

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
REGARDING MAIN MUSEUM TEMPORARY CLOSURE**

Question #1	Why is the Museum of Riverside shuttered?
Answer	The Museum of Riverside was temporarily closed in September 2017 1) to plan and construct a renovation of the historic building and a purpose-built expansion, 2) to address deficiencies in the management of the collections, 3) to reorganize and re-train staff, 4) to focus on Harada House, and 5) to begin a full collections inventory. See July 11, 2017 Staff Report to City Council here: City Council Report – Museum Shutter
Question #2	Who authorized the shuttering of the Main Museum?
Answer	The shuttering of the Main Museum was approved by the Riverside City Council on July 11, 2017.
Question #3	How long is the shutter period?
Answer	The shutter period was originally planned to last three years, beginning September 5, 2017. However, the complex process of planning the new museum and the negative revenue impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have delayed the project. Measure Z funding is allocated for the project in FY2022-2023.
Question #4	What Museum programs and services will continue during the shutter period?
Answer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Heritage House will remain open, although is closed for the duration of COVID-19 impacts: http://www.riversideca.gov/museum/heritagehouse/ 2. Sycamore Canyon Nature Center is now supervised by the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department: https://mysycamorecanyon.com/ 3. Annual Insect Fair and other selected outdoor events continue. 4. Monthly Museum of Riverside Board Meetings continue. The meetings are open to the public. See calendar for dates and agendas: https://riversideca.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx
Question #5	What will happen during the shutter period?
Answer	In addition to the activities listed in the answer to Question #1 and the services listed in the answer to Question #4, staff will focus on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harada House rehabilitation and fundraising for this project 2. Reconstruction of Robinson House to serve as the Harada House interpretive center 3. Moving all collections from the main museum to secure offsite storage 4. Updating internal systems, policies, and processes 5. Developing programs for 21st-century audiences, including planning for the eventual reopening exhibitions and developing digital programs and virtual tours.
Question #6	How can I access the Museum Archives during the shutter period?
Answer	Please contact us via archivesrequest@riversideca.gov . In many cases, if digital copies of requested materials do not meet your needs, arrangements can be made for you to view archival material by appointment during regular business hours.
Question #7	How can the community help?
Answer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Volunteer to assist at Heritage House or in collections storage: https://riversideca.gov/human/employee-hub/training-development/volunteering 2. Attend programs and events ... some are online! 3. Participate in upcoming community meetings throughout the City to help re-define the Museum’s purpose and mission for the City of Riverside and the region 4. Support fundraising efforts for Harada House: www.haradahousefoundation.org 5. Join a community advisory team. Contact rpeter@riversideca.gov. 6. Attend Museum Board Meetings. See calendar for dates and agendas: https://riversideca.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx