

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



905

FROM: EXECUTIVE OFFICE

SUBMITTAL DATE: May 22, 2001

SUBJECT: Response to Grand Jury Report: Edward-Dean Museum of Decorative Arts (Economic Development Agency)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Approve with or without modifications, the attached response to the Grand Jury's recommendations regarding the Edward-Dean Museum of Decorative Arts (Economic Development Agency).
- 2) Direct the Clerk of the Board to immediately forward the Board's finalized response to the Grand Jury, to the Presiding Judge, and to the County Clerk-Recorder (for mandatory filing with the State).

BACKGROUND: On March 27 the Board directed staff to prepare a draft of the Board's response to the Grand Jury's report regarding the Edward-Dean Museum of Decorative Arts (Economic Development Agency).

Section 933(c) of the Penal Code requires that the Board of Supervisors comment on the Grand Jury's recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the Board, and that a response be provided to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court within 90 days.

TONY CARSTENS
Deputy County Executive Officer

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FINANCIAL DATA: N/A

CURRENT YEAR COST \$

ANNUAL COST: \$

NET COUNTY COST \$

IN CURRENT YEAR BUDGET: Yes/ No/

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FY: Yes/ No/

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: **APPROVE.**

County Executive Officer Signature

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Tavaglione, seconded by Supervisor Buster and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Buster, Tavaglione, Venable, Wilson and Mullen

Noes: None

Gerald A. Maloney

Absent: None

Clerk of the Board

Date: May 22, 2001

By:

xc: E.O., Grand Jury, EDA, COB, Presiding Judge

Deputy

3.41

Consent Policy
 Consent Policy
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 Department Recommendation:
 Per Executive Office:

SPECIFIC FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

EDWARD-DEAN MUSEUM OF DECORATIVE ARTS (Economic Development Agency)

FINDINGS:

FINDING:

1. *The transfer of operational management of the EDMDA to the EDA appears to have been both prudent and timely. The EDA has been partially successful in its efforts to resurrect a declining county cultural asset. However, several longstanding operational deficiencies (some of which are noted below) have been noted in previous Grand Jury Reports without substantive remedial action. These deficiencies continue to have a negative effect on the Museum and jeopardize its future viability.*

RESPONSE:

- X Respondent disagrees partially with the finding. Explain the partial disagreement:

The future has never looked brighter for the Museum. The physical facility is in good shape and attendance is rising.

FINDING:

2. *The EDA does not provide a competent and fully qualified curator for the Museum. This is a direct violation of the specific terms and conditions contained in the August 28, 1964, Agreement.*

RESPONSE:

- X Respondent disagrees partially with the finding. Explain the partial disagreement:

Curation is provided on an as-needed basis to accommodate traveling exhibits, registration of artifacts and the accession of items into the Museum. The Museum contracts for a registrar.

FINDING:

3. *A certified inventory of all items contained in the Museum collection (those on*

display and those in storage) has never been completed. For several years, an inventory has allegedly been "in process." Moreover, the authenticity and historical significance of items in the collection have never been reliably established.

RESPONSE:

- X Respondent disagrees partially with the finding. Explain the partial disagreement:

Inventory of Museum artifacts is a continuing effort as new items are added or removed from the Museum. A computerized database is currently under development for the inventory of Museum assets.

FINDING:

- 4. A comprehensive appraisal of the EDMDA collection has not been accomplished. Current estimates place the value at approximately \$2.5 to \$5 million.**

RESPONSE:

- X Respondent disagrees partially with the finding. Explain the partial disagreement:

The collection was appraised at the time it was donated to the County. New items accessioned into the Museum require an appraisal.

FINDING:

- 5. Current insurance coverage for the EDMDA collection appears to be inadequate in direct violation of the August 28, 1964, Agreement that specifically states: "The center and its contents shall be adequately insured at all times."**

RESPONSE:

- X Respondent disagrees partially with the finding. Explain the partial disagreement:

The County is self-insured. In addition to the County's coverage, EDA has a Fine Arts policy of \$1 million for the collection.

FINDING:

6. ***The EDMA collection appeals to a very small segment of the area population when compared with other Museums within the county.***

RESPONSE:

- X Respondent disagrees partially with the finding. Explain the partial disagreement:

The Museum attracts people from both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The number of patrons has increased 33% since EDA's involvement.

FINDING:

7. ***EDMDA lost its American Association of Museums (AAM) accreditation in 1997 due to non-compliance with reporting and operational requirements. Although such accreditation is not essential, it is of significant importance in procuring operational grants, special traveling exhibits, and prestige for the Museum.***

- X Respondent disagrees wholly with the finding. Explain the disagreement:

As stated in the Grand Jury report, the accreditation is not essential. Since it has not precluded the Museum from applying for grants or receiving traveling exhibits, seeking accreditation at this time is not the best use of the Museum's resources. Currently in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties only three Museums, out of more than 100, are accredited (Palm Springs Desert Museum, Riverside Municipal Museum and San Bernardino County Museum).

FINDING:

8. ***The EDA does not provide a qualified maintenance supervisor to oversee and direct the activities of grounds and building maintenance workers at the Museum. Museum structures, although newly painted, show a distinct lack of consistent preventive maintenance.***

RESPONSE:

- X Respondent disagrees wholly with the finding. Explain the disagreement:

The Museum's grounds and buildings have been significantly upgraded during EDA's tenure. In lieu of paying one person to maintain the grounds and buildings, EDA has entered into an agreement with the Sheriff's Department to provide trustees to work at no cost to the Museum. The trustees' expertise is often in the area of masonry, carpentry and landscape maintenance.

FINDING:

9. *The Facilities Master Plan 1998-2004, a report prepared by the County of Riverside Department of Building Services for the Fiscal Year 1998-1999, stated that EDMDA contains structural deficiencies requiring renovations and repairs in the amount of \$740,000.*

RESPONSE:

- X Respondent disagrees partially with the finding. Explain the partial disagreement:

Many of the deficiencies noted in the Facilities Master Plan have been corrected. Specifically, electrical, structural, parking and HVAC issues have been addressed.

FINDING:

10. *The EDMDA Admission Recap Report for Fiscal year 1999-2000 states a total of 8005 Museum admissions. As shown in the following table, however, the total number of actual Museum admissions is more accurately stated as 3,487.*

RESPONSE:

- X Respondent disagrees partially with the finding. Explain the partial disagreement:

The Admission Recap Report for Fiscal year 1999-2000 includes:

General Admission	General Admission No Charge	School Tours	Total
1800	4518	1687	8005
	Special Event held both in the Museum and on grounds.		

FINDING:

11. ***The draft outline of EDMDA's Five Year Strategic Plan 2000-2005, as currently written, does not adequately address the development and promotion of new revenue-generating uses of the Museum property.***

RESPONSE:

- Respondent agrees with the finding.

The Strategic Plan identifies a general vision for the Museum operations. It is in draft form and additional input is appreciated.

FINDING:

12. ***The EDMDA Marketing Plan, although not yet fully implemented, appears to be inadequately funded at \$10,000 per year. In addition, two recent promotional brochures refer to the facility as the "Edward-Dean Museum & Gallery" rather than the "Edward-Dean Museum of Decorative Arts" as specifically required by the August 25, 1964, Agreement.***

RESPONSE:

- Respondent agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

RECOMMENDATION:

1. ***Instruct the EDA to expeditiously recruit a competent, qualified curator for the Museum.***

RESPONSE:

- The recommendation requires further analysis. Explain the scope and parameters of an analysis or study:

EDA is working with the Parks Department to identify a program that will assist the Museum with its curatorial needs, using existing County staff.

RECOMMENDATION:

2. *Direct the EDA to follow through with the necessary procedures to reinstate American Association of Museum accreditation for the EDMDA.*

RESPONSE:

- X The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Explain:

As stated in the Grand Jury report, accreditation is not essential. Since it has not precluded the Museum from applying for grants or receiving traveling exhibits, seeking accreditation at this time is not the best use of our limited resources. Currently in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties only three Museums, of over 100, are accredited (Palm Springs Desert Museum, Riverside Municipal Museum and San Bernardino County Museum).

RECOMMENDATION:

3. *Instruct the EDA to complete, certify, and submit a comprehensive inventory of all artifacts in the collection without delay.*

RESPONSE:

- X The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. Provide a time frame for implementation:

A new database has been created to better track the physical inventory. The database is currently being checked against the physical inventory.

Estimated completion time is four to six months.

RECOMMENDATION:

4. *Direct the EDA to complete a certified appraisal of the artifacts to determine the true value of the collection.*

RESPONSE:

- X The recommendation requires further analysis. Explain the scope and parameters of an analysis or study:

Items donated to the Museum require an appraisal prior to the Museum accepting the item into the collection. Items that have been appraised will not be re-appraised. Items that have not been appraised will be examined and a determination made regarding the need of an appraisal.

RECOMMENDATION:

5. ***Direct the EDA to provide an experienced maintenance supervisor to direct landscape and building maintenance activities.***

RESPONSE:

- X The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Explain:

In lieu of paying one person to maintain the grounds and buildings, EDA has entered into an agreement with the Sheriff's Department to provide trustees to work at no cost to the Museum. The trustees' expertise is often in the area of masonry, carpentry and landscape maintenance. The building and grounds have been significantly upgraded under EDA's management.

RECOMMENDATION:

6. ***Instruct the EDA to expand the draft of the EDMDA Five-Year Strategic Plan Draft 2000-2005 to emphasize the revenue producing potential of the multi-purpose building, pavilion, and the adjacent areas for corporate, public, and private functions.***

RESPONSE:

- X The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. Provide a time frame for implementation:

Four to six months.

RECOMMENDATION:

7. ***Direct County Counsel to review the August 28, 1964, Transfer Agreement and consider all available options relevant to the Museum's future.***

RESPONSE:

- The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Explain:**

County Counsel has reviewed this agreement on several occasions; consequently, additional review is unnecessary.