



Museum of Riverside Board Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: MUSEUM OF RIVERSIDE BOARD **DATE: DECEMBER 4, 2024**

FROM: MUSEUM COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: ACCESSION INTO THE PERMANENT COLLECTION ONE (1) CULTURAL OBJECTS FROM A REGIONAL TRIBAL ARTIST AND THREE (3) ARCHIVAL ITEMS FROM A LOCAL DONOR

ISSUE:

To recommend to City Council to approve accession into the permanent collection of one (1) cultural object from a regional tribal artist and three (3) archival items from a local donor.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Museum of Riverside Board recommends that City Council approves accession into the permanent collection of one (1) cultural object from a regional tribal artist and three (3) archival items from a local donor.

BACKGROUND:

During planning for the Museum of Riverside's 100th anniversary, staff determined to commission new work from artists and/or culture bearers representing the four tribal groups mentioned in the Museum's land acknowledgement statement, which appears below:

The Museum of Riverside is grateful to stand on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Cahuilla, Gabrielino-Tongva, Luiseño, and Serrano peoples. The Cahuilla, Gabrielino-Tongva, Luiseño, and Serrano continue to live and thrive in Southern California.

Three objects and one set of songs were the result of this effort to commission new creative work. The present recommendation includes one of the objects.

At its meeting on September 11, 2024, the Museum of Riverside's Collection Committee voted unanimously in support of recommending that the Museum of Riverside Board forward the recommendation regarding the cultural item and the archival items to City Council.

DISCUSSION:

To “accession” an object is the process of including it formally in a museum’s permanent collection, which is the category of collection for which the greatest effort will be made to preserve the object in perpetuity and document it fully.

The Museum of Riverside’s Collections Development Plan explicitly notes that the “Museum will not collect fine art, fine craft, or decorative art primarily for aesthetic reasons.” However, the Museum collects art for reasons that may be identified as historic or cultural. It also notes goals regarding the Indigenous collections and resources, stating that the “Museum must establish a continuum from the early collections to the contemporary era to reinforce the reality that Indigenous cultures are living cultures.” In the present, continuity of culture is often expressed through art objects.

CULTURAL OBJECT:

Cahuilla artist Rose Ann Hamilton’s basket hat of deer grass, juncus, and willow has a story unique to the Museum of Riverside. Antonia Apapas Casero was the great-grandmother of contemporary Cahuilla basket maker Rose Ann Hamilton. After the 2014 *Cahuilla Continuum* exhibition at the Museum of Riverside, curatorial staff concluded that a basket hat woven by Rose Ann Hamilton, great-granddaughter of Antonia Apapas Casero, should one day be in the Museum’s collection.

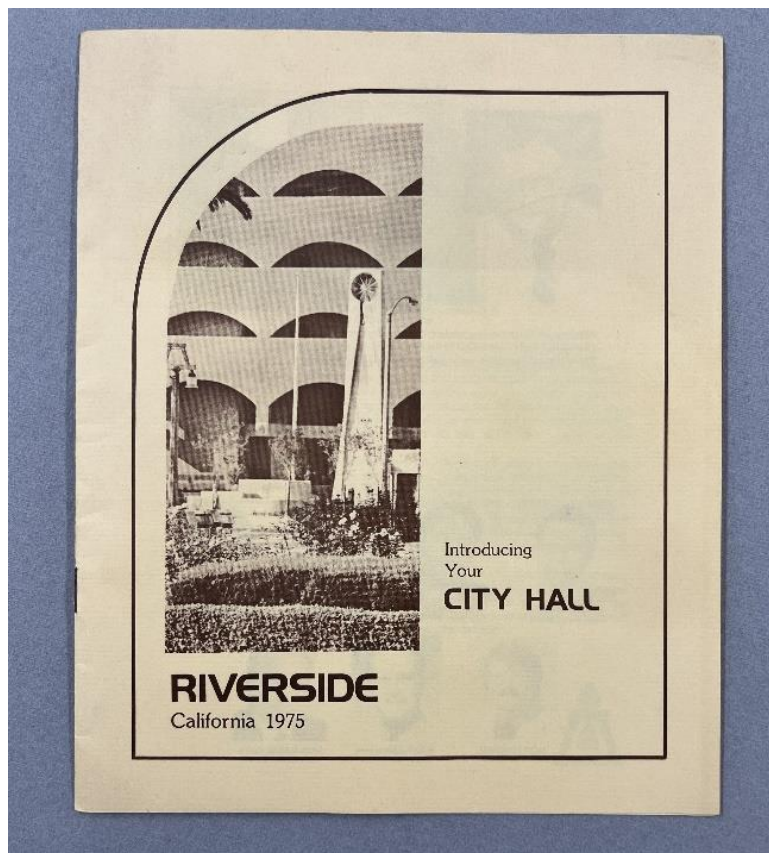
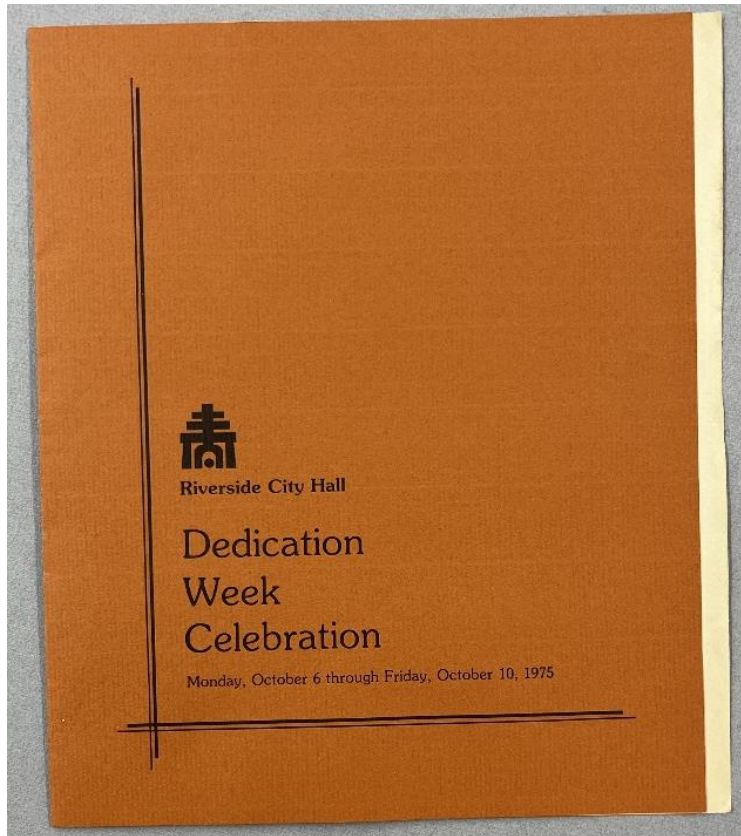
Rose Ann Hamilton wrote, “The weaving project began after I was asked to complete a basket hat for the 100th anniversary celebration of the Museum of Riverside ... A design in my mind at the onset of the project was to use the design of my great-grandmother Antonia Casero. She has a coiled basket hat at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC. I only held [it] once many years ago at the [Museum of Riverside’s] exhibition. Her hat has great sentimental importance, and [I] wanted to honor her in a thoughtful way. I put the design of four prayer bands, which are in black dyed juncus; the juncus was dyed last year in several batches I made throughout the year.”

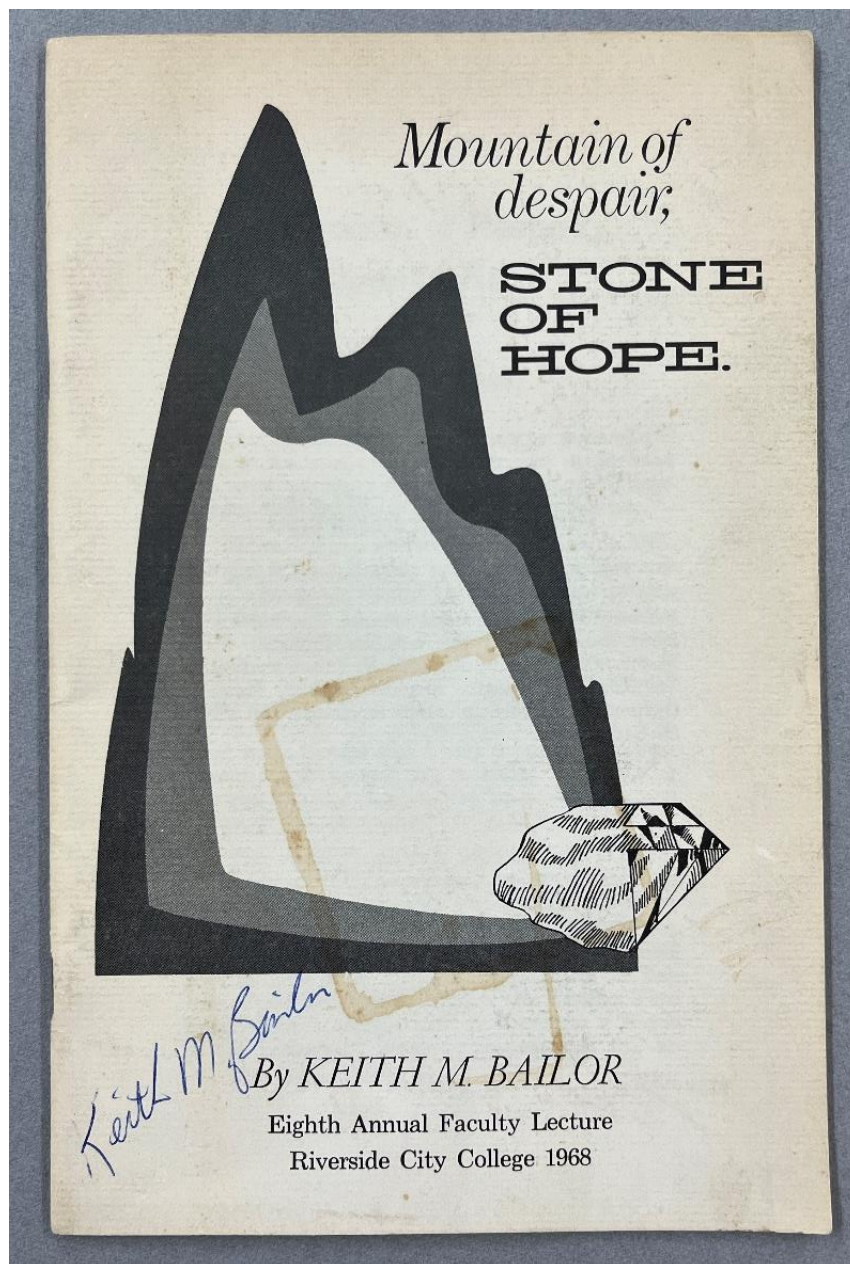
The basket hat woven by Rose Ann Hamilton has been exhibited for the first time in the exhibition *Dear Riverside: A Letter to Our First Love*, on view from July 25, 2024, through January 5, 2025, at the Center for Social Justice & Civil Liberties. A video of Hamilton collecting materials and reflecting on the basket-making tradition is part of the *Dear Riverside* exhibition and will be part of the record for this object.



ARCHIVAL ITEMS:

The items are local publications as follows: *Riverside City Hall Dedication Week Celebration* (1975), *Introducing Your City Hall Riverside California 1975*, and *Mountain of Despair, Stone of Hope* by Keith M. Bailor, published by RCC (1968). These publications were donated by the daughter of Forrest Carl Fowler who worked at the Mission Inn and then at the Museum of Riverside for several years, retiring in 1984. Mr. Fowler also volunteered at Heritage House. The two documents from 1975 stem from the opening of Riverside's current City Hall building, including the schedule of events for the week-long celebration of the City Hall dedication. The *Mountain of Despair, Stone of Hope* publication by Keith M. Bailor was published by RCC for their Eighth Annual Faculty Lecture in 1968. The cover is signed by the author. This publication includes discussion of adding Latin American history courses and African studies at RCC.





STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The activities of the Museum of Riverside align with the Strategic Priority, “Arts, Culture and Recreation” and in particular goal 1.1 (strengthening Riverside’s portfolio of arts, culture, recreation, senior, and lifelong learning programs and amenities), goal 1.2 (enhancing equitable access to arts, culture, and recreational service offerings and facilities), and goal 1.5 (supporting programs and amenities to further develop literacy, health, and education of children, youth, and seniors throughout the community).

Museum programs further support the Strategic Priority, “Community Well-Being.” Specific goals supported by Museum programs and partnerships include goal 2.3, which includes strengthening neighborhood identities, and goal 2.5, which points to fostering relationships

