



City of Arts & Innovation

Museum Board Memorandum

TO: METROPOLITAN MUSEUM BOARD **DATE: MAY 9, 2018**

FROM: COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: ACCESSION OF 2014 COMMISSIONED PAINTING *NÚKAT (CAHUILLA CREATION)* BY CAHUILLA ARTIST MANUEL MONGUIA INTO THE PERMANENT COLLECTION.

ISSUE:

Approve the accession of a 2014 commissioned painting, *Núkat (Cahuilla Creation)* by Cahuilla artist Manuel Monguia, into the permanent collection of the Riverside Metropolitan Museum.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Metropolitan Museum Board recommend to City Council the accession of a 2014 commissioned painting, *Núkat (Cahuilla Creation)* by Cahuilla artist Manuel Monguia, into the permanent collection of the Riverside Metropolitan Museum.

BACKGROUND:

For the 2014 Riverside Metropolitan Museum (Museum) exhibition *Cahuilla Continuum: Túku, Ívax, Túleka*, Cahuilla artist Manuel Monguia painted Cahuilla objects and/or themes on backgrounds in the exhibition cases. Manuel Monguia also painted a commissioned canvas *Núkat*, which hung in the exhibition.



DISCUSSION:

Artist Manuel Monguia is a contemporary Cahuilla tribal member, and his *Núkat* painting portrays the Cahuilla creation story. The exhibition *Cahuilla Continuum: Túku, Ívax, Túleka* has closed, and staff recommends accessioning this contemporary painting into the permanent collection, as it will complement and enrich the historic Cahuilla collections.

The Cahuilla are one of the Native American tribes most closely associated with the geographic area where Riverside is located. Cahuilla artifacts and cultural objects are directly relevant to the Museum's mission "to collect, preserve, explore, and interpret the cultural and natural history of Riverside and its region." This painting supports a goal to collect material culture up to and including the present rather than limiting collections to distant history. The Riverside Museum Associates' 2014 Cahuilla Art Acquisitions Fund funded the purchase price of the painting. The Riverside Museum Associates is a 501(c)(3) support group for the Museum.

Accessioning is not synonymous with assuming ownership or acquisition. Accessioning is the process whereby an object formally enters the permanent collection of a museum. The process includes creating a permanent record, assigning a unique number, and initiating a permanent file of relevant research and supporting information. Accessioning occurs after securing title and obtaining approvals from governing bodies. Recommendations for accession are reserved for objects that a museum considers to be of high historic, scientific, cultural, and/or artistic value, and that it intends to hold in perpetuity for its mission-based purposes.

The accession approval process is initiated with a recommendation by the Museum's staff-level Collections Committee to the Metropolitan Museum Board (Board). The Collections Committee unanimously approved the recommendation at its meeting on March 14, 2018. The Board then forwards a recommendation to the City Council to accession the object. After City Council approval, the object is accessioned into the Museum's permanent collection.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by:	Brenda Buller Focht, Ph.D., Museum Curator
Submitted by:	Robyn G. Peterson, Ph.D., Museum Director
Approved by:	Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager