

RIVERSIDE MUSEUM ASSOCIATES

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



PREPARED BY RIVERSIDE MUSEUM ASSOCIATES



OUR PURPOSE

Create community interest in the Museum of Riverside and promote increased knowledge and understanding of the Museum's educational, scientific, cultural, and historical collections and programs by providing financial, volunteer, and strategic support.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends, Members, and Supporters,



Fiscal 2024–25 was a year of connection, creativity, and community. As stewards of the Riverside Museum Associates, we are proud to share how your support made an impact—bringing new exhibitions to life, sponsoring museum programs, and celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Museum of Riverside.

Together with our dedicated members, volunteers, and the greater community, we’ve created experiences that celebrate the rich heritage of our city while looking boldly toward the future. Thank you for your generosity, time, and belief in our mission.

With appreciation,

Peggy Barnhart

President, Board of Directors
Riverside Museum Associates



ABOUT US

Founded in 1963, the RMA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that strives to ensure that Riverside history is preserved and shared with future generations by making it our mission to support the Museum of Riverside (MoR) – the primary steward of regional history. The MoR preserves the history of the region's contributions to America's growth—the stories of people, land, events—and shares this heritage by providing educational programs, performing ground-breaking scientific research, and by the care, study, and exhibition of its collections.

The RMA provides support to the museum through advocacy, program involvement, community outreach, volunteering at museum events, and through fundraising. Our efforts help the MoR care for its vast collections, mount exhibits, present educational programs, and acquire relevant artifacts for the collection.

OUR VISION

A thriving city museum in Riverside that serves as a vibrant cultural and educational hub, accessible to all, and celebrated for its diversity, inclusivity, and creativity.

OUR CORE VALUES

- Stewardship
- Volunteerism
- Community Engagement
- Lifelong Learning



YEAR IN REVIEW

2024-25 was a banner year, as it marked the 100th anniversary of the Museum of Riverside. In celebration of this historic milestone, the museum presented the community with an ambitious “100 Programs for 100 Years” which included workshops, special speakers, movies on the lawn, and festivals. The celebration culminated in the 100th Anniversary Gala featuring a roaring 20s theme.

Another highlight was the 100th anniversary exhibition, *Dear Riverside, a Letter to Our First Love*, which was on view at the Center for Social Justice & Civil Liberties.

And, of course we all appreciated the museum’s recurring events that have become community favorites, including the Heritage House Victorian teas, Insect Fair, Ice Cream Social, Christmas Open House, and Moon Festival.

The campaign for the restoration of Riverside’s National Historic Landmark Harada House, recognized as a symbol of equality, equity, inclusion, and social justice, continues to show strong interest amongst donors. The RMA is proud to be the steward of the Harada House Endowment which will provide long-term support for restoration projects and cultural programming.

As you can imagine, it was an extremely busy year for RMA volunteers, who actively supported the myriad of centennial events in addition to the Heritage House tours and popular recurring events. It truly was an historic year.

RMA HIGHLIGHTS IN 2024-25

Riverside Museum Associates (RMA) has had a remarkable year, marked by significant achievements. With a new Board of Directors, it created new committees and made numerous improvements to the operation.

Membership – Under new direction, the membership committee continues to grow the RMA membership. By investing in new software this year, they have modernized our capability for outreach.

Donations – The RMA is grateful for the many donations that came in this year. Whether directed towards specific causes or gifted to the general fund to help cover operational costs and various museum requests, the financial support is essential to our mission.

Communications – With the formation of a new Newsletter Committee, the RMA introduced a quarterly newsletter to help keep its members informed about and engaged in museum happenings. Improvements were made to our website as well.

Museum Support – RMA gifted nearly \$10,000 to the museum in support of the 100th Anniversary Gala. In addition, it assisted with marketing efforts as well as technical aspects of the Gala's silent auction. There were numerous other distributions to the MoR including a \$100,000 contribution towards the creation of a Harada House documentary film. And of course, volunteerism was and will continue to be one of the most impactful ways the RMA supports the museum.

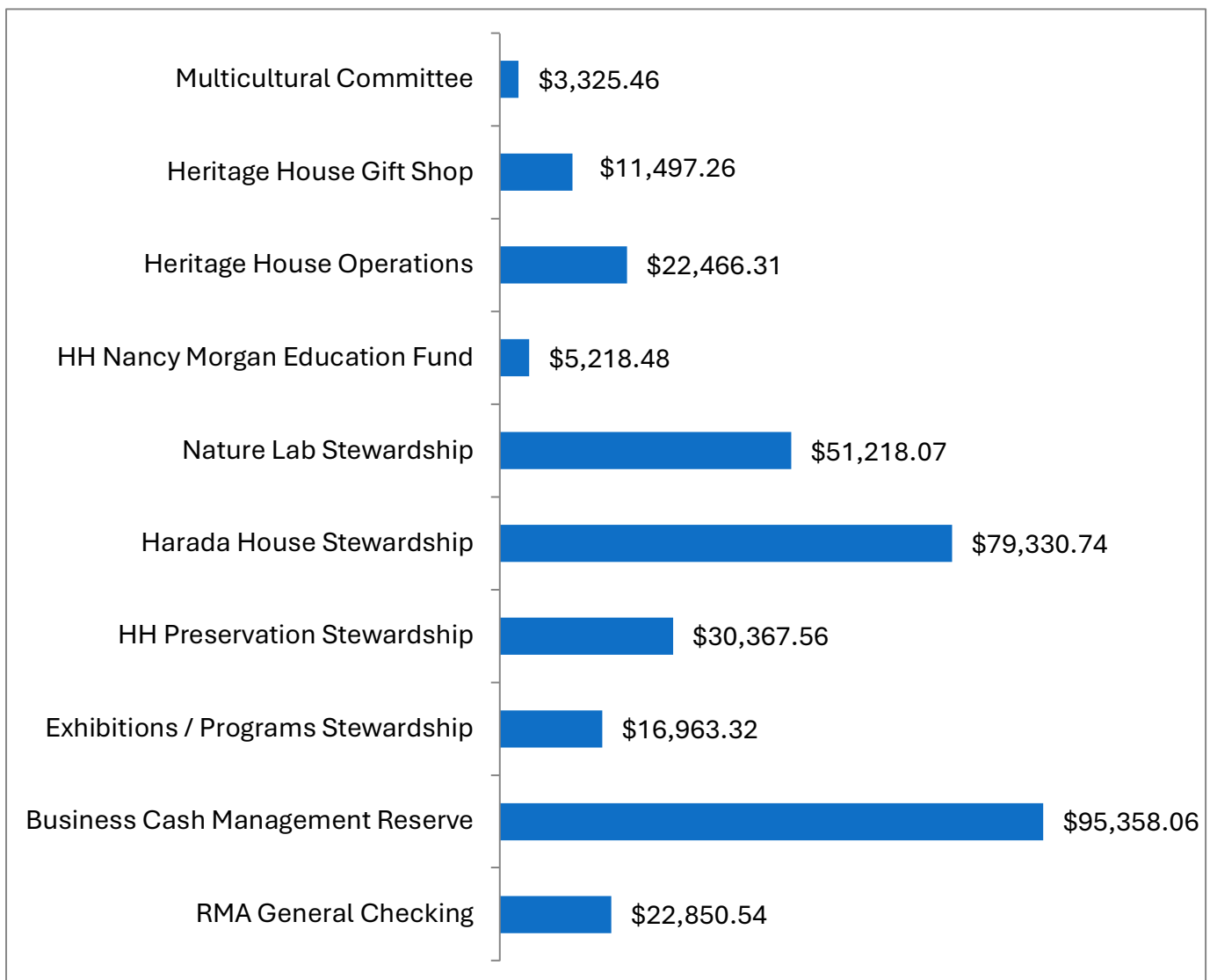


Other Committee Activities – The Multicultural Committee has been excellent in promoting the many museum events and activities that celebrate the importance of Asian, African American, Latino, and Native American peoples' contribution to Riverside's rich history. The Finance Committee and Bylaws Committee have made numerous improvements to the RMA's accounting procedures, financial reporting, and parliamentary procedures.

Events – RMA offered a Paint and Sip event to its members and friends in appreciation for their support this year. And while other events were discussed, the museum's 100 events kept everyone quite busy. Look for additional RMA events in 2025-26!

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The RMA primarily raises funds for the MoR through an annual pledge drive, in which donors have the option to contribute to the general account or to specific areas of the museum that they have an interest in. The RMA acts as a steward of these various funds. Funds in the general account are used to support operations and to make special gifts to the museum. Program-specific funds are managed by the RMA until such time that the museum makes a request for the funds. The RMA, with guidance by the Treasurer, finance committee, and museum leadership, provides oversight and stewardship of the following funds and accounts. Their fund balances as of June 30, 2025, are provided in the chart below.



INVESTMENTS

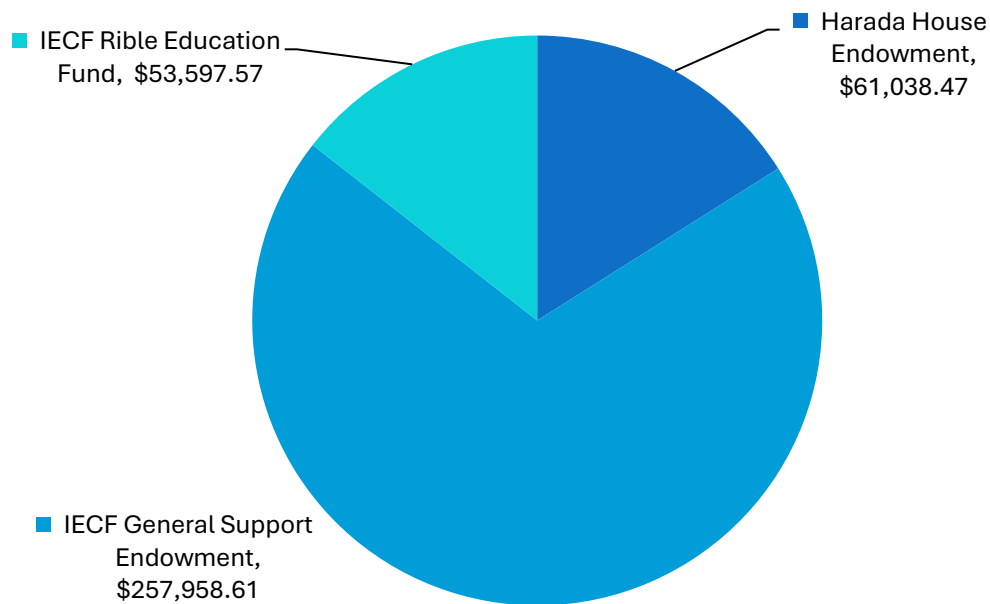
In addition to the funds and accounts described in the Financial Performance section, the RMA also oversees three investment accounts as follows:

Harada House Endowment

Inland Empire Community Foundation (IECF) – General Support Endowment

Inland Empire Community Foundation (IECF) – Rible Education Fund

The Harada House Endowment is a specific-purpose fund managed by a Charles Schwab investment manager with guidance from the RMA finance team and museum leadership. The IECF Rible Education Fund is also restricted in nature, with investment proceeds supporting educational programs at the Museum of Riverside. The IECF General Support fund is unrestricted, and therefore its annual investment proceeds may be used to support RMA operations. All investment funds undergo quarterly reviews and adhere to guidelines and restrictions in accordance with the RMA’s Investment and Distribution Policy.



VOLUNTEER & MEMBERSHIP IMPACT

RMA members volunteer hundreds of hours annually in support of museum programs and initiatives. Many participate as docents at the Heritage House site, sharing their vast knowledge with visitors. It is also common for them to support the many activities sponsored by the museum, such as the Ice Cream Social, Christmas Open House, Moon

“RMA members are invaluable to the Museum of Riverside and are regularly recognized by museum staff.”

Festival, Victorian Teas, Insect Fair, Movie Nights, and many more. Other members volunteer in leadership roles with the RMA Board. Through their generous donations, membership dues, and the giving of their time, RMA members are invaluable to the Museum of Riverside and are regularly recognized by museum staff for their great contribution.

The RMA encourages its members to participate in any way they feel comfortable. For those who want to be more engaged in activities, please contact us. We will find an event or task that fits your interests and talents.



GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

Meet our leadership team:

OFFICERS

President – Peggy Barnhart
Vice President – Chuck Wilson
Secretary – Mary Hughes
Treasurer – Ron Paquette
Past-president – Robin Whittington

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Aicheria Bell
Rich Cardullo
Claudia Rodriguez
Bruce Spieler

PRESIDENT APPOINTMENTS

Bylaws – Connie Lasky
Membership – Judy O' Bier
Newsletter – Roberta Spieler
Strategic Planning – Chuck Wilson

COMMITTEES

Finance Committee Chair – Ron Paquette
Heritage House Operations Chair – Connie Lasky
Heritage House Volunteers Chair – Jo Matza
Multicultural Committee Chair – Aicheria Bell
Multicultural Committee Co-chair – Carole Zuloaga

LOOKING FORWARD

The RMA has built a competent leadership team and is proud of its many accomplishments in 2024-25. A strategic planning workshop is planned for early 2025-26 where board participants will work on fine-tuning our strategy for the new year.



ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS

The RMA will work towards the following goals in 2025-26:

- Continued membership growth
- Increased fundraising capacity – focusing on donations, grants, and fundraising
- Further improvements in communications (emails, newsletter, website)
- Recruitment of new volunteers
- Enhanced outreach efforts to minority and underrepresented communities
- Ongoing support of the MoR through financial gifts, volunteerism, and advocacy



FUTURE FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

The main goal of the RMA Finance Committee is to ensure its financial stability and to be a responsible steward of museum donations. By investing funds in accordance with sound investment policies, we will continue to seek a reasonable rate of return on behalf of the MoR while ensuring the stability of the assets. For 2025-26, the Finance Committee is exploring the option of moving more funds into CDs in order to get a higher return. The strategy for investments in the Inland Empire Community Foundation is to grow principal balances, utilizing annual investment gains as necessary to support RMA operations and museum initiatives.



MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

The RMA is appreciative of its members and will continue to improve efforts to keep them updated on museum news and engaged in its programs. We plan to add activities of our own in 2025-26 and hope that you can find time to participate in them.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Do you want to become an RMA member?

Are you an active member looking for a volunteer opportunity?

Would you like to donate to our organization?

Reach out to us, we are eager to hear from you.

Riverside Museum Associates

PO Box 52408

Riverside, CA 92517

Website: riversidemuseumassociates.org

General Email Address: info@riversidemuseumassociates.org

Membership (new members or renewals): Judy O'Bier

Donations: Judy O'Bier

Newsletter inquiries: Roberta Spieler / Mary Hughes

Treasurer / Finance Committee: Ron Paquette / Bruce Spieler / Chuck Wilson

Heritage House Operations: Connie Lasky

Heritage House Gift Shop: Carla Reay

Website inquiries: Mary Hughes

