

## **Riverside California Blue Ribbon Task Force**

### **Recommended Guiding Principles**

To Meet Future Service and Space Needs

Of the Downtown Library and Metropolitan Museum

*Draft: June 10, 2008 for Public Comment on June 18, 2008*

1. The Downtown Library should remain the Main Library for the City of Riverside Library System and be an icon that represents the long-standing commitment of the City as a life-long learning community. A Main Library is defined as the resource center for the entire Riverside Public Library system with a large print and non-print collection, technology access, historical, genealogy and special collections, administrative offices and extensive programs and exhibits that support the Library's mission. An icon is defined as a uniquely identifiable visual and functional representation of the importance the Main Library plays as the nexus of the learning community.
2. The Downtown Library and The Metropolitan Museum, as integral components of the downtown cultural focus and with their broad service missions, should be expanded and remain at their respective current, separate locations.
3. The Library and the Museum should remain separate institutions that are served by separate facilities.
4. The amount of space allocated to and budgeted for the Library and the Museum should be adequate to enable each institution to fulfill their integral role as a downtown cultural and learning destination and meet their respective service missions as determined by their respective Board of Directors.
5. The required space should be determined using, at minimum, the following criteria:
  - a. The Mission and Vision Statements as adopted by the Board of Directors of each institution
  - b. The population served as determined through careful analysis of demographic trends—including population projections through the year 2050.
  - c. The best national practices for operation of libraries and museums
  - d. A detailed analysis of possibilities for joint programming
  - e. Utilization of City of Riverside and other public facilities—including local college and university museum and library space, if programmatically appropriate.
  - f. Provision for future expansion
  - g. Utilization of current and projected programming needs of the Library and Museum.
  - h. Use of previously commissioned professional studies
6. The primary exhibition hall space for the Museum should be in Downtown Riverside and be able to host world-class exhibits.
7. The Chinese Pavilion is an important part of the cultural heritage of the City of Riverside. As such, it adds to the arts and cultural focus of the downtown district. Its historical importance adds to the learning environment of the library through its physical proximity. No alteration to or relocation of the Pavilion should be permitted without consultation with and endorsement of the appropriate cultural affinity groups and interested parties.
8. The City of Riverside should provide adequate, convenient and easily accessible parking to serve patrons and staff of the Library and Museum.
9. The resulting project(s) should strengthen and emphasize the importance of the City of Riverside as a city of learning, arts, culture and dynamic human diversity. The Library and Museum should remain an integral part of the city's Renaissance Plan.
10. The City Council of Riverside and the Boards of Directors of the Library and Museum should cooperate and collaborate with each other and other affinity institutions to further these guiding principles.
11. The Task Force recommends that the City Council of Riverside act on the adoption of these guiding principles and provide for the physical needs and operating budgets of the Library and Museum as soon as possible.