



Community & Economic Development Department
3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522 | Phone: (951) 826-5371 | RiversideCA.gov

Planning Division

CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD MEETING DATE: JANUARY 21, 2026
AGENDA ITEM NO.: 7

DISCUSSION ITEM

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|-------------------------|---|
| Case Numbers | Not Applicable |
| Request | To receive and file an update on the Women of Riverside Historic Context Statement. |
| Project Location | Citywide |
| Ward | All |
| Staff Planner | Scott Watson, Historic Preservation Officer 951-826-5507 swatson@riversideca.gov |

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Cultural Heritage Board receive and file this update on the Women of Riverside Historic Context Statement.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

On June 7, 20224, the Community & Economic Development Department (CEDD), submitted an application to the State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) during the 2023-2023 CLG grant cycle application period for \$40,000 to prepare a Women of Riverside Historic Context Statement. On September 30, 2024, the City received notice that OHP had accepted the application and awarded a \$40,000 grant.

The development of a Women of Riverside Historic Context Statement will benefit the community because it ensures that the richer and more complete history of marginalized groups, their role in advocating and agitating for civil rights, and the role they played in the development and advancement of the City. Further, the context will provide a framework for identifying and designating properties that are historically significant for their association with Women's history in Riverside.

The awarded \$40,000 in grant funds was used to hire Historic Resources Group, Inc (HRG) to prepare the historic context statement, with the assistance of City staff, a University of California Riverside (UCR) Ph.D. Student, and UCR Public History Faculty and students.

On September 9, 2025, the project team held a community meeting with several members of the public in attendance. The intent of the meeting was to gain insight and direction in areas to focus on during the research process. Community feedback included sites, organizations, and persons significant to Women's history in Riverside.

On December 16, 2025, a partial first draft was submitted to City Staff. The final first draft, which will include the final chapter of 1960-1990, is anticipated to be submitted in January

2026. The themes and topics of the Historic Context Statement were developed with guidance from other existing Women's Historic Context Statements, including the *Los Angeles Citywide Women's Rights in Los Angeles* (2018) by Historic Resources Group; *The Women's Suffrage Movement in Washington, DC: 1848-1973* (March 2024) by Quinn Evans; *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement* (2024) by Northwest Vernacular, Inc. and SJM Cultural Resources; *Historic Context for Suffrage and Women's Rights in Nevada* (November 2021) by Alicia Barber and ZoAnn Campana; and *Women's History in Olympia: First Settlement, 1846 to 1948* (July 1998) by Shanna Stevenson.

The identity themes and subthemes include:

- Early History
 - Indigenous Riverside
 - Spanish Era
 - Mexican Era
 - Early American Period
- Women In Riverside, 1870-1889
 - Agriculture And Labor
 - Church Societies and Spiritualism
 - Early Professionals
- Progressive Era and Growing Rights, 1890-1919
 - Women's Social Clubs
 - Women's Auxiliaries & Sororal Orders
 - The Suffrage and Temperance Movements
 - Charity, Health, and Sanitary Works
 - Education
 - Business & Professional Women
 - Arts & Culture
 - Women In Riverside During World War I, 1917-1918
- Civic And Government Involvement, 1920-1941
 - Post-Suffrage Women's Organizations
 - Women in the Workforce
 - Professional Women's Organizations
 - Charitable Organizations and the Community Chest
 - Arts And Culture 1920 – 1940
 - Women During the Great Depression and the New Deal
- Women During World War II, 1942-1944
 - Volunteerism at Home
 - "Women's Work" in Wartime Riverside
 - WACS and WASPS: Women at March Field, Camp Anza, And Camp Haan
 - Japanese Women in Riverside
- Women in the Postwar Era, 1945-1959
 - Postwar Readjustment and the Nuclear Family
 - Women in the Labor Force
 - Postwar Women's Organizations
 - Education
 - Politics and Civic Representation
- Second Wave Feminism and Women in the Workplace, 1960-1990
 - TBD

The historic context statement will also identify building types that may be associated with the various themes and subthemes. Integrity considerations will also be included. This will allow for better identification and designation of historic resources associate with Women in Riverside.

A second community meeting is anticipated for the end of January or beginning of February. This meeting will allow for community feedback on the content of the context. The project is scheduled for completion in April 2026.

EXHIBITS LIST

1. First Draft of the Women of Riverside Historic Context Statement

Prepared by: Scott Watson, Historic Preservation Officer

Approved by: Brian Norton, Principal Planner/Acting-City Planner