



Museum of Riverside Board Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: MUSEUM OF RIVERSIDE BOARD **DATE: JULY 28, 2021**
FROM: MUSEUM COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE **WARDS: ALL**
**SUBJECT: ACCESSION INTO THE PERMANENT COLLECTION THREE JAPANESE
PRINTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE'S SISTER CITIES
PROGRAM**

ISSUE:

To approve a recommendation to accession into the permanent collection three Japanese prints associated with the City of Riverside's sister cities program.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Museum of Riverside Board recommends that City Council approve accession into the permanent collection of three Japanese prints associated with the City of Riverside's sister cities program.

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. Museum Director Robyn Peterson and Museum Curator Brenda Focht conducted this review over multiple sessions. Some of this material had been in the office prior to Mayor Bailey's arrival. Mayor Bailey had been an ardent supporter of Riverside's sister city program, and much of the material related to the sister cities. Sendai, in Japan, is one of the more active relationships in the sister city program.

Among the materials from the Mayor's office were three Japanese woodblock prints. They are inscribed on the backs of each "given to city upon passing of Mr & Mrs John Acheson 1977."

At its meeting on June 23, 2021, with eleven of its twelve members present, the advisory Collections Committee of the Museum supported a recommendation to accession these prints into the permanent collection with ten ayes and one abstention.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. and Mrs. John Acheson were early supporters of the Riverside-Sendai sister city relationship and its cultural exchanges, along with its founder Jessie Halvorsen and Riversider Mildred Thomas. Students from Sendai came to Riverside as part of an exchange. The Museum has a photograph of the Achesons with Sendai students as well as Sendai objects given by Halvorsen and Thomas. The Japanese prints are presumed on the basis of their inscriptions to have been gifts from heirs or friends of the Achesons to the Mayor (Ben H. Lewis) in the early years of the Riverside-Sendai Sister City relationship. In early May 2021, former Museum Director and Curator of History Vince Moses confirmed in an email to Museum Curator Brenda Buller Focht that the Achesons were active with the Sendai program.

The Museum stewards a sizable collection relating to Riverside's history of immigration and continuing relationship with Japan. Further, the Museum's Collection Development Plan directs judicious collecting to reflect notable activities of City government. Riverside's sister cities program maintains active worldwide ties that are beneficial in the education and cultural spheres. The gift of these prints to the Mayor's office in 1971 memorializes leading citizens' involvement in furthering this program.

The prints are in good, stable condition, although must be removed from their frames to conduct a full assessment. They exhibit some fading, but it appears minimal. The prints should be matted in accordance with preservation standards, stored flat, and exhibited in the future under limited, low light conditions. Attention from a paper conservator is advised but not required at this time.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by:
Approved by:

Robyn G. Peterson, Ph.D., Museum Director
Kris Martinez, Interim Assistant City Manager

Hasui Kawase, 1883-1957

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hasui_Kawase

This print is illustrated in *Kawase Hasui: The Complete Woodblock Prints* by Kendall H. Brown, Hotei Publishing, 2003. V. 2, p. 398, pl. 218.

Rain at Shinagawa from the series *Selection of Views of the Tokaido*

February 6, 1931

Paper size estimated 15-1/2 x 10-1/4 inches with the image size 14-3/16 x 9-1/4.



Utagawa Hiroshige, 1797-1858

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hiroshige>

This print is illustrated in the five-volume work, *Ukiyoe-ha-gashu* (Masterpieces of the Ukiyo-e School), 1906

Mariko; Meibutsu Chaya

Circa 1834

Dimensions estimated 9-15/32 x 14-1/16 inches



Eiichi Kotozuka, 1906-1981

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eiichi_Kotozuka

Pagoda at Nikko (Toshogu Shrine)

Circa 1950, possibly published by Uchida.

Dimensions estimated 16 x 11 inches.

