

MUSEUM DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW AND RECOGNITION

Museum of Riverside

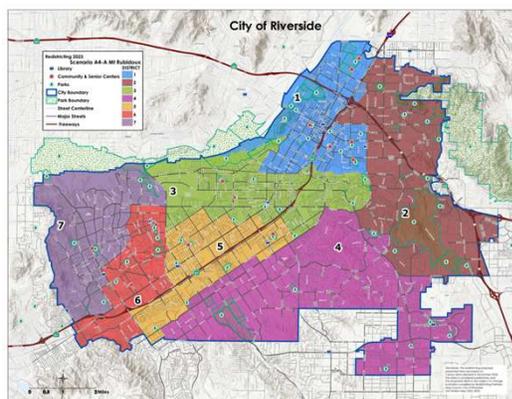
City Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 24, 2026

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OUR BOARD

Board Member	Ward
Sharon Tennell	1
Luz Negrón, Chair	2
VACANT	3
Anna Gaissert	4
VACANT	5
Julie Bjork	6
Mary Carter	7
Claudia Rodriguez	Citywide
Cynthia Zdilor	Citywide



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BOARD COMMITTEES AND OTHER SUPPORT

1. The Board appoints *ad hoc* committees as needed
2. Two independent 501(c)(3) nonprofits also support the Museum:
 - a. Riverside Museum Associates
 - b. Harada House Foundation



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MUSEUM STAFF

Staff member	Role
Robyn G. Peterson, Ph.D.	Director
Ann Lovell	Operations Manager
Jennifer Dickerson	Curatorial Services Manager
Chantal Downing	Institutional Advancement Coordinator
Ian Wright	Curator of Natural History
VACANT	Curator of History
Katie Grim	Collections Registrar
Teresa Woodard Belding	Museum Educator
Kim Cobb	Associate Educator
Toni Kinsman	Senior Office Specialist
Cesar Mendez	Museum Maintenance Worker
Rachael Ruga	Office Specialist - .5 FTE
Steve Mandeville-Gamble	Archivist
VACANT	Exhibition Designer



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MUSEUM'S MISSION

As a center for learning, the Museum of Riverside interacts with the community to collect, preserve, explore, and interpret the cultural and natural history of Riverside and its region.

Approved by the Museum Board on December 15, 2015 (revised to reflect name change approved by City Council April 23, 2019).



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STANDARDS AND GOALS

1. The Museum is among the 3% of museums nationwide that are accredited. The process to renew our accreditation will begin next year.
2. The Museum Department's current strategic plan is under revision now for 2026-2027 through 2030-2031.



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STANDARDS AND GOALS

1. Region-wide partnerships are continually sustained, renewed, and forged.
 2. All museum-specific policies and procedures now meet or exceed professional standards.
 3. New procedures for public-facing concerns are in draft.
- Service animals
 - Unaccompanied minors
 - Emergency response
 - Media response
 - Theft and vandalism
 - Translation services
 - Site maintenance
 - Facility rental
 - Flash photography
 - Strollers and wagons
 - Implied consent to be photographed
 - Sustainability practices



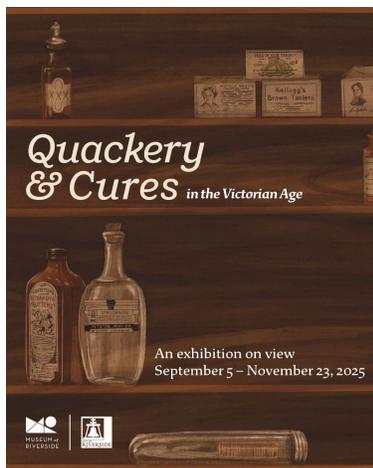
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ACTIVE ALL YEAR

Highlight exhibitions are on view in Heritage House twice annually.



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ACTIVE ALL YEAR

Find happy crowds at festivals at Heritage House and where we participate out in the community ...

... the Museum has been **active in our community**.



A record crowd at Insect Fair, even in the rain.



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DOWNTOWN RENOVATION GOALS

The Museum's goal is a **smart rehabilitation** of the original 1912 historic building ...

and ...

an exciting and **thoughtful expansion** for the 21st century.



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RENOVATION PROCESS, FROM TODAY

July 2025:
Construction
began

**Not before late
2027:** Grand
reopening



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HARADA HOUSE PROJECT

**Engineering and
design progress:**
100% construction
drawings are in hand
and under review.

Schedule: Work on
the ground likely
before end of 2026.



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HARADA HOUSE PROJECT

Cost: Formal cost estimates better than feared.

Fundraising: Under way to generate an additional \$500,000 for all aspects of the Harada House project.



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HERITAGE HOUSE PROGRESS

1. Orchard pruning and tree maintenance are under way
2. Gift shop and carriage house kitchen were repainted
3. Robust housekeeping and pest control protocols are in place
4. Now gathering costs for restroom upgrades



Circa 1960, before it was "Heritage House"

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HERITAGE HOUSE PROGRAMMING

While the downtown site is closed, Heritage House is the Museum's primary program site.

Thousands attended ...

- a. Movies on the Lawn
- b. Ice Cream Social
- c. Victorian teas
- d. Moon Festival
- e. Behind the Black Veil
- f. Christmas Open House
- g. Weekly tours for schools and public
- h. Children's LiTEArature.



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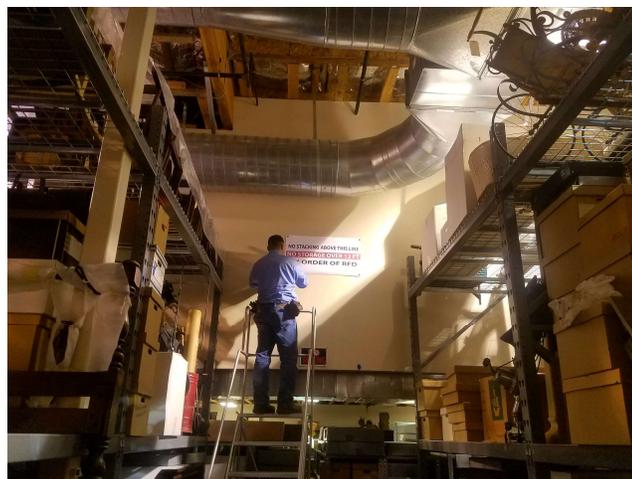


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COLLECTION STEWARDSHIP

1. All collections successfully relocated from the downtown building.
2. Repatriating Native American sacred collections.
3. Managed improvements at our storage warehouses.



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COLLECTION STEWARDSHIP

1. Progress organizing archives and housing the contents to a high standard.
2. Responding to public collection inquiries.
3. Highlighting “finds” in the collection via social media.



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BY THE NUMBERS – A FEW HIGHLIGHTS

1. FY2024-2025 in-person attendance, all sites and outreach: **24,993**
2. FY2024-2025 digital audience: **655,404**
3. Record attendance at Ice Cream Social in May: **estimated 3,500**



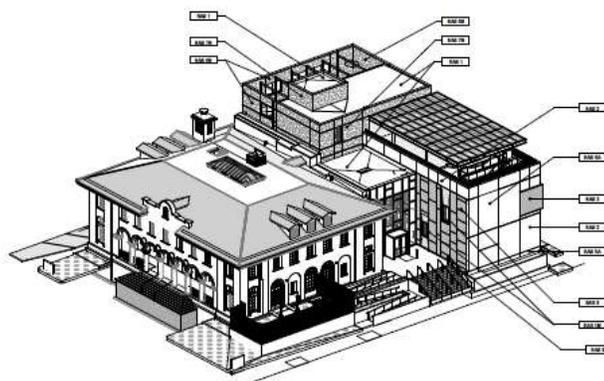
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EXPECTATIONS

1. Downtown rehabilitation and expansion progress continues on track.
2. Staff will complete planning for reopening exhibitions, programs, and grand reopening events.
3. We will recognize and honor our community.



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RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council receive and file a presentation providing an overview of the activities of the Museum Department.

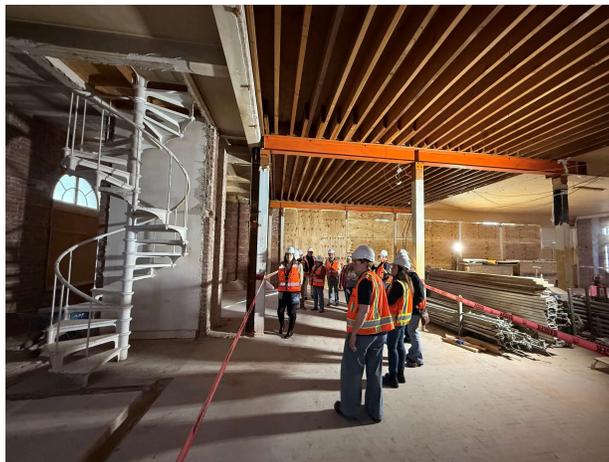


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THANK YOU

Robyn G. Peterson, Ph.D.
Museum Director

- rpeterson@riversideca.gov
- 951-826-5792



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