

CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

March 15, 2017

The Cultural Heritage Board is tasked with oversight of the Cultural Resources Program and safeguarding Cultural Resources throughout the City. Specific Cultural Heritage Board responsibilities are outlined in the Riverside Municipal Code, Title 20. Generally, the Board is tasked with recommending designation of resources, surveying available resources, looking for funding for resources and assisting in conducting outreach to the community on the importance of Cultural Resources.

The Budget Engagement Commission, at its meeting of February 23, 2017, requested that the City Boards and Commissions present their top three to five priorities for Measure Z consideration at their next meeting, April 6, 2017. The Cultural Heritage Board met on March 15, 2017 and by unanimous vote (8 members present) made the following recommendations:

- 1) The Historic Preservation Fund: Provide \$500,000 to the Historic Preservation Fund which has been depleted and no additional funding sources have been identified. Providing funding to the Historic Preservation Fund will help fill the existing gap to make Riverside's Historic resources more resilient with ADA and seismic upgrades that are needed. Providing seed money to help with funding for the Historic Preservation Fund would support 20.10.020.A.10 of the Cultural Resources Ordinance Powers and Duties of the Board which states the Cultural Heritage Board shall: Seek means and resources to protect, retain and preserve cultural resources, such as suggesting legislation and seeking financial support from individuals and local, state and federal governments.
- 2) City Preservation Programs:
 - Historic Preservation Ambassadors program: Provide \$25,000 to fund public outreach through the conduction of the Historic Preservation Ambassador's Program for 3-5 years. This program was developed two years ago and is a historic preservation leadership program designed to help community members in historic districts work together to support cultural resources. Due to previous year's budget freezes and cuts there is no budget funding allotted for the conduction of the Historic Preservation Ambassadors program. Providing funding to help with conduction of the Historic Preservation Ambassadors Program would support 20.10.020.A.9 of the Cultural Resources Ordinance Powers and Duties of the Board which states the Cultural Heritage Board shall: Work for the continuing education of the citizens of Riverside about the heritage of the City and its cultural resources.
 - Comprehensive Community Engagement plan for the Historic Preservation program: Provide \$100,000 for a comprehensive citywide community engagement plan to improve the perception, awareness, support and resources available to historic property owners Citywide. Code enforcement cases where owners claim no knowledge of historic district status, no awareness of the design guidelines or a general lack of understanding of the obligations of historic property owners continue to plague the intent of the Historic Preservation Program. In order to change this paradigm a comprehensive community engagement plan should be developed to support 20.10.020.A.14 of the Cultural Resources Ordinance Powers and Duties of the Board which states the Cultural Heritage Board shall: Encourage public participation in the Cultural Resources program to identify and inventory significant cultural resources in the City.

- Designation of Resources on the National Register: Provide \$10,000 to fund 4-5 National Register nominations of Riverside's Cultural Resources. This program will help elevate Riverside's presence on a national scale and increase federal funding for cultural resources in California. There have been no new National Register resources added in Riverside for over a decade and only one application has been submitted in the last year to the Keeper. The majority of our national register resources (around a dozen) are from the 1980s. National Register applications require expertise to prepare in order to ensure success, and many owners do not pursue because of the cost to prepare the application. National Register designation requires owner consent. Providing funding to help with designation applications for Riverside resources would support 20.10.020.B.3 of the Cultural Resources Ordinance Powers and Duties of the Board which states the Cultural Heritage Board may: Nominate eligible City-owned cultural resources to the National Register of Historic Places, and encourage, advise, and guide persons in nominating cultural resources to the National Register of Historic Places
- 3) Complete Trujillo Adobe Reconstruction. Provide \$2-3 million in funding to support a comprehensive reconstruction for the Trujillo Adobe to facilitate being open to the public. The Trujillo Adobe is the oldest surviving building remnant in Riverside and is listed as a County Landmark and recently named by City Council as a City Landmark because of its significance. A comprehensive reconstruction of the adobe that is compliant with the Secretary of Interior Standards for historic properties is needed to facilitate being open to the public. Providing money to help with funding for the restoration of the Trujillo Adobe would support 20.10.020.A.10 of the Cultural Resources Ordinance Powers and Duties of the Board which states the Cultural Heritage Board shall: Seek means and resources to protect, retain and preserve cultural resources, such as suggesting legislation and seeking financial support from individuals and local, state and federal governments.
 - 4) Comprehensive General Plan Update with Historic Preservation Element. The Cultural Heritage Board went on record in support of the Planning Commission's recommendation to provide \$4 million in funding for the preparation a comprehensive update to the City's General Plan, Specific Plans and Zoning Code, which includes the Historic Preservation Element, a policy level document guiding the City's goals for Historic Preservation citywide. This investment will provide the policy framework and streamlined regulatory tools to guide and facilitate development, and ensure the quality of life for Riverside residents, for the next 20 years. Providing funding to help with comprehensive update of the General Plan, including the Historic Preservation Element, would support 20.10.020.A.9 of the Cultural Resources Ordinance Powers and Duties of the Board which states the Cultural Heritage Board shall: Work for the continuing education of the citizens of Riverside about the heritage of the City and its cultural resources.
 - 5) Comprehensive Harada House Rehabilitation. The Cultural Heritage Board went on record in support of the Metropolitan Museum Board's recommendation to provide \$3.5 million in funding to support a comprehensive rehabilitation for the Harada House that is compliant with the Secretary of Interior Standards for historic properties to facilitate being open to the public. The Harada House is the only other National Historic Landmark in Riverside besides the Mission Inn and is an asset that is largely unknown to Riverside residents. Providing money to help with funding for the comprehensive rehabilitation of the Harada House would support 20.10.020.A.10 of the Cultural Resources Ordinance Powers and Duties of the Board which states the Cultural Heritage Board shall: Seek

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