



City of Arts & Innovation

Museum Board Memorandum

TO: METROPOLITAN MUSEUM BOARD **DATE: JUNE 13, 2018**

FROM: MUSEUM DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: STRUCTURAL FOCUS STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING ASSESSMENT REPORT ON HARADA HOUSE

ISSUE

Receive and file the Structural Engineering Assessment Report.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file the attached Structural Engineering Assessment Report on the Harada House.

BACKGROUND

In 2000, the Riverside Metropolitan Museum took possession of Harada House at 3356 Lemon Street in Riverside. The house is an artifact of unusual historic significance, associated with the 1916-1918 civil rights case *California v. Harada*, which was the object of the first test of the constitutionality of an alien land law in the United States. The case affirmed the right of native-born citizens of immigrant parentage to own land and reinforced the constitutional guarantees of American citizenship.

The house is in a severely deteriorated condition, and while surveys and recommendations have been made in the past, financial resources for restoration have not been available to date. A refocus of attention on Harada House was prompted by Museum Management Consultants during their institutional assessment in 2016-2017 and simultaneously by field reviewers who visited the Museum in conjunction with the Museum's bid for reaccreditation.

The Museum contracted with Structural Focus, Gardena, California, an engineering firm that had prior knowledge of Harada House. With emphasis on the exterior of the house, their brief was to: 1) conduct a structural survey, which entailed removal of siding; 2) make temporary immediate repairs and install temporary stabilizing elements; 3) evaluate the pace of deterioration; and 4) make prioritized recommendations relevant to restoration. The work was conducted during the winter of 2017-2018. Upon discovering that the degree of deterioration exceeded expectation, Russell Kehl of Structural Focus proposed continuing the survey to investigate the interior structural elements. Based on the extent of deterioration discovered throughout the exterior, Museum Director Robyn G. Peterson requested that Structural Focus instead assume a worst-case scenario with regard to the interior, and produce their final report on that basis. The report was received on April 30, 2018.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Robyn G. Peterson, Ph.D., Museum Director
Approved by: Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager

Attachment: Structural Focus Report