



City of Arts & Innovation

Museum Board Memorandum

TO: METROPOLITAN MUSEUM BOARD **DATE: DECEMBER 12, 2018**

FROM: MUSEUM DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: DIRECTOR'S UPDATE REGARDING ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET, STRATEGIC PLANNING, STAFFING, COLLECTIONS, MAIN MUSEUM RENOVATION, EXHIBITIONS AND PROGRAMS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ISSUE:

Receive and file Director's Update regarding administration and budget, strategic planning, staffing, collections, main museum renovation, exhibitions and programs, and community engagement.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Metropolitan Museum Board receive and file Director's Update regarding administration and budget, strategic planning, staffing, collections, main museum renovation, exhibitions and programs, and community engagement.

DISCUSSION:

Administration and Budget

In light of the impending challenge presented by the CalPERS unfunded liability, the City is proactively taking steps to economize on expenses and develop new sources of revenue. As part of this effort, unspent general fund sums from Fiscal Year 2017/18 (carryovers) were considered in greater detail than in previous years. Carryover recommendations were presented to Council on December 11, 2018 with the Fourth Quarter Financial Report for FY 2017/18 for final decision. The carryover sum for the Museum Department for FY2017-2018 was \$286,849.

Strategic Planning

A draft of the Riverside Metropolitan Museum's Strategic Plan, revised for the years 2019-2020 through 2023-2024 has begun its internal staff review. Next steps will include review by other stakeholders, including senior City staff, members of the Riverside Museum Associates (RMA) and the Harada House Foundation (HHF). Relevant sections will also be discussed with the Museum Director's community advisory teams. The Museum continues on track for this final draft to be completed by the end of 2018.

Staffing

The Museum completed the interview process for a new Curator of Natural Science and expects to announce a new hire imminently.

Collections

The Museum was among several sites featured in a recent profile of the city of Riverside produced by C-SPAN for air in December 2018. Selections from the Cornelius Rumsey Native American artifact collection that founded the Museum were featured, as well as objects relating to the Harada story and elements of the Harada House. Harada House remains closed to the public.

Museum Department staff continue to make an extra effort to accommodate all archives and research requests during the closure and in spite of limited access to some collections.

The Museum has taken delivery of its first shipment of conservation-grade collection storage cabinetry. The herbarium will be the first to be transferred to these new units.

The Board and City Council recently formalized deaccessions in order to bring the Museum in compliance with federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) requirements. Staff are now scheduling the physical return of these artifacts and specimens to their respective tribal entities. Physical repatriation to the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians occurred on October 15, 2018. Repatriation to the Crow Tribe of Montana occurred on November 19, 2018, and others are scheduled for the winter of 2018-2019.

Main Museum Renovation

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for a renovation architect issued on August 30, 2018, resulted in seventeen (17) submittals, which exceeded expectation. The Museum and General Services departments extended the review schedule to give the review committee adequate time to examine the large group of submittals. Formalization of an agreement with the selected architect will not occur before 2019.

Exhibitions and Programs

The Museum is participating in First Sundays, using our front steps at the downtown site, as a way of maintaining an additional public programming presence. Programs from October through December related to *Uncovering Ancient Mexico: The Mystery of Tlatilco*. Attendance in October was 44 and spiked to 115 in November, indicating clear demand for programming. From January through May, natural science programs are scheduled.

December is also the month for the Day of Inclusion, a program coordinated by the Multi-Cultural Council of the Riverside Museum Associates (December 8), and Christmas Open House at Heritage House (December 9).

Community Engagement, Partnerships, and Collaborations

Meetings continue with the three community advisory teams. The program advisory team is assisting substantially in moving the Museum closer to decisions about the exhibitions that will reopen the main museum, the design team reviewed the architects' submittals, and the rebranding and marketing team awaits the City Marketing Department's initial rebranding concepts.

A new informal consortium of the city's cultural institution directors will hold its second meeting in January, but has in the meantime come together in support of collaborative citrus history programming under the leadership of the Mission Inn Museum.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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