



GENERAL OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Museum of Riverside

City Council
March 19, 2024

RiversideCA.gov

1

BASICS

- Established in 1924
- Codified in Municipal Code
- Nationally accredited
- Seven sites and a collection of 200,000 artifacts and specimens



2

RiversideCA.gov

2

OUR 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.”



3

RiversideCA.gov

3

BASICS

- A community museum
- A destination for lifelong learning, curriculum enrichment, and cultural events
- In FY22-23, with the main site still closed, the Museum served 14,813 in person and 449,179 digitally



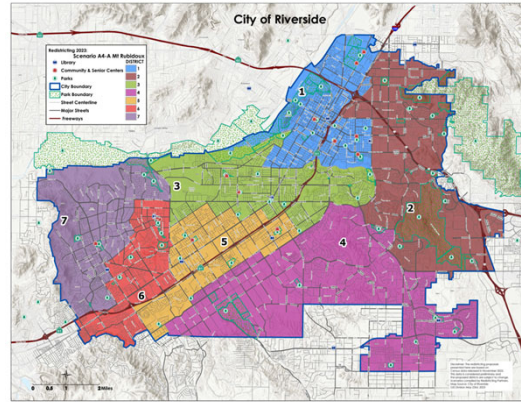
4

RiversideCA.gov

4

MUSEUM OF RIVERSIDE BOARD

Board Member	Ward
Sharon Tennell	1
Luz Maria Negrón Bermo	2
Richard Cardullo	3
Richard Gardner	4
Peggy Barnhart	5
Julie Bjork	6
Lovelyn Razzouk	7
Cynthia Zdilor, Chair	Citywide
Vacant	Citywide



5

RiversideCA.gov

5

SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

- Two independent 501(c)(3) nonprofits support the Museum
 - ✓ Riverside Museum Associates
 - ✓ Harada House Foundation



6

RiversideCA.gov

6

OUR STAFF

Staff member	Role
Robyn Peterson	Director
Ann Lovell	Operations Manager
Jennifer Dickerson	Curatorial Services Manager
Chantal Downing	Institutional Advancement Coordinator
Toni Kinsman	Senior Office Specialist
Rachael Ruga	Office Specialist - .5 FTE
Cesar Mendez	Maintenance
Brenda Focht	Curator - Anthropology
Ian Wright	Curator – Natural History
Laura Fisher	Curator – History
Katie Grim	Collections Registrar
Elise Heath	Exhibition Designer
Teresa Belding	Museum Educator
Kim Cobb	Associate Educator

Employee of the Year 2023
Katie Grim



7

RiversideCA.gov

7

UPDATE SINCE 2019

Core Operations

- New name in 2019
- Rebranded in 2021
- Adopted departmental strategic plan for 2022-2027
- Adopted new policies (collections, education, ethics)
- Land acknowledgement, core values, and anti-racism statements adopted



8

RiversideCA.gov

8

UPDATE SINCE 2019

Main Museum

- Pursued architectural design for renovation and expansion of downtown site
- Construction period expected to be 2024-2026



9

RiversideCA.gov

9

UPDATE SINCE 2019

Harada House

- Harada House Campaign achieved 127% of its funding goal
- Began architectural design process for Harada House, Phase I
- Began architectural design process for its Interpretive Center



10

RiversideCA.gov

10

UPDATE SINCE 2019

Heritage House

- Made major improvements at Heritage House
 - ✓ Repainted main house and carriage house
 - ✓ Repaved driveway and parking lot
 - ✓ Resurfaced paths
- Made significant progress on collections management



11

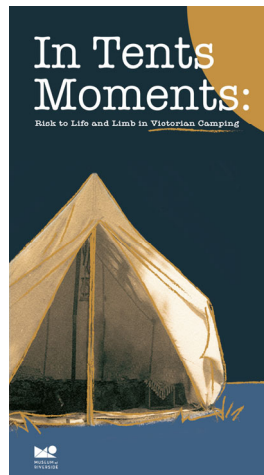
RiversideCA.gov

11

WHAT WE DO

- **Exhibitions**
- Education programs
- Special events
- Collection management

“Collect, preserve, and interpret”



12

RiversideCA.gov

12

WHAT WE DO

Exhibitions include ...

- Heritage House itself is an exhibition requiring intensive stewardship
- Primary programming site
- Would not run without volunteers



13

RiversideCA.gov

13

WHAT WE DO

Exhibitions include ...

- “Mini-museums”
- Three are installed around town and others will appear where unique local stories can be told



14

RiversideCA.gov

14

WHAT WE DO

- Exhibitions
- **Education programs**
 - Curriculum-based
 - Extra-curricular
 - Family-oriented
- Special events
- Collection management



"Collect, preserve, and interpret"



15

RiversideCA.gov

15

WHAT WE DO

- Exhibitions
- Education programs
- **Special events**
 - Ice Cream Social
 - Moon Festival
 - Christmas Open House
- Collection management



"Collect, preserve, and interpret"



16

RiversideCA.gov

16

WHAT WE DO

Special events include...

- Collaborative events and festivals! The Museum participates as often as our small staff and volunteer corps permit.



17

RiversideCA.gov

17

WHAT WE DO

- Exhibitions
- Education programs
- Special events
- **Collection management**
 - Storage upgrades
 - Documentation improvements
 - Tribal repatriations
 - Refinements to collection scope

"Collect, preserve, and interpret"



18

RiversideCA.gov

18

HAPPENING NOW

2024 is the Museum's 100th anniversary

- A special exhibition
- 100 programs
- A gala event on December 12, 2024



19

RiversideCA.gov

19

HAPPENING NOW

100 programs from January through December

- Collaborations with over a dozen organizations
- Diverse programs for all ages and in every ward.



20

RiversideCA.gov

20

HAPPENING NOW

Pilot Project for the Future

- New program series "Movies on the Lawn: Made in Riverside"
- Free outdoor event
- Third Friday evenings



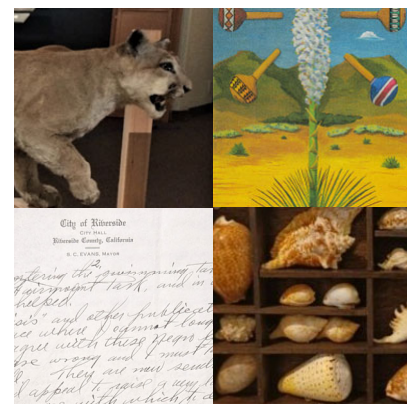
21

RiversideCA.gov

SPECIAL EXHIBITION

Dear Riverside, a letter to our first love




On view July 25, 2024 – January 5, 2025
 To take place at the Center for Social
 Justice & Civil Liberties



22

RiversideCA.gov

FOLLOW US

- museumofriverside.org
- Facebook and Instagram: @museumofriverside  
- YouTube 
Museum of Riverside



23

RiversideCA.gov

23

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Strategic Priority: Arts, Culture, and Recreation

Goals 1.1.3, 1.2 (all actions), 1.4.2, 1.5.2, 1.5.4: Complete the Museum of Riverside renovation; offer diverse programming throughout the City; train staff; collaborate.

Cross-Cutting Threads



Community Trust



Fiscal Responsibility



Sustainability & Resiliency



Equity



Innovation



24

RiversideCA.gov

24

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council receives and files an update presentation on the operations of the Museum of Riverside (Museum Department).



25

RiversideCA.gov