



# Museum of Riverside Board Memorandum

*City of Arts & Innovation*

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**TO: MUSEUM OF RIVERSIDE BOARD** **DATE: MAY 26, 2021**  
**FROM: MUSEUM COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE** **WARDS: ALL**  
**SUBJECT: ACCESSION INTO THE PERMANENT COLLECTION TWO HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS**

## **ISSUE:**

To approve a recommendation to accession into the permanent collection two historic photographs.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Museum of Riverside Board recommends that the City Council approve accession into the permanent collection of two historic photographs.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Shortly before the Riverside mayoral election in November 2020, Museum staff were invited by Mayor's office staff to review a large quantity of memorabilia that outgoing Mayor Rusty Bailey had acquired over his eight years of service and assess its potential for permanent preservation. Robyn Peterson, Museum Director, and Brenda Focht, Museum Curator, conducted this review over multiple sessions. Some of material had been in the office prior to Mayor Bailey's arrival. Two photographs stood out as candidates for the permanent collection of archival material, an undated photograph of the Riverside airport and an early view of Fairmount Park.

At its meeting on April 28, 2021, with eleven of its twelve members present, the advisory Collections Committee of the Museum unanimously supported a recommendation to accession.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Two historic photographs that were among the materials from the Mayor's office are recommended for the Archives section of the permanent collection:

- an 8 x 42-inch photograph of the Fairmount Park Lake (unmounted and unframed)
- an aerial photograph of the Riverside airport (framed), undated but estimated to be no later than the 1960s and possibly earlier.

In the Collections Development Plan, the Museum of Riverside (Museum) identifies areas for growth within its historical collections. This document notes that “Through its collections, the Museum will seek to broaden the inquiry into the ways in which material culture defines a shared understanding of history, place, and identity.”

One target for collecting is:

*Local Photography*

Recognizing that photography from the twenty-first century will almost entirely be digital and referring above to the guidelines for forming digital collections (Section 2.3.3), the Museum should actively seek to augment its already outstanding documentary photography collection.

These historic photographs of Riverside locales are a close fit to existing archival collections documenting the changing appearance of Riverside and the growth of its public spaces. The Museum has strong collections of historic photographs, including the E. N. Fairchild Collection, the Alden S. Bordwell Collection, and the Riverside Chamber of Commerce Collection. These two photographs relate to and augment these existing collections and have future exhibition potential.

The airport photograph is badly framed and should be removed from its frame and rematted for flat storage. The Fairmount Park photograph is rolled and should be flattened under a conservator’s advice for flat storage. Neither will pose significant storage challenges.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by:  
Approved by:

Robyn G. Peterson, Ph.D., Museum Director  
Moises Lopez, Deputy City Manager

Fairmount Park photograph:



Airport photograph:

