



City of Arts & Innovation

Riverside Metropolitan Museum

TO: METROPOLITAN MUSEUM BOARD

DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2019

FROM: MUSEUM DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL DISSOLUTION OF THE AD HOC HARADA HOUSE PROJECT COMMITTEE AND RECONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE AS A STAFF-LEVEL WORKING COMMITTEE

ISSUES:

Consider a recommendation to dissolve the ad hoc Harada House Project Committee of the Metropolitan Museum Board and reconstitute it as a staff-level working committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Metropolitan Museum Board:

1. Dissolve its ad hoc Harada House Project Committee; and
2. Reconstitute the ad hoc Harada House Project Committee as a staff-level working committee.

BACKGROUND:

Since 2003, when the City of Riverside and Riverside Metropolitan Museum (RMM) formally accepted the gift of the National Historic Landmark Harada House from Harada family heirs, informal committees have been constituted to accomplish specific tasks. Examples of these tasks include meeting grant deliverables and completing structural interventions. These committees were formed and dissolved at the staff level on a case-by-case basis.

In an effort to amplify attention to Harada House, the Harada House Project Committee was established as an ad-hoc committee of the Metropolitan Museum Board (MMB) on August 11, 2015, chaired since inception by Board member Chuck Wilson. Other Board members currently serving include Todd Carpenter, Mary Hughes, and Rose Monge, as well as 20 other community members. The committee was originally established to have a maximum of 20 members, but it was approved on September 15, 2015 to expand this maximum number to 30 members.

The duties of this committee were defined at founding and include:

- Advising Museum staff on existing and future conservation / preservation, public engagement, and fundraising projects.
- Assisting the Museum to implement best practices for the multi-faceted stewardship of Harada House.
- Advising on essential and creative strategies for preserving and interpreting the NHL Harada House site and its collections.
- Assisting to ensure the financial sustainability of the site through proactive fundraising initiatives.

If the MMB approves this recommendation, it will no longer have any existing ad hoc committees. It will continue to have its two standing committees: Budget & Development Committee and Board Development Committee.

DISCUSSION:

An ad hoc committee is generally defined as one constituted for a specific, short-term purpose, that is, a purpose expected to be accomplished in less than a year. The Harada House Project Committee, having operated for 3.5 years, has long since reached the point when City management recommends that it should be 1) established as a standing committee of the MMB, with accompanying public notice requirements or 2) reconstituted on a different basis. Against its establishment as a standing committee is that it is theoretically possible that its purpose will expire in the future, once the site is rehabilitated and open to the public. At such a time, ongoing interpretive and programming recommendations would be subsumed within the RMM's program advisory team.

The committee in its current form discussed this issue, i.e., the basis on which it operates, at its October 5, 2018, meeting. At that time, committee members expressed a wish to preserve the committee's essentially advisory, exploratory, and informal character. It supports reconstitution as a staff-level working committee, similar to the staff-level Collections Committee. It is assumed that the committee's duties and membership will remain unchanged.

If the MMB approves this recommendation, the Museum Director will appoint Curator of Historic Structures Lisa Masengale to chair the committee and act as primary staff liaison with this important advisory group. Additionally, the MMB will no longer have any existing ad hoc committees. However, it will continue to have its two standing committees: Budget & Development Committee and Board Development Committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by:	Robyn G. Peterson, Ph.D., Museum Director
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