



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL** **DATE: MAY 7, 2019**  
**FROM: MUSEUM DEPARTMENT** **WARDS: ALL**  
**SUBJECT: DEACCESSION OF 1935-1970 AMAZONIAN CANOE, OAR, AND TILLER (A1010-1A, 1B, 1C)**

## **ISSUE:**

Approve deaccession of a 1935-1970 Amazonian canoe, oar, and tiller (A1010-1A, 1B, 1C).

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council approve the deaccession of a 1935-1970 Amazonian canoe, oar, and tiller (A1010-1A, 1B, 1C).

## **BOARD RECOMMENDATION:**

On March 13, 2019, the Metropolitan Museum Board, with six members present, unanimously agreed to recommend that the City Council approve deaccession of an Amazonian canoe, oar, and tiller (A1010-1A, 1B, 1C).

## **BACKGROUND:**

In August 1976, the Museum Department took possession of and accessioned an Amazonian canoe, oar, and tiller (A1010-1A, 1B, 1C) estimated to have been made between 1935 and 1970 for the Anthropology collection. Its provenance is unclear; however, according to the donor, Clarence David Platt, these objects reportedly were brought from the Amazon River by Amazonian explorer Hal Linker. No documentation substantiating this report accompanies these artifacts.



A1010-1A



A1010-1B and -1C

## **DISCUSSION:**

The Amazonian canoe, oar, and tiller were donated in 1976 and have not been exhibited in the 43 years the Museum has provided stewardship. There are no plans to utilize the objects in the Museum's exhibition and/or outreach plans.

The canoe, oar, and tiller fit three (3) deaccession criteria within the Museum's Collections Management Policy:

1. The object/specimen is outside of the scope of the Museum's mission and guidelines set by Riverside Municipal Code (Chapter 2.12), acquisition policy, or is irrelevant to the purposes of the Museum.
4. The Museum is unable to properly preserve or store the object/specimen and to provide proper or adequate environment for their collections.
5. The object/specimen has doubtful potential utilization in the near future in the Museum's exhibition and public programs.

That the canoe, oar, and tiller have remained mothballed for 43 years in conditions inappropriate to the storage of watercraft testifies to the Museum's inability to care properly for this group of artifacts. Additionally, Museum staff has determined that this group of artifacts is unlikely to be utilized for exhibition in the near future, due to its deviation from the Museum's mission. The probability of use in an exhibition is placed in further doubt by the condition of the canoe, which is split and inexpertly repaired in several places. As such, the most appropriate course of action is that the Museum deaccession the canoe, oar, and tiller from its permanent collections.

Staff have researched local museums for which these objects might have relevance; however, there was no interest, in part due to the condition of the canoe. Therefore, the Museum approached the City of Riverside's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services,

as an appropriate transfer recipient. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services operates the Izaak Walton Facility at Fairmount Park where the canoe may be displayed to enhance the facility's ambiance. The City's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services has agreed to accept the transfer of the Amazonian canoe, oar, and tiller for display in the Izaak Walton Facility.

The Museum proposes to transfer the canoe, oar, and tiller to City's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services for display at the Izaak Walton Facility. Museum staff will assist Parks staff in safely installing the canoe.

The Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services concurs with this report.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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

Attachment:	Metropolitan Museum Board Minutes – March 13, 2019
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