



Museum of Riverside Board Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: MUSEUM OF RIVERSIDE BOARD **DATE: APRIL 28, 2021**
FROM: MUSEUM COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE **WARDS: ALL**
SUBJECT: DEACCESSION FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION TWO ÉTAGÈRES, (A500-36) AND (A1754-1)

ISSUE:

To approve a recommendation to deaccession from the permanent collection two étagères, (A500-36) and (A1754-1).

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Museum of Riverside Board recommend that the City Council approve deaccession from the permanent collection of two étagères, (A500-36) and (A1754-1).

BACKGROUND:

An étagère is a type of furniture with multiple shelves for the display of ornaments.

Object A500-36 was purchased from a local vintage shop in 1971 and subsequently donated to the Museum of Riverside (Museum) for exhibit at Heritage House. Object A1754-1 was initially acquired for display in the donor's home.

The interpretive statement specific to Heritage House written by Team Heritage House in 2012 and incorporated into the Museum's 2020 Collection Development Plan states:

"The Heritage House Museum seeks to interpret the social, cultural, aesthetic, and economic history of Riverside, California, by using the structures, interiors, artifacts, landscape, and history of the Catharine Bettner house. The interpretation period will range from 1875 through 1930, with emphasis on the period from 1891 to 1900."

The Museum's Heritage House aims to offer visitors a glimpse of the lifestyle of the 1890s. Although the house was initially furnished with this intention, not all objects on exhibition (or in the collection for the purpose of exhibit at Heritage House) are of this historic period or have a Riverside, California, association or provenance.

DISCUSSION:

The two étagères (A500-36) and (A1754-1) proposed for deaccession do not align with the interpretive or collection goals for Heritage House. According to the Museum's Curator of Historic Structures, neither étagère reflects the materials, construction, or features representative of the period of significance.

The étagères fit two deaccession criteria within the Museum's Collections Management Policy:

1. The object/specimen is outside of the scope of the Museum's mission and guidelines set by Riverside Municipal Code (Chapter 2.12), acquisition policy, or is irrelevant to the purposes of the Museum.
2. The object/specimen has doubtful potential utilization in the near future in the Museum's exhibition and public programs.

As such, the most appropriate course of action is that the Museum deaccession the étagères (A500-36) and (A1754-1). The objects do not have documentation to the late nineteenth century and do not align with the interpretive goals for the Museum's late nineteenth-century historic site (Heritage House Interpretive Statement).

The Museum proposes the deaccession of these étagères (A500-36) and (A1754-1). Upon approval of deaccession, the objects will be made available for public sale. Funds from the transaction will be retained until used for an appropriate acquisition to the history collection, in accordance with the Museum's Collection and Exhibition Management Policy.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report. Deaccessioned objects will be offered for public sale. Following Museum policy and museum field codes of ethics, net proceeds generated by such sales are restricted to future acquisitions for the permanent collection, Special Deposits Fund, Museum deposit account 0000721-225252.

Prepared by:	Robyn G. Peterson, Museum Director
Certified as to availability of funds:	Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer
Approved by:	Moises Lopez, Deputy City Manager



A500-36



A1754-1