



City of Arts & Innovation

Metropolitan Museum Board

TO: METROPOLITAN MUSEUM BOARD **DATE: NOVEMBER 30, 2017**

FROM: MUSEUM & CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: LOAN OF TLATILCO OBJECTS FROM THE RIVERSIDE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM COLLECTION TO THE RIVERSIDE ART MUSEUM FOR THE RIVERSIDE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM 2018 EXHIBITION "UNCOVERING ANCIENT MEXICO: THE MYSTERY OF TLATILCO" EXHIBITION AT THE RIVERSIDE ART MUSEUM.

ISSUE:

Loan of Tlatilco objects from the Riverside Metropolitan Museum (RMM) collection to the Riverside Art Museum (RAM) for the Riverside Metropolitan Museum 2018 exhibition "Uncovering Ancient Mexico: The Mystery of Tlatilco" exhibition.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board receive and file this report on the loan of Tlatilco objects from the RMM collection to RAM for the RMM 2018 exhibition "Uncovering Ancient Mexico: The Mystery of Tlatilco" exhibition at the Riverside Art Museum.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015 a RMM intern, who was working in the Museum's Anthropology collection, noticed some unusual ceramic sculptures. Upon research these objects were identified as belonging to a people, who had lived 3000 years ago along the bank of a lake in the Valley of Mexico. These people were known as Tlatilco, which translates to "where things are hidden". Objects from these people had been sold in Mexico City markets for many years. However, where they had been found was not initially known until the 1920s-1930s. During this period Mexico City urbanization spread into the area where the archaeological site of Tlatilco is located.

The RMM's Tlatilco collection came from the bequest of Christopher L. Moser, Ph. D. a former RMM Curator of Anthropology. Moser had conducted his doctoral fieldwork in Oaxaca, Mexico in the 1960s. During this time he had visited the markets in Mexico City and purchased objects from vendors during his visits. Some of these objects had come from "Tlatilco".

At the November 8, 2017 Museum Collections Committee approved the out- going loan of objects from RMM to be on display in the Riverside Metropolitan Museum 2018 exhibition "Uncovering Ancient Mexico: The Mystery of Tlatilco" at the Riverside Art Museum.

The Museum's Collections Management Policy (2015) states on page 14, Out-Going Loan: The request for loans from the permanent collection must be made in writing and approved by the Collections Committee and the Metropolitan Museum Board. Page 15 states, the loaned Museum object/ specimen from the permanent or teaching collections may not be used for any commercial purpose whatsoever without specific written permission and approval from the Collections Committee and Metropolitan Museum Board.

DISCUSSION:

This 2018 Riverside Metropolitan Museum "Uncovering Ancient Mexico: The Mystery of Tlatilco" exhibition at Riverside Art Museum exhibition provides the Riverside Metropolitan Museum with an opportunity to feature its collection during the shuttering of the Museum. This exhibition shares the RMM's Mexican archaeology collection with the community and honors the City of Riverside's Mexican-American residents who claim this ancient heritage.

Per RMM Collections Management Policy, the following items are necessary to provide the loan:
RMM responsibilities:

1. Collections Committee: Loan request decision (approved 11/8/17)
2. Museum Board approval – (pending 11/30/17)
3. Prepare Outgoing Loan form
4. Prepare ARGUS Museum database report for each object
5. Prepare Condition Form for each object
6. Outgoing Loan Form -signatures
7. Update ARGUS Museum database records
8. Pack objects
9. Transport objects
10. Pack objects
11. Return objects
12. Complete return Condition Report
13. Return to collections
14. Update ARGUS Museum database records

RAM responsibilities:

1. General Facility Report: received; updated report pending
2. Insurance

"Objects shall be insured at the borrower's expense for the value stated on the loan agreement under an all-risk wall-to-wall policy subject to the following standard exclusions: wear and tear, insects, vermin, gradual deterioration or inherent vice; repairing, restoration or retouching processes; hostile or warlike action, insurrection, or rebellion; nuclear reaction, nuclear radiation or radioactive contamination. The Museum shall determine whether the borrower insures the objects or whether the Museum insures them and bills the borrower for the premium. If the borrower is insuring the objects, the Museum must be furnished with a certificate of insurance or a copy of the policy made out in favor of the RMM prior to shipment of the loan. The Museum must be notified in writing at least 30 days prior to any cancellation or meaningful change in the borrower's policy. Any lapses in coverage, any failure to secure insurance and/or inaction by the Museum will not release the borrower from liability for loss or damage." (Collections Management Policy, 2015 pp.15-16)

Certificate of Insurance to be issued by RAM to RMM for \$18,160

3. Restrictions for Loan:

Loans may not be used for commercial purposes

Loans may not be altered

Loans may not be transferred to other institutions

4. Loan fee: None
5. Loan Time period: 1/28/18 - 6/6/18
Exhibition period: 2/2/18 – 5/31/18
6. Outgoing Loan Form – return signature

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no General Fund fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Dr. Brenda Focht, Museum Curator
Approved by: Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager/Acting Museum & Cultural
Affairs Director

Attachments: ARGUS records