



Museum of Riverside Board Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: MUSEUM OF RIVERSIDE BOARD DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2024

FROM: MUSEUM DEPARTMENT WARDS: ALL

**SUBJECT: DISCUSS, RECEIVE, AND FILE THE STRATEGIC PLAN STATUS REPORT
FOR THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023**

ISSUE:

To discuss, receive, and file the Strategic Plan status report for the quarter ending December 31, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Museum of Riverside Board discuss, receive, and file the Strategic Plan status report for the quarter ending December 31, 2023.

BACKGROUND:

At its meeting on April 27, 2022, the Museum of Riverside Board recommended approval by City Council of a new five-year Strategic Plan for the Museum Department for the fiscal years 2022-2023 through 2026-2027. At its meeting on July 5, 2022, City Council approved a revised and renewed five-year Strategic Plan for the Museum Department for the years 2022-2023 through 2026-2027. The plan now current identifies specific alignment with the City's Envision Riverside 2025 Strategic Plan, which was approved in October 2020.

DISCUSSION:

This report covers the first two quarter of FY2023-2024. Due to Museum Board meeting cancellations, there was no report on Q1. For detail on individual actions, please refer to the status lines in red on the attached copy of the plan. All status reports are as of December 31, 2023. Progress continues to be reported only on strategic actions in the plan; established regular programming and standard operating procedures are not included. The Museum is 1.5 years into its five-year plan and is tracking reasonably closely to the goals and their anticipated schedules. There is not as yet a need to revise the plan.

Progress Highlights

1. The main museum architectural design process progressed toward the final key phase, which is construction documents. Open Lobby events and other opportunities to share the plans were overwhelmingly well received. An exhibition design firm was selected, with an agreement slated for City Council approve in Q3.
2. The Harada House, Phase I, construction document phase began. Several independent peer reviews were conducted. The engineering challenges are resulting in some revision to the schedule. The Harada House Interpretive Center will now proceed as a rehabilitation, and construction documents have begun.
3. The Heritage House path resurfacing project was completed in November, 2023. This project was funded by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).
4. The 100th anniversary year program array was finalized and a program calendar published. Good progress continues on the exhibition, which will be on view July 25, 2024 through January 5, 2025, at the Center for Social Justice & Civil Liberties.
5. An updated mini-museum in the Arlington branch of the library was installed in October 2023 on the inventor Fred Stebler.
6. New staff members brought on board in Q1 and Q2 include Curator of History Laura Fisher (start date August 4, 2023), Curator of Natural History Ian Wright (start date August 18, 2023), and Institutional Advancement Coordinator Chantal Downing (start date October 27, 2023).
7. Conservation work on selected collection objects has prioritized objects that are slated for exhibition as well as those with urgent needs.
8. A core values statement was finalized for Museum Board consideration during Q2.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The activities of the Museum of Riverside align with the Envision Riverside 2025's Strategic Priority, "Arts, Culture and Recreation." Specific programs and activities mentioned in this report support, in particular, Goal No. 1.1 (strengthening Riverside's portfolio of arts, culture, recreation, senior, and lifelong learning programs and amenities), Goal No. 1.2 (enhancing equitable access to arts, culture, and recreational service offerings and facilities), and Goal No. 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 No. 2.3, which includes strengthening neighborhood identities, and Goal No. 2.5, which points to fostering relationships between community members and partner organizations.

1. **Community Trust** – The Museum's department-specific strategic plan guides staff to adhere to the Museum's mission; keep promises to share and interpret the collections and stories that stem from that mission; and build collaborative programs, relationships, and volunteer opportunities.
2. **Equity** – The Museum's department-specific strategic plan articulates a range of approaches to ensuring diverse, inclusive, and equitable programming that examines, shares, and celebrates the full diversity of Riverside.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – The Museum's department-specific strategic plan limits the

range of activity to what the Museum can support within its allocated budgets and contributed revenues. Transparent processes to select contractors protect taxpayer interests and reflect staff efforts to secure best value for the City in the selection of both goods and services.

4. **Innovation** – The Museum’s department-specific strategic plan includes a range of actions that are original, one-time activities designed to reflect unique local histories and circumstances. The plan guides staff to achieve programmatic ends through proactive cultural partnerships. Innovative approaches to reaching audiences while the main museum remains closed are continuing to be developed.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – The Museum’s department-specific strategic plan includes actions that reflect staff efforts to streamline operations; conserve the Museum’s assets; model and teach cultural and environmental preservation; and give voice and visibility to those who made Riverside what it is today whether recognized in their time or not.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Robyn G. Peterson, Ph.D., Museum Director

Attachment: Strategic Plan 2022-2027 updates as of 12/31/2023