

# City of Hesperia

## STAFF REPORT



**DATE:** May 2, 2017  
**TO:** Mayor and Council Members  
**FROM:** Nils Bentsen, City Manager  
**BY:** Rachel Molina, Assistant to the City Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Consideration of joint-agency support of Victor Valley Museum

---

### RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the City Council provide direction to staff on joint-agency support of the Victor Valley Museum, and take action to memorialize that direction if the City Council chooses to fund the request.

### BACKGROUND

In 2014, the City Council approved a request for support of the Victor Valley Museum in the amount of \$15,000 for three fiscal years. At that time, the Hesperia Unified School District also voted to provide funding in the amount of \$10,000 per year for three fiscal years.

In April 2017, the City received a subsequent request from San Bernardino County Museum Director, Melissa Russo, to renew the City's commitment to support the Victor Valley Museum with a contribution of \$15,000 per year for the next three fiscal years.

### ISSUES/ANALYSIS

Since 2014, the Victor Valley Museum has launched several new exhibits and programs aimed at offering enhanced educational opportunities as well as highlighting the history and people of our region.

Four new exhibits recently opened including Mysteries in the Museum, California Bling, the Art of Sadie Patterson, and Women Over 50 – honoring Women's History Month. In addition to these exhibits, over the past few years, the Museum has placed a special emphasis on providing family-oriented events, including Bugfest, Gobblefest, Night at the Museum, and Santa's Pajama Party.

One such family-orientated exhibit is CuriousCITY, slated to open in June 2017. This highly interactive exhibit will provide a hands-on learning space for children 0-5 years of age for whom no other similar educational exhibit exists in our region. The exhibit will feature four zones including My Home, My Backyard, My City and My Imagination – providing storytelling opportunities, hands-on play, public safety learning, grocery store and post office play and problem solving and creative learning opportunities.

In order to continue providing quality educational opportunities and exhibits, the Victor Valley Museum is requesting support of the City of Hesperia and Hesperia Unified School District, as

well as neighboring cities. In addition, they are pursuing public-private partnerships by seeking support from the business community.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

If approved, funding will be included in the Fiscal Year 2017/18 budget in the amount of \$15,000.

**ALTERNATIVE (S)**

1. Provide alternative direction to staff.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

None