



Museum of Riverside Board Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: MUSEUM OF RIVERSIDE BOARD

DATE: JULY 23, 2025

FROM: MUSEUM DEPARTMENT

WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: RECOMMEND FORMAL ACCEPTANCE OF A FINANCIAL DONATION FROM THE HARADA HOUSE FOUNDATION SUPPORTING A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THE HARADA FAMILY STORY AND REHABILITATION OF THE HARADA HOUSE

ISSUE:

Recommend that the City Council approve a financial donation from the Harada House Foundation supporting a documentary about the Harada family story and rehabilitation of the Harada House.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Museum of Riverside Board recommends that the City Council approves and accepts a financial donation from the Harada House Foundation supporting a documentary about the Harada family story and rehabilitation of the Harada House.

BACKGROUND:

Riverside Municipal Code Chapter 2.12.020 – Duties of the Museum of Riverside Board specifies the Museum of Riverside Board's role in acceptance of monetary donations in section E, "Make recommendations regarding the acceptance or rejection of all proposed gifts of money, specifically designated for museum purposes, as follows: acceptance of monetary donations valued at \$2,500 or below may be approved by the Museum Director; acceptance of monetary donations valued more than \$2,500 and up to \$25,000 may be approved by the City Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer; monetary donations valued more than \$25,000 must be approved by City Council on recommendation of the Board."

DISCUSSION:

The Harada House Foundation (HHF) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) incorporated in 2017 as a private support group focused on the National Historic Landmark Harada House. The mission of the HHF is "To raise funds to protect and conserve the National Historic Landmark Harada House, its structure, archive, collection, and legacy by sharing the Harada family story and its relevance to immigration, housing, civil rights, and social justice."

The Museum made a request to the HHF to support production of a Harada documentary. The board of the HHF responded with gifts totaling \$40,000. A portion of this gift will be credited to the Mellon Foundation, which named the Harada House Foundation a sub-awardee of a grant to UC-Riverside, which is supporting a variety of Asian American cultural initiatives.

The Museum will request City Council approval to award an agreement between the City of Riverside and a documentary film company to begin developing the documentary about the Harada family story and the rehabilitation of the Harada House.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact associated with the acceptance of the financial donations is an increase of \$40,000 in the Museum Donations/Gifts account located in the Interest-Bearing Special Deposits Fund. Upon approval by the Board, the Museum will request that City Council appropriate \$40,000 into the Harada Documentary account to support the documentary about the Harada family story and rehabilitation of the Harada House.

Prepared by: Robyn G. Peterson, Museum Director
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