



Riverside Metropolitan Museum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: METROPOLITAN MUSEUM BOARD **DATE: MARCH 14, 2018**

FROM: MUSEUM DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: DIRECTOR'S REPORT REGARDING STAFFING UPDATES, COLLECTIONS, EXHIBITIONS AND PROGRAMS, FACILITIES, AND MAIN MUSEUM RENNOVATION

ISSUE

Receive and file the Director's report regarding staffing updates, collections, exhibitions and programs, facilities, and main museum renovations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Museum Board receive and file the Director's report regarding staffing updates, collections, exhibitions and programs, facilities, and main museum renovation.

DISCUSSION

Staffing Update

Lynn Voorheis, longtime Museum Curator in charge of historic structures, has retired as of February 26, 2018. The process to refill the position will begin immediately. Refinements to job descriptions for vacant positions are also under review, and hirings will be phased to align with the demands of the museum renovation project.

Collections

Progress continues on relocating the Museum's permanent collections from the downtown site to secure offsite locations, with completion still projected for late spring. Staff are further preparing for the eventual need to vacate the downtown site prior to renovation by sorting decades' worth of furniture, equipment, exhibitry, and other non-collections items. The goal is to streamline the transition period when offices must be moved and materials stored.

Exhibitions and Programs

The Mesoamerican exhibition *Uncovering Ancient Mexico: The Mystery of Tlatilco* opened successfully on February 2, 2018, with a reception at the Riverside Art Museum. Three other exhibitions opened that evening at RAM, and objects on loan from the Museum's collections were featured in *Wendy Maruyama: E.O. 9066*. With approximately 300 people in attendance, the opening was reportedly the best attended in either the RMM's or RAM's history. *Uncovering Ancient Mexico* is accompanied by a catalog authored by guest curator and UCR graduate student

Catharina E. Santasilia. Ms. Santasilia coordinated a successful symposium, which was held shortly after the opening.

Staff is reviewing all off-site loans from the collections with an eye to: 1) bring selected loans back to the museum to limit the exhibition of permanent collection objects to museums or museum-like sites that can meet both environmental and security standards; and 2) conceptualize a series of pop-up exhibitions for non-museum settings that do not include permanent collection objects.

Facilities

Staff is developing interim coverage schedules and refining maintenance documents for the Heritage House to cover the time between the present and when a new Curator of Historic Structures is in place and fully oriented.

The engineer's exterior assessment of the Harada House is complete. The degree to which further assessment is necessary and will be done is under discussion. A proposal for rehabilitation of the Robinson House is before the Board at this meeting.

Main Museum Renovation

Staff continues to gather information as part of a pre-planning stage, including: 1) reference material about successful museum renovations involving historic structures from around the world; 2) defining the Riverside Metropolitan Museum's functional needs for the downtown site; 3) developing equipment lists; and 4) envisioning potential exhibitions and programs. Community interviews and discussions continue.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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