivation. After I retired I joined the RMA and became active as a Museum volunteer primarily at Heritage House to begin with. In addition to being a docent leading tours through Heritage House I was:

The founder of the Heritage House Teas
Tea Chairperson for 15 years
Docent Chairperson
A member of the Heritage Operations committee
At the main Museum I was:
RMA Vice President for 2 years
RMA President for 2 years.

Currently I serve on the RMA Trip Committee as Treasurer and help plan the RMA day trips.

When news articles first appeared in the Press Enterprise I was against the shuttering plan. However after reading the report from the AAM and your June 14, 2017 Museum Board Memorandum about the need to shutter the museum, I changed my mind.

Many of the concerns listed in the AMM report and your memorandum are not new. They were pointed out 14 years ago in 2002. While staff at that time assured AAM corrections would be made, no corrective actions have ever been taken.

The Museum needs to remain in the public eye during the shuttering period. One way to do this is to set up temporary displays in various high traffic public or city locations such as City Hall, the Library and the Convention Center. A previous city manager suggested

this in a meeting that I attended, about a dozen years ago, and a staff member got very upset, feeling that we could not properly insure the safety of the artifacts. What good are the artifacts if they are locked in the basement under a 105-year-old pipe and no one knows we have them? We need to start thinking about what we can do and not what we can't do. The primary purpose of the museum is to make our artifacts available for public viewing, not to protect them by hiding them from the public.

I am delighted that Heritage House will remain open. They have a hard working and dedicated group of volunteers that do an excellent job of welcoming visitors.

When the Museum does reopen, we need to be ready to welcome the public back and show them what has been accomplished during the shuttering period. The RMA can help with this if the Museum will allow us to start a docent program. The docents themselves can do the training themselves, like they do at Heritage House which is a very active and successful program. The museum had such a program several years ago until a museum staff person arbitrarily canceled the program.

I also believe the Museum, during the shuttering period, should set up an area for interactive exhibits. That is what most of the successful museums are doing.

In addition, I think the RMM Board and the RMA need to work together in the area of publicity and fundraising. Working together would also enhance RMA membership.

Sincerely,

Nancy Wilkeson, RMA member.



City of Arts & Innovation

**Public Comment for June 14, 2017
Metropolitan Museum Board Meeting
Prepared at 3 p.m. on June 14, 2017**

Item	Name	Neighborhood	Position	Comments
<p>2. Need to shutter the Museum for three years to reorganize, re-tool and re-train staff focus on the Harada House, begin full collections inventory, and plan and construct main building renovation and possible expansion.</p>	<p>Benjamin Jenkins</p>		<p>Oppose</p>	<p>As archivist and professor of history at a local university, I urge you to keep the archives open and maintain Kevin Hallaran as the archivist. Having used RMM, I can professionally testify that they are a priceless public resource. More, Kevin Hallaran is a wonderful public asset. When I interned at the Riverside Metropolitan Museum, I saw Kevin service researchers and members of the city council at public meetings. As a fellow archivist, I can say that Kevin Hallaran is the professional model to which all archivists aspire.</p> <p>Backlog is common at museums. Patrons often donate new collections, expanding the backlog. Carrying out other tasks minimizes archivists' ability to catalog unprocessed collections. Closing the museum to process collections will not permanently remove the backlog, but simply render the museum inaccessible to patrons. More importantly, terminating a professionally skilled archivist will complicate the museum's ability to professionally catalog its collections.</p>
<p>2. Need to shutter the Museum for three years to reorganize, re-tool and re-train staff focus on the Harada House, begin full collections inventory, and plan and construct main building renovation and possible expansion.</p>	<p>Carol McDoniel</p>		<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Closing the museum is unnecessary and will impede accreditation. None of the 60 recommendations from MMC, AAM & the assistant city manager report requires closure. 20 of the recommendations cannot be addressed without active programs. All recommendations can only be addressed with a qualified director. Focus needs to be on hiring a director to address the recommendations. No well-qualified director will want to lead a closed museum. If we want to attract talent we need a program that is operating. 15 weeks is not too long to take to hire a director.</p> <p>This closure is not recommended by a museum professional, but by an acting director with insufficient qualifications to assess programs and staffing.</p> <p>The statement that the report holds no fiscal impact and that impacts will be disclosed as they arrive is inadequate.</p> <p>Closing the museum is not necessary and will have long-term detrimental impact on the community. The board cannot accept this report nor forward it to council for approval.</p>



City of Arts & Innovation

**Public Comment for June 14, 2017
Metropolitan Museum Board Meeting
Prepared at 3 p.m. on June 14, 2017**

Item	Name	Neighborhood	Position	Comments
2. Need to shutter the Museum for three years to reorganize, re-tool and re-train staff focus on the Harada House, begin full collections inventory, and plan and construct main building renovation and possible expansion.	Frances Vasquez	Arlington South	Oppose	<p>We, the people want our Museum open to the public, at least until construction begins to mitigate substandard storage conditions. The Accreditation commission rightfully stated that "The solution lies with the political leadership." And, "On average, 30 percent of all museums are tabled at each commission meeting." RMM issues can be resolved without drastic measures proposed by management. The City needs to hire a museum professional to lead the inventory of collections and address issues identified by AAMA Commission. They lauded RMM core standards of excellence. The commission never recommend a 3-year closure.</p> <p>Shuttering the museum for such a long time deprives the community of a unique asset. Closing the archives and laying off the archivist sends a negative message about the City's priorities and interests. Page 8 of the AAMAC letter cited the City's error in making RMM use its endowment fund... and eroded donor confidence. Let us learn from history. Please, NO shuttering!</p>
2. Need to shutter the Museum for three years to reorganize, re-tool and re-train staff focus on the Harada House, begin full collections inventory, and plan and construct main building renovation and possible expansion.	Robin Whittington	Outside City Limits	Neutral	<p>I support a plan that keeps the Museum open at least several days a week. We know they are not going to be breaking ground in the next 90 days for renovation. So, without a clear, precise plan, why not stay visible to the public?</p> <p>I find disturbing report language that uses management problems as reasons to close the Museum. Reports not filed? Letters not written? Who was in charge? These are easy fixes and should not require closing. Retraining staff (stuck in silos)? How insulting. No one has pointed out that the way things have been structured and operated is not the fault of individuals but rather management decisions. We have a curatorial staff that has a long history of working miracles with little and would really blossom if given the opportunity to pursue ideas they have. When there is a blessed and delineated plan and direction, whether it is for exhibits, for events, or for the structure itself, all the Museum staff will be happy to be fully engaged.</p>
2. Need to shutter the Museum for three years to reorganize, re-tool and re-train staff focus on the Harada House, begin full collections inventory, and plan and construct main building renovation and possible expansion.	Katherine Wilson		Oppose	<p>I do not support the closing of the Museum in the near future to tackle the huge list of needs as identified in the Museum Board Memorandum because I don't see the necessity of it. I do see the necessity of scaling down certain Museum activities and possibly the hours open to the public. The damage done to the reputation of the Museum from a 2 or 3 year complete closure, and the lack of a communication plan to deal with this possible change will result in more harm than good. I don't think the "shuttering" process and its effects has been thought through. Also, as a volunteer for nearly 20 years and a freelance contractor, I feel slighted that the longtime support group, the RMA, has not been brought into the formal discussion. Also, these proposed moves will jeopardize the ability to save the Harada House, which could become a nationally recognized feature for the city if the public understands its value and the City supports the process.</p>

From: thanley@charter.net [mailto:thanley@charter.net]

Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2017 12:03 PM

To: Soubirous, Mike

Cc: 2Mayor; Gardner, Mike; Melendrez, Andy; Conder, Chuck; MacArthur, Chris; jperry@rivresideca.gov; Burnard, John; Russo, John A.; Nguyen, Alexander

Subject: [External] Riverside Metropolitan Museum

Dear Mayor Bailey, Councilman Soubirous, Councilman Gardner, Councilman Melendrez, Councilman Conder, Councilman MacArthur, Councilman Perry, Councilman Burnard, City Manager Russo and Assistant City Manager Nguyen,

I am a long-time Riverside resident who has worked in museums for 30-some years including many years of professional service in various programs related to museum standards and best practices. Please find attached my letter to my representative, Councilman Soubirous outlining my opposition to the proposal to close the Riverside Metropolitan Museum.

By way of background, I have never been employed by the RMM. In the 1990s, while I was director of the Museum of History and Art in Ontario, the RMM and Ontario museum collaborated on a quilt exhibit – a finite partnership which lasted perhaps a year in total. In recent years, I joined the Riverside Museum Associates. Last summer, I re-engaged with the Frank Miller Hutchings Archive doing research on the Mission Inn, with which I have been long associated as a staff member of the Mission Inn Foundation in the 1980s and now nearing the end of a ten-year tenure on the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

The bulk of my comments on RMM operations are drawn directly from the AAM Accreditation report. From my years of AAM Continuum of Excellence work, I know Accreditation visitors and commission members to be dedicated professionals whose sole interest is the advancement of our profession. I respectfully ask that you consider my perspectives of the Accreditation report in that light.

But, I must also stress to you that, though my attached comments are grounded in my years of museum work, my overwhelming interest in this matter is as a citizen of Riverside. That a proposal of this magnitude could get to this point without substantial user, stakeholder and community involvement is appalling. It is inconsistent with my experience of robust citizen involvement in Riverside – a key component of why I chose to continue living here and raised a child here.

Thank you for taking the time to read the letter (I know it's a bit long).

Sincerely,

Theresa Hanley (Ward 3 resident)

June 28, 2017

Councilman Mike Soubirous
Ward 3
City of Riverside

RE: Riverside Metropolitan Museum

Dear Councilman Soubirous:

My name is Theresa Hanley and I have been a Riverside resident for over 30 years and lived in Ward 3 for over 20 years. I write to you to urge your opposition to the proposal being circulated by the City Manager to close the Riverside Metropolitan Museum. I have reviewed the proposal submitted to the Museum Board, the AAM Accreditation report and the MMC consultant report. I spoke at the Museum Board in opposition of the proposal on June 14 and I plan to attend the City Council meeting on July 11 when the plan is to be presented to the Council to urge that the Council reject this unnecessary and radical proposal.

I briefly introduced myself to you a few years ago at a meeting of the Save Our Chinatown committee, but since we don't know each other beyond that, please allow me to say a few words about my experience regarding museum standards and best practices. I have an advanced degree from UCR from its Program in Historic Resources Management. In the mid-late 1980s, I worked as Curator of the Mission Inn Foundation and, in 1990 took the job of Museum Director for the City of Ontario where I served for 23 years until retiring in late 2013. I continue to work in the museum field and remain active in professional activities. I have worked in professional standards and best practices throughout my career – serving for nearly 20 years as a peer reviewer for two federal granting agencies, as a participant in two elements of the American Alliance of Museums Continuum of Excellence (which culminates with Accreditation) -- as an AAM Museum Assessment surveyor and as a member of the national group of museum professionals who developed the Standards and Excellence Program (Steps) administered by the American Association for State and Local History.

Please, I urge you to take a moment to understand the nature of the AAM Accreditation program. It is a voluntary program encompassing less than 5% of the nation's museums. Yes, that's right – less than 5%. Accreditation is an extremely high bar. The characterization of our Riverside Metropolitan Museum as 'failing' is FALSE. The museum is actually operating very near the extremely high bar of Accreditation and as such can be considered among the nation's most elite institutions. I agree that almost all the issues raised by the Accreditation report are valid. For veteran museum professionals, however, few of these issues are surprising – most are faced by many museums across the nation. A close look at the Accreditation report reveals that what is needed for re-Accreditation are not immediate critical fixes, but rather rational plans for addressing on-going, systemic issues. The Accreditation Report DOES NOT CALL FOR CLOSING the museum.

If you have not personally reviewed the Accreditation report, I urge you to do so immediately. In contrast to a recently circulated anonymous email making malicious accusations about the museum staff, the Accreditation report includes numerous acknowledgements that, in fact, the museum staff heroically faces its challenges on a day to day basis. I draw your attention specifically to page 5 under Exemplary Practices: "The general standard of collections care evidenced in the various facilities is very

good and exceeds those typically found in museums of the RMM's size. Staff are well versed in collections care, know the shortcomings of current practices and procedures and are addressing them as they have funding and staffing." Also from that section: "The staff are to be commended for their efforts to preserve and safeguard the Harada House, using whatever resources have been available. Acquisition of the adjacent Robinson house is an important part of the Harada story."

Re-accreditation was TABLED – not denied. The report clearly indicates that this happens in 30% of reaccreditation cases. As an example of the rational plan for improvement sought by the Accreditation report, I understand that a structural assessment of the Harada House is in the works as is establishing a non-profit support group. Similarly, the decision to separate the Museum Director's duties from the larger cultural affairs responsibilities is a rational plan for improvement. Closing the museum, however, is not a rational plan. Rather, it is presented as some kind of last chance panacea with no details about how it will address the issues raised. Further, closing will hinder several items needing attention. I repeat: the Accreditation report DOES NOT CALL FOR CLOSING THE MUSEUM.

I further draw your attention to the elements of the Accreditation report which carefully, but clearly, indicate that the museum's challenges lie, not with unprofessional staff, but with broader city leadership particularly chronic underfunding and insufficient political support. The report details bad decisions made by previous imperial city management (an unwanted traveling exhibit forced on the museum, the consequent and unwise use of the museum's endowment fund to take the financial hit for that decision, the ramifications of such actions in regard to generating broader community support). As a neighbor of mine commented, 'everyone knows the museum is a step-child.' This chronic situation was compounded by the effects of the economic downturn (including the fragmentation of departmental leadership across other cultural facilities). Yet, as the Accreditation report details, the museum staff have consistently bounced back from these misadventures to maintain a high level of routine collections care, nurture community-based partnerships resulting in outstanding public programming such as the "Cahuilla Continuum" and "Rising Above" exhibits and the continuing good work of the Multi-Cultural Council. These are accomplishments to admire and celebrate. They are indications of a dedicated, hard-working, experienced and professional staff. Is it any wonder that, as noted in the Accreditation report – the staff are nearing burn-out, when they are doing great work but are constantly faced with bombshells like this closure proposal?

I also find it interesting that an outside consultant report was needed to bolster the unwarranted notion that the museum is failing. This is unfortunate in that \$50,000 goes a long way in museums and could have made some material improvements in the issues raised in the Accreditation report. Nevertheless, what's done is done, MMC is a respected, long-time member of the broader museum community, and I would call your attention to Recommendations 1 and 2 of its report outlining the path forward – again NOT CLOSURE – but the hiring of a professional Museum Director followed by a truly community-based strategic planning process to determine priorities and engender community support for a strengthened institution.

Among the things I treasure about Riverside is our tradition of robust citizen involvement. Yet, this tradition is also apparently now suspect, as I have learned from other community leaders who have heard some of us who spoke in opposition to the closure plan at the Museum Board meeting belittled as 'just interested professionals, not the community.' I'd sure like to know why interested professionals, knowledgeable about museum work and citizen-scholars who make consistent use of the museum's

archives and other resources are somehow not part of the community -- unless the only community one is interested in is those who agree with this proposal.

Please, I urge you to look deeper at the actual information in the Accreditation report, pay special attention to the first two recommendations of the MMC report and, most importantly, honor our own Riverside traditions of committed citizen participation. Reject this intellectually sole-sourced notion that the museum is failing and must be closed. Instead, embrace a broader community-based process to plan the way forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my position on this issue with you. I would be happy to answer any questions you have or to discuss this further. I can be reached at my email, thanley@charter.net or by phone at 951-217-4795.

Yours sincerely,

Theresa Hanley

Theresa Hanley

Cc: Rusty Bailey, Mayor
Mike Gardner, Councilman, Ward 1
Andy Melendrez, Councilman, Ward 2
Chuck Conder, Councilman, Ward 4
Chris MacArthur, Councilman, Ward 5
Jim Perry, Councilman, Ward 6
John Burnard, Councilman, Ward 7

John Russo, City Manager
Alex Nguyen, Assistant City Manager