



Tribal Repatriation Checklist

For a typical repatriation, the order of essential items on this list are chronological. Importance is indicated by color, as shown here:

Essential: Critical for Repatriation Outcome

Helpful: Improve communication, reduce misunderstandings, and address Tribal financial and labor costs

Consult with Tribes

Required:

- Tribal preferences for treatment & handling
 - » Museum transportation and consolidation of collections
 - » Museum signage, display, teaching collections, collection locations
- Tribal preferences for inventory & summary process
- Tribally identified cultural affiliation
- Tribal identification of cultural items
- Museum knowledge of contamination
- List of other consulting Tribes

Helpful to Discuss Consultation Expectations with Tribes:

- Frequency of meetings
- Outcome of meetings
- Tribal needs
 - » Tribal funding needs
 - » Reburial preparation location
 - » Reburial preparation assistance
 - » Reburial location assistance

Review Preliminary Inventory & Summary Prior to Submission

Confirm Tribal Consensus for Consultation Record:

- Cultural item identifications: were Tribal identifications accepted and clearly identified?
- Cultural affiliation: was the Tribe clearly listed as culturally affiliated?
- Missing objects & Ancestors: are these addressed, or is there a plan to address them?

Finalize, Submit, and Publish Inventory & Summary

- May update per review of catalogs, field notes, or other information
- Tribes may reverse finalization if desired
- Identify relevant timelines

Place Claim

NOTE: Tribe may submit Claim any time during Consult.

Tribe Should Include in Claim:

- Clear timeline for museum to accept claim, transfer control, and perform physical transfer
- Coordination of Federal and State repatriation process
- Requests for additional documentation
- Helpful to copy NAHC and National NAGPRA

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■ Transfer Control (i.e. Ownership)

Review & Prepare:

- Museum or Tribal transfer paperwork
- Discussion of care and treatment at the museum, prior to transfer

■ Transfer Possession (i.e. Physical Transfer)

Decide:

- Who will conduct the physical transfer (museum, Tribe, other, both)?
- Protocol for transfer: secure, safe, respectful
- Paperwork for transfer to verify everything has been transferred (i.e., box or tray inventory)

■ Reburial Preparation or Equivalent

Decide:

- Who will conduct reburial preparation (museum, Tribe, other, both)?
- Time and space needs
- Supplies

Cultural Items Not Reburied (e.g. basketry):

- Use
- Needs/Care
- Location
- Tribal and museum capacity

■ Reburial

Advance Logistics:

- Location and size of reburial area
- Date & time
- Paperwork and permits
- Excavation of reburial area (heavy equipment, shovels?)

On-Site Logistics:

- Security and privacy
- Transportation of Tribal Ancestors and cultural items
- Participants
- Ceremonial needs

■ Document & Finalize Repatriation

NOTE: This step is best practice, but optional

Keeping Ancestors Safe:

- Tribe notifies NAHC, Museum, National NAGPRA that reburial has occurred
- Document reburial location in Tribal register
- Consider documenting location with NAHC, land management agency, CHRIS, etc.
- Plan long-term management of reburial location with land owner

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