

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.

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