

QUESTIONS REGARDING THE MAIN MUSEUM DURING THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE

Question #1	Why is the Riverside Metropolitan Museum closed?
Answer	The Riverside Metropolitan Museum is temporarily closed to prepare for and plan renovation and expansion. Relocating collections that are onsite is, by itself, a massive undertaking. Other institutional changes under way include restructuring staff, revising policies and procedures, planning re-opening exhibitions, addressing large-scale collection documentation and storage projects, and focusing on Harada House. See July 11, 2017 Staff Report to City Council here: City Council Report – Museum Shutter

Question #2	Who authorized the closure of the Main Museum?
Answer	The closure of the Main Museum was approved by the Riverside City Council on July 11, 2017, so that staff could focus on a long list of special projects that cannot be accomplished simultaneously with normal operations.

Question #3	How long is the closure period?
Answer	The closure period was announced to last three years, beginning September 5, 2017. However, the intention is to approach this rare opportunity to reinvent the museum with our highest priority being an exceptional result. It is likely that the closure may last about four years or so.

Question 4	What Museum programs and services will continue during the closure period?
Answer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heritage House will remain open, offering some additional small exhibitions and programs: http://www.riversideca.gov/museum/heritagehouse/ 2. Annual Insect Fair will continue. The museum will also maintain a presence at selected citywide festivals and events. 3. Small neighborhood exhibitions will be prepared, accompanied by special programming. 4. Education partnerships and school outreach will continue on a limited basis, and the museum will continue to participate in such events as First Sundays. 5. Monthly Metropolitan Museum Board Meetings will continue. The meetings are open to the public. See calendar for dates and agendas: https://riversideca.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx 6. Special public programs and events will be announced from time to time.

Question 5	What will happen during the closure period?
Answer	<p>In addition to the programs & services listed in the answer to Question #4, staff will focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harada House stewardship and the campaign to raise support for the full rehabilitation and opening of the House. 2. Collections relocation, reorganization, cataloging, and inventory 3. Overhaul of internal systems and processes 4. Detailed planning of the renovated and expanded downtown site. As of February 2019, Pfeiffer Partners Architects has been chosen to be the project architect.

Question 6	How can I access the Museum Archives during the closure period?
Answer	<p>Selections from the following collections will be available at the Main Library Local History Section during regular Main Library open hours Monday-Wednesday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., Thursday 11 a.m. – 9 p.m., Friday-Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sunday noon – 5 p.m.:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps 2. Frank Miller Collection 3. Jekel Collection 4. Clinton Marr Collection 5. Tax Assessor’s Scrapbook from 1933 6. Historic Planning and Mapping Documents <p>To request access to items in the remainder of the archival collections, please e-mail archivesrequest@riversideca.gov with subject line “Museum Archives Access Request” and include a brief description of your request and your contact information.</p>

Question 7	How can the community help?
Answer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Volunteer with the museum! There are many volunteer opportunities behind the scenes or working with the public. https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/cityofriversideca/transferjobs 2. Volunteer with the Riverside Museum Associates. Contact them at https://riversidemuseumassociates.org/contact/. 3. Participate in neighborhood and community meetings throughout the City. Consider serving on a museum advisory team. Contact the Museum Director at rpeterston@riversideca.gov. 4. Support fundraising efforts for the Harada House. Contact the Harada House Foundation at haradafoundation@gmail.com. 5. Attend Museum Board Meetings. See calendar for dates and agendas: https://riversideca.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx