



Riverside Metropolitan Museum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: METROPOLITAN MUSEUM BOARD **DATE: APRIL 11, 2018**

FROM: MUSEUM DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: DIRECTOR'S UPDATE REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES, STAFFING, COLLECTIONS MOVE, EXHIBITIONS AND PROGRAMS, FACILITIES, MAIN MUSEUM RENOVATION, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ISSUE

Receive and file Director's report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Receive and file Director's report.

DISCUSSION

Administrative issues

The final response to the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) in support of the Museum's bid to achieve re-accreditation has been submitted in advance of the AAM's April deadline. The Museum's submission to AAM is included as an attachment to this report. AAM's final decision is expected in late July.

Staffing

In the wake of Lynn Voorheis's retirement in February, the position of Curator of Historic Structures has been listed nationally. A hire in late spring or early summer is anticipated.

Collections

The relocation of the Museum's permanent collections from the downtown site to the secure offsite locations continues; it includes obtaining compact storage units to increase capacity. In conjunction with local events, national holidays, or under other impetus, staff are identifying collection objects to highlight through social media in order to maintain public awareness of the collections during the closure.

Refinement of scope of responsibilities of the staff-level Collections Committee is under way, a prelude to upgrading the collections management policies and standards of care.

Exhibitions and Programs

In conjunction with the Mesoamerican exhibition *Uncovering Ancient Mexico: The Mystery of Tlatilco*, an RMM exhibition on view at the Riverside Art Museum, UC-Riverside prepared 3D

scans of many objects. The Museum is currently working with UCR to make these 3D files available through links on the Museum's website. It will be a good "test run" of a technology that is increasingly important for museums, which typically have far more objects in storage than gallery space to exhibit them.

Facilities

The effort to generate financial support for the restoration of Harada House took a step forward with the formal establishment of the Harada House Foundation as an independent 501(c)(3) focused on raising capital funding. Museum staff members are eager for a strong collaborative relationship and are assisting in the preparation of fundraising presentation materials.

Main Museum Renovation

The process of refining functional requirements for the reinvented museum continues. We anticipate issuing an RFQ for a museum architect in April or May. The downtown site is gradually being cleared of non-collections surplus furniture and equipment, and staff are investigating temporary office locations and temporary storage for equipment that will be redeployed when the Museum reopens.

Meetings with individuals, neighborhood groups, and other cause-related groups continue, with an eye to ascertaining the city's programming desires and expectations. Staff are eager to advance to the point of being able to respond to public inquiries regarding the projected re-opening date.

Community Engagement

The Museum Director participated in a two-day retreat for the Arts & Cultural Affairs division of the department of Community and Economic Development. It was a productive event and honed understanding of the Museum's actual and potential role in citywide cultural initiatives.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by:	Robyn G. Peterson, Ph.D., Museum Director
Certified as to	
availability of funds:	Adam Raymond, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer
Approved by:	Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form:	Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment:	Report American Alliance of Museums
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