



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# Metropolitan Museum Board

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**TO: METROPOLITAN MUSEUM BOARD      DATE: JUNE 13, 2018**

**FROM: MUSEUM DEPARTMENT**

**SUBJECT: DEACCESSION OF AMERICAN INDIAN COLLECTION ITEMS FROM SIX TRIBAL OR CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FEDERAL NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT**

## **ISSUE:**

Approve the deaccession of American Indian collection items from six tribal or cultural organizations, in compliance with the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Metropolitan Museum Board approve the deaccession of American Indian collection items from six tribal or cultural organizations, in compliance with the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act; and forward this item to the City Council for final approval.

## **COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

On May 8, 2018, the Riverside Metropolitan Museum (Museum) Collections Committee unanimously approved to forward to the Riverside Metropolitan Museum Board (Board) for its approval the deaccession and repatriation of American Indian collection items from six tribal or cultural organizations in compliance with the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

## **LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:**

This action is recommended in compliance with the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 USC 3001 et seq. NAGPRA was enacted on November 16, 1990, to address the rights of lineal descendants, Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations to Native American cultural items, including human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony (National Park Service).

## **BACKGROUND:**

In 1995, the Museum began the process of complying with NAGPRA. Museum staff identified objects in the Museum's collections from eleven tribal or cultural organizations for repatriation. A summary of the Museum's compliance through May 2018 follows:

<b>Tribal / Cultural Organization</b>	<b>Deaccession Approval by RMM Board</b>	<b>City Council Approval</b>	<b>Repatriated</b>
Crow Tribe of Montana	6/9/2009		
Ione Band of Miwok Indians of California	6/9/2009	4/3/2018	4/23/2010
Kumeyaay (first lot)	6/9/2009		
Kumeyaay (second lot)			
Mesa Verde National Park	3/6/2007	5/1/2007	6/13/2007
Pueblo tribes			
Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians			
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	6/9/2009		
Southern Yokuts			
Tula, Hidalgo, Mexico			
Unknown (first lot)	6/9/2009		
Unknown (second lot)			

## **DISCUSSION:**

The term "deaccession" refers to the procedure of formally removing an object from a museum's permanent collection, after which the object may be considered for sale, exchange, gift, transfer to another entity, transfer to a collection other than the permanent collection, or – in the case of irretrievably deteriorated objects – disposal.

Riverside Metropolitan Museum policy requires that the Metropolitan Museum Board approve deaccession and repatriation recommendations provided by the Riverside Metropolitan Museum Collections Committee and forward the deaccession to the City Council for final approval. The Riverside Metropolitan Museum Collections Committee is bringing this recommendation before the Metropolitan Museum Board to approve the deaccession and repatriation of these human remains and cultural items, which represent all collections held by the Museum that are subject to NAGPRA and that have not to date been deaccessioned and repatriated.

The staff position that oversaw the NAGPRA repatriation process became vacant in 2009. The incomplete repatriations were discovered in 2017, and Museum staff have been working to bring the Museum into full compliance.

A summary of the Museum's human remains and cultural items that require current Board approval for deaccession for NAGPRA compliance follows:

<b>Tribal / Cultural Organization</b>	<b>Human Remains</b>	<b>Associated Funerary Objects</b>	<b>Unassociated Funerary Objects</b>	<b>Sacred Objects</b>
Kumeyaay	X	X		
Pueblo tribes	X			X
Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians			X	
Southern Yokuts	X			
Tula, Hidalgo, Mexico	X			
Unknown (second lot)	X			

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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