



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 RIVERSIDE MUSEUM ASSOCIATES 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 Riverside Museum Associates 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 Riverside Museum Associates 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 Riverside Museum Associates (RMA) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) incorporated as a private support group for the Museum of Riverside (Museum) in 1963. The RMA supports the Museum by 1) providing volunteers for outreach and events, 2) providing and scheduling docents to lead tours of Heritage House, 3) fundraising and receiving donations to support Museum programs, and 4) assisting with collections care and the acquisition and conservation of collection objects.

The Museum requested \$100,000 from the Harada House Stewardship Fund to initiate a Harada documentary. This request included \$35,000 in grant funding that had been awarded to the RMA in 2022 and restricted to initiate this documentary. The \$65,000 balance comprised gifts made to the fund that was restricted only to a Harada-related use.

At its regular board meeting on April 10, 2025, the RMA agreed to support the request for \$100,000 for production of a documentary film about the Harada family story and the rehabilitation of the Harada House.

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 \$100,000 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 \$100,000 into the Harada Documentary account to support the documentary about the Harada family story and rehabilitation of the Harada House.

Prepared by:	Ann Lovell, Manager of Operations
Approved by:	Robyn G. Peterson, Museum Director