

MARK TAKANO

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October 10, 2013

Office of the Director
Institute of Museum and Library Services
1800 M Street NW, 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20036-5802

Re: Request to Support Riverside Metropolitan Museum, City of Riverside 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service Application

Dear Director:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for an application from the Riverside Metropolitan Museum, City of Riverside for the 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service to recognize the excellence of its stewardship of artifact and archival collections and historic sites, its innovative and creative programs, and community outreach to the diverse community of Riverside and the region.

The RMM is a steward of extensive history, natural history, and anthropology artifacts and archival collections (approximately 100,000 artifacts and 2,500 linear feet of archival materials), two National Register of Historic Places sites (the Main Museum facility and the 1891 Heritage House) and the National Historic Landmark Harada House. The RMM is the primary museum resource for residents of the Riverside region, where my district is located, to learn and explore the vast breadth, richness and depth of this area's arts, culture, history, and natural environment.

The RMM is to be commended in particular for their innovative programming with Smithsonian's Citizen Science and recent Nature Spotter project, their professional stewardship of National Historic Landmark Harada House site and collections, and their community based Native American exhibits and programs.

I share your commitment to ensuring that our Museums continue to implement "best practices" in all their stewardship activities. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Suverkrup Mundy, the Riverside Metropolitan Museum's Director at 951-826-5273 or smundy@riversideca.gov. Your full and fair consideration of this request with current laws, rules, regulations and agency policy will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Takano".

Mark Takano
Member of Congress