



City of Arts & Innovation

# Metropolitan Museum Board

**TO: METROPOLITAN MUSEUM BOARD**

**DATE: APRIL 11, 2018**

**FROM: COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF THE LOAN OF SEVEN BASKETS MADE BY RINCON BASKET MAKERS FROM THE RIVERSIDE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM'S (RMM'S) LUISEÑO BASKET COLLECTION TO THE RINCON BAND OF LUISEÑO INDIANS FOR EXHIBITION AT THE RINCON TRIBAL GALLERY.**

## **ISSUE:**

To approve the loan of seven baskets made by Rincon basket makers from the Riverside Metropolitan Museum's (RMM's) Luiseño basket collection to the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians for exhibition at the Rincon tribal gallery.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Metropolitan Museum Board approve the loan of seven Rincon baskets from the Museum collection to the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians for exhibition at the Rincon Cultural Resources Center tribal hall.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The widow of Cornelius E. Rumsey founded the Cornelius E. Rumsey Indian Museum in 1924 with a donation of 600 American Indian objects. The Riverside Metropolitan Museum is the successor organization and now holds the Rumsey collection. Since the founding, other donations of American Indian objects have contributed to create a significant American Indian collection at the RMM. Among the RMM's estimated 3,000 baskets, seven baskets have the provenance of the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians. These Rincon baskets include five basket bowls, basket tray, and a burden basket.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Since its founding as the Cornelius E. Rumsey Indian Museum, the Riverside Metropolitan Museum has provided stewardship for a diverse collection of American Indian objects. Through exhibitions and publications this collection has reached Native and non-Native peoples.

Tribal outreach is an active practice of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), with whom the RMM is a formal affiliate. In 2014, the Riverside Metropolitan Museum received a loan from the National Museum of the American Indian of objects made by Cahuilla culture bearers for the Museum's 2014 *Cahuilla Continuum* exhibition. That NMAI loan united known descendants with the creations of their ancestors. This Riverside Metropolitan Museum loan continues this practice by bringing basketry of the Rincon people to members of the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians. The Rincon Band has provided all required

assurances regarding the care, environmental controls, and security of the objects recommended for loan; the borrower will—as is customary—cover any costs to pack, ship, and exhibit the loans. Loan dates will be specific to each artifact’s exhibit history but will not exceed six (6) months in duration. The loaned objects will be on exhibit at the Rincon Cultural Resources Center tribal hall exhibition gallery located at 1 West Tribal Road, Valley Center, California.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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