



leading to approval and execution of the Phase I design contract. Initial planning meetings are anticipated in the spring.

### Staffing

The Museum looks forward to introducing Dr. Douglas J. Long, the Museum's new Curator of Natural History, scheduled to begin work mid-February. The next position to be filled is Collections Registrar, which required a revised position description; we anticipate posting it as soon as City Council approves the title change.

During the closure of the downtown site, staff continue to be occupied intensively with relocating the collections, managing increasingly tightly packed offsite storage spaces, clearing the downtown site of non-collection furnishings, continuing to plan for the renovation, and developing a new approach to exhibitions and programs. All policies and systems are undergoing review and revision. Simultaneously, normal programming continues at Heritage House, education outreach opportunities are seized, and staff is supporting efforts to advance the rehabilitation of Harada House through the Harada House Foundation's nascent campaign.

Relocation of collections is a complex, staged process. For example, the process of repatriating a single artifact or specimen (in compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) requires as many as two dozen steps over many months or years. These steps include initial identifying research (which may include examination by an osteo-archaeologist), multiple tribal contacts, Board and City Council approvals to deaccession and repatriate, Federal Register listing, and scheduling of the physical transfer before ultimately ending in closing out the collection record. Staff have undertaken these steps for multiple artifacts and human remains from a dozen tribal entities.

### Collections and Collections Committee Activity

At today's meeting, the Board will be asked to approve a new suite of collections management policies, which has been thoroughly reviewed by the staff-level Collections Committee. Collections management policies are one of the five core documents required by the American Alliance of Museums and must be approved by the Museum's governing body. Work also continues on redrafting internal forms and procedures relating to collections management.

The Museum took delivery of the second of two shipments of conservation-grade collection storage cabinetry early in January. Collections currently in the process of being relocated to these cabinets include the herbarium, entomology, and historic firearms.

### Exhibitions and Programs

The Museum opened a small neighborhood exhibit at the Arlington branch of the Riverside Public Library on February 2, 2019. Note that this ties to a region-wide citrus-related cultural initiative under the leadership of the Mission Inn Museum, *Zest! A Citrus Collaborative*. Look for a map and calendar of events, slated to appear by April. The details of the Museum's own Citrus Heritage Day event on February 2, 2019, appear on the events page of the website: <https://riversideca.gov/museum/programsandevents.asp>

Attendance for *Uncovering Ancient Mexico: The Mystery of Tlatilco*, which closed on December 30, 2018, is projected to have been about 25,000 visitors. The exhibition reinforced the Museum's relationship with the Smithsonian and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), resulted in a fine education guide that will be a model for the future, and garnered much public praise. The Museum owes thanks to guest curator Catharina Santasilvia as well as Museum staff who had key roles in support of the exhibition, Dr. Brenda Focht, Danielle Leland,

and Teresa Woodard Belding. The Museum also thanks its crucial partner in this exhibition, the Riverside Art Museum.

December's Day of Inclusion, a program coordinated by the Multi-Cultural Council of the Riverside Museum Associates (RMA), saw attendance of about 150 visitors, and the RMA's Christmas Open House at Heritage House was particularly well attended with an estimated 2,500 visitors in the single day of the event.

Community Engagement

**Rebranding and Marketing advisory team:** With the architect now selected, this team is assisting in mapping out communications that will occur throughout the design process. Multiple opportunities for community input and direct engagement with the architect are anticipated.

**Program advisory team:** Selection of the architect triggers integration of planning for the reopening exhibitions. All of these exhibitions will be interdisciplinary, curated locally, and adhere closely to the mission of the museum.

**Design advisory team:** Staff offers sincere thanks for the considerable investment of time provided by the Design advisory team, which closely reviewed architects' submittals. Their expertise will remain important throughout the design process.

Marketing and Communications

The recent appearance of the Museum on nationwide television (*Mysteries at the Museum* in July 2018 and segments on C-SPAN in December 2018) helped the Museum stay in the public eye during the period of closure. Regular posts on Facebook and continuing events at Heritage House further remind the public that operations continue.

Board members are encouraged to sign up for the City's digital newsletters, including the Museum's own as well as others that pertain to the cultural community. Sign up at:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CARIVERSIDE/subscriber/new?preferences=true#tab1>

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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