



City of Arts & Innovation

# City Council Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL** **DATE: JULY 6, 2021**  
**FROM: MUSEUM DEPARTMENT** **WARDS: ALL**  
**SUBJECT: DEACCESSION FROM THE MUSEUM OF RIVERSIDE'S PERMANENT  
COLLECTION OF TWO ÉTAGÈRES**

## **ISSUE:**

Approve deaccession from the Museum of Riverside's permanent collection of two étagères.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council approve deaccession from the Museum of Riverside's permanent collection of two étagères.

## **BOARD RECOMMENDATION:**

At a virtual special meeting on April 28, 2021, the Museum of Riverside Board, with six of eight members present for this vote (the Ward 1 seat was vacant at this time), unanimously agreed to recommend that City Council approve deaccession 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 its 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. These objects do not have documentation to the late nineteenth century, thus do not align with the interpretive goals for the Museum's late nineteenth-century historic site (Heritage House Interpretive Statement).

Therefore, 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 realized from this transaction will be retained until used for an appropriate acquisition to the history collection, in accordance with the Museum's Collection and Exhibition Management Policies.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no immediate fiscal impact with this recommendation. 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 and would be deposited in the Special Deposits Fund, Museum-Deaccessioned Account No. 0000721-225252.

Prepared by:	Robyn G. Peterson, Ph.D., Museum Director
Approved by:	Moises Lopez, Deputy City Manager
Approved as to form:	Kristi J. Smith, Interim City Attorney

Attachment: Museum of Riverside Board Minutes April 28, 2021



A500-36



A1754-1