

Museum Board Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: METROPOLITAN MUSEUM BOARD DATE: JULY 10, 2019

FROM: MUSEUM DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: DIRECTOR'S UPDATE REGARDING PLANNING, MAIN MUSEUM

RENOVATION AND EXPANSION, HISTORIC HOUSES, STAFFING, COLLECTIONS, EXHIBITIONS AND PROGRAMS, AND MARKETING AND

COMMUNICATIONS

<u>ISSUE:</u>

Receive and file the Director's Update regarding planning, main museum renovation and expansion, historic houses, staffing, collections, exhibitions and programs, and marketing and communications.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Metropolitan Museum Board receive and file the Director's Update regarding planning, main museum renovation and expansion, historic houses, staffing, collections, exhibitions and programs, and marketing and communications.

DISCUSSION:

Planning

On June 12, 2019, the Metropolitan Museum Board approved the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan for the Museum, which was informed by the City's Riverside 2.1 strategic plan. The City intends to update its strategic plan during the second half of 2019, and it has launched a process to update its General Plan as well. The current General Plan may be viewed on the City's website (https://riversideca.gov/planning/gp2025program/general-plan.asp). Several chapters are relevant to Museum operations, including but not limited to Education, Arts and Culture, and Historic Preservation. Community input will be solicited during the process.

Main Museum Renovation and Expansion

A productive initial planning meeting with the Museum's architect, Pfeiffer Partners, took place on June 3, 2019. The process should proceed toward schematic designs this fall, with opportunities for public input to be included in the planning schedule which will be announced shortly.

Historic Houses

In spite of rain in the morning, Ice Cream Social—an afternoon event—went well. An estimated 1,200 patrons attended. Enthusiasm runs high for expanding educational offerings and event features at all of the Museum's events in the coming fiscal year.

A list of tasks relating to the stewardship of Heritage House has been ranked by urgency and project cost, to help determine which of the tasks the staff can advance in FY2019-2020. Volunteer assistance can be useful for several of these projects. The City's Human Resources Department is launching "Get Connected" (volunteer program management software), which will streamline the recruitment of volunteers for Heritage House and Museum-wide.

Site work by the Harada House Foundation's grant funded architectural firms is under way. Both Architectural Resources Group and IS Architecture are on track to produce their assessments and cost estimates by mid-August, as planned. The Museum's RFP for architectural design services for Robinson House resulted in three (3) submittals, which are currently under analysis and pending selection.

Staffing

Interviews continue for the position of Collections Registrar. A July start date is anticipated for the successful candidate. Hourly staff recently completed complex position assessment surveys, part of a citywide process of benchmarking; results will not be available for several months.

Collections

With the June re-delivery of specialized collection storage cabinets—delayed many months by vendor production and quality control issues—staff will at last be able to move in the collections intended for these new cabinets, free up temporary storage space, and resume the process of freezing and relocating collections that remain in the Mission Inn Avenue location. The imminent arrival of the new Collections Registrar will accelerate the refinement of our object management processes, collection-related forms, and organization of storage spaces.

Exhibitions and Programs

With school out and Heritage House closed during July and August, program activity is focused on developing fall, winter, and spring 2020 programs. In FY2019-2020, staff will be increasing the number of special programs by at least three (3), compared to FY2018-2019. Look for the Museum staff, for example, at the Long Night of Arts & Innovation, where one (1) or two (2) ideas for the grand reopening exhibitions will be prototyped. Developing at least two (2) small exhibitions for neighborhood sites is a priority. Lisa Masengale, Curator of Historic Structures, completed an interim interpretive plan for Harada-related programming, which is currently under review by the Harada House Project Team and staff to phase implementation based on available staff, funding, and expertise.

Marketing and Communications

The City's Marketing Department continues to develop further rebranding concepts so that all parties have a variety of options to consider. Selection is expected to be presented to Museum staff in June. The Museum will gather public / stakeholder input on the rebranding options over subsequent weeks. Over the summer, staff will also begin to rescript the Museum's website and source new imagery so that the new brand can be applied to an upgraded website as well.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by:

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Certified as to

Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer Lea Deesing, Assistant City Manager availability of funds:

Approved by: