



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: JULY 24, 2018**

FROM: MUSEUM DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**

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 City Council 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.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

On June 13, 2018, the Riverside Metropolitan Museum Board unanimously approved to forward to the City Council 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.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

This action is recommended in compliance with the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 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 timeline of the Museum's compliance through May 2018 follows:

Tribal / Cultural Organization	Deaccession Approval by RMM Board	City Council Approval	Repatriated
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)	6/13/2018		
Mesa Verde National Park	3/6/2007	5/1/2007	6/13/2007
Pueblo tribes	6/13/2018		
Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians	6/13/2018		
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	6/9/2009		
Southern Yokuts	6/13/2018		
Tula, Hidalgo, Mexico	6/13/2018		
Unknown (first lot)	6/9/2009		
Unknown (second lot)	6/13/2018		

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 City Council approval of deaccession and repatriation recommendations provided by the Riverside Metropolitan Museum Board. The Riverside Metropolitan Museum is bringing this recommendation before the City Council 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 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 list of the Museum’s human remains and cultural items that require current City Council approval for deaccession for NAGPRA compliance follows:

Tribal / Cultural Organization	Human Remains	Associated Funerary Objects	Unassociated Funerary Objects	Sacred Objects
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.

Prepared by: Robyn G. Peterson, Ph.D., Museum Director
Approved by: Lea Deesing, Assistant City Manager
Certified as to
Availability of funds: Adam Raymond, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment: Metropolitan Museum Board Minutes – June 13, 2018 Draft