



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: MARCH 2, 2021**

FROM: MUSEUM DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: DEACCESSION FROM THE MUSEUM OF RIVERSIDE'S PERMANENT COLLECTION OF SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE TOOLS AND TOOL COMPONENTS FROM THE BRENDDEL TOOL COLLECTION (P58)

ISSUE:

Approve deaccession from the Museum of Riverside's permanent collection six hundred eighty-one tools and tool components from the Brendel Tool Collection (P58).

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve deaccession from the Museum of Riverside's permanent collection of six hundred eighty-one tools and tool components from the Brendel Tool Collection (P58).

BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

At the virtual special meeting on December 2, 2020, the Museum of Riverside Board, with six of its nine members present for this vote, agreed with one abstention to recommend that City Council approve deaccession from the permanent collection of six hundred eighty-one tools and tool components from the Brendel Tool Collection (P58).

BACKGROUND:

The Brendel Tool Collection (P58), consisting of approximately nine hundred forty tools, was purchased for \$5,000 by the then Riverside Municipal Museum (Museum) in 1969. By 1980, records reflect that the tools had been accessioned into the permanent collection. A small number of the tools have been infrequently exhibited as examples of vintage tools or supporting props. The collection is a type collection containing many examples of the same tool. For example, there are two hundred ten woodworkers' hand planes. The tools have been dated between 1840 and 1960 based on accession records and an interview with Mr. Brendel. Many are in poor condition.

The collection was acquired from Louis B. Brendel, a Connecticut businessman, who collected the objects in the northeastern United States. Following his retirement, Mr. Brendel relocated to San Diego and a few years later sold the collection to the Museum. It is surmised that the reason this collection was acquired was to increase the range of artifacts available for exhibition since the Museum has begun to occupy the entire Mission Inn Avenue building in 1965. The objects

are not of Riverside or Southern California origin nor had they ever been on exhibit in this region. There is no restriction on the collection that prevents it from being dispersed.

At its meeting on August 26, 2020, with ten Committee members supporting and one Committee member absent, the Museum's Collections Committee approved a recommendation to deaccession six hundred eighty-one tools and tool components from the Brendel Collection (P58).

DISCUSSION:

The Museum of Riverside's Collections and Exhibitions Management Policies provide justifications for deaccession, and one or more of the following apply to each item of the Brendel Tool Collection proposed for deaccession:

1. The Museum of Riverside Board and City Council approve a major shift in collection scope; or, the object/specimen falls outside of the scope of the Museum's mission and guidelines as set by Riverside Municipal Code (Chapter 2.12), and/or the Collections Development Plan;
2. The object/specimen lacks physical integrity or its condition is too poor to justify conservation and/or use within an exhibition or interpretive context (irretrievable damage or loss is defined as destruction of the essential structure or identifying characteristics of an object through action of mechanical, chemical, or biological agents; vandalism; disaster; or use of an object in destructive scientific sample testing);
3. The object/specimen has doubtful potential to be exhibited or published in the foreseeable future, or the object/specimen's accompanying data are so incomplete that the item has limited or no cultural, historical, or scientific value;
4. The Museum has at least two comparable objects/specimens in the collection that are in superior condition, better documented, and/or of better quality.

The Museum's permanent collection is well furnished with vintage tools. Objects proposed to remain in the accessioned Brendel Tool Collection have continuing interpretive value; they are types similar to artifacts used in the Riverside region. Staff have selected the most representative objects in the best condition to retain. Further, in addition to the Brendel Tool Collection, at least two other large collections of tools from local tool collectors have been accessioned into the permanent collection.

Forty-two objects of the six hundred eighty-one recommended for deaccession have been identified for transfer to the Museum's teaching collection. The teaching collection is one of five categories of collection maintained by the Museum (permanent, community, teaching, library, and living). Teaching collection artifacts may be handled by the public during education programs and are not retained with a primary responsibility to preserve. Resources to document, preserve, conserve, and exhibit are not expended on teaching collection objects as they are for the permanent collection.

All other objects identified for deaccession are proposed to be transferred to other area museums where they may be relevant to exhibitions (if any) or sold for the benefit of the fund for future acquisitions. Eleven of these tools are in advanced states of deterioration and pose an infestation risk to other artifacts; these objects will be destroyed and the process documented (P58-233, P58-248, P58-255, P58-265, P58-445, P58-578, P58-824, P58-825, P58-879, P58-931, and P58-937).

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report. Individual items from this deaccessioned lot that are not designated for transfer or destruction will be offered for public sale. Following Museum policy and museum field codes of ethics, net proceeds generated by such sales are restricted to future acquisitions for the permanent collection, fund 0000721-225252.

Prepared by:	Robyn G. Peterson, Ph.D., Museum Director
Certified as to availability of funds:	Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by:	Moises Lopez, Deputy City Manager
Approved as to form:	Kristi J. Smith, Interim City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Museum of Riverside Board Minutes December 2, 2020
2. Illustrations of objects for transfer to Museum of Riverside teaching collection
3. Illustrations of objects for transfer, sale, or destruction