



City Council Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: JANUARY 28, 2014
FROM: RIVERSIDE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM WARD: 1
SUBJECT: ROBINSON HOUSE PURCHASE - SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION

ISSUE:

The issue before the City Council is to authorize the transfer of funds that were gifted towards the purchase of and improvements to the Robinson House at 3342 Lemon Street.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council authorize an appropriation in the amount of \$150,000 to the Museum expenditure Account No. 5300000-450040 to be transferred from the Museum Trust Fund Account No. 0000721-225468.

BACKGROUND:

On August 27, 2013, the City Council approved the purchase of the Robinson House located at 3342 Lemon Street with the understanding that the purchase would be paid for through fundraising efforts. The Robinson House is next door to the National Historic Landmark (NHL) Harada House and played a significant role in the story of the Harada family and their struggles to achieve the American dream. Because of the significance to the Harada story and the proximity to the NHL, the Robinson House will be used to create an interpretative center for the NHL Harada House.

Over the past several months, the Museum Department has been raising funds to purchase the Robinson House. Through the generosity of the citizens of Riverside, both individually and as groups, and through the collaboration with the Riverside Museum Associates who are utilizing an online crowd funding site, the Museum has commitments totaling \$150,000. Ten individuals/organizations committed a minimum of \$10,000 to be recognized as Founders of the future interpretative center. The balance of the money needed to close escrow was raised through donations as large as \$5,000 and as small as \$5.00. With the initial \$150,000 committed to purchase the Robinson House, fundraising is ongoing to improve the property and prepare for the interpretive center.

The Harada House site and story embodies local, state, national and international issues of civil and individual rights, democracy, immigration, assimilation, racial prejudice and citizenship. The Robinson House as the interpretive center, combined with the ongoing preservation of the NHL Harada House, will ensure that the story of the Harada family and its significance be shared for generations to come.

The City Charter requires all City funds, including private donations, be deposited into the City

Treasury and appropriated into an expenditure account when a department is ready to expend the funds.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total appropriation is \$150,000, including the final close of escrow payment in the amount of \$146,372.35. The remaining funds will be used towards improvements to the Robinson House. Sufficient funds are available in the Museum Trust Fund Account No. 0000721-225468.

Prepared by:	Sarah Mundy, Director of Museum and Cultural Affairs
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