

Cultural Heritage Board

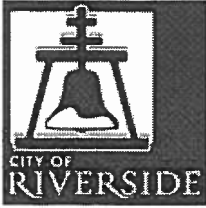
TO: CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD MEETING DATE: February 16, 2011

FROM: HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER AGENDA ITEM: 3

WARD: ALL

SUBJECT: Update on CLG Grant for the Thematic Harada Historic District Survey and Nomination

Recently CHB Staff and Riverside Metropolitan Museum Staff prepared and gave an update on the CLG Grant for the Thematic Harada Historic District Survey and Nomination to City Council and to the RMM Board. Today the same presentation will be given to the CHB about this important project. Please see the attached CC report from February 8, 2011 for background information.



City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: February 8, 2011**
FROM: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT **ITEM NO: 17**
PLANNING DIVISION **WARDS: ALL**
SUBJECT: SEIZING OUR DESTINY - UPDATE ON CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT

ISSUE:

A presentation to the City Council providing an update on the Certified Local Government Grant from the State Office of Historic Preservation used in preparing a Thematic Harada Historic District Survey and Nomination, and describing work accomplished to date.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council receive and file this report.

BACKGROUND:

The City received a \$25,000 grant, from the State Office of Historic Preservation to prepare a Thematic Harada Historic District Survey and Nomination, and associated educational material. This project meets three important objectives of the City's Historic Preservation Element of the General Plan, (Objective HP-2.0, interpretation of the City's cultural resources, Objective HP.3.0-promoting of the City's cultural resources as a means to enhance the City's identity, and Objective HP-6.0, to actively pursue funding for historic preservation programs), as well as "Seizing Our Destiny" Strategic Route 7, Transforming Spaces into Places (Exemplary Initiative 7.1- Showcase Riverside to visitors and residents in creative ways, including self-guided walking tours...about different aspects of the City's intriguing history).

The Planning Division, Historic Preservation Section, in partnership with the Metropolitan Museum and the University of California Riverside (UCR), is completing a thematic Harada Historic District intensive level survey associated with the National Historic Landmark (NHL) Harada House, a National Register nomination (or the highest level applicable), as well as a walking tour map and podcast.

The City's three-way partnership with the Planning Division, the Metropolitan Museum and UCR's History Department serves as the lead team on this project and has included additional coordination with Riverside Community College's Mine Okubo collection, the Japanese American National Museum and others. UCR students are participating in a class on the subject matter and providing field work. Key students have performed research on City directories, Census records, Press Enterprise searches and historic data sources.

To date, the program has identified an initial list of contributing properties to be used on the walking tour, many of which are in the downtown area. Establishing this type of context, a broader context of the Japanese American experience in Riverside will create not only more relevance for the Harada House, but it will also create a broader understanding of the Harada story. The contributors to this thematic district include a variety of homes, from neighbors of the Harada family that took action on the landmark legal case to the location where Japanese Americans had to register prior to being transferred to internment camps during World War II. It is a powerful story that tells an important part of Riverside's history. This project will contribute to accessibility of this story by creating a walking tour available to the public, as well as a podcast available on the website to people outside of this area.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this update.

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