
St. Joseph Museums, Inc.

NAGPRA Compliance

Repatriation Statement

What is NAGPRA?

Passed in 1990, NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) is a federal law requiring federally funded institutions to consult with lineal descendants, federally recognized Native American tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations in order to identify and return human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony back to their rightful owners.

For more information on the national NAGPRA program, [please click here](#)

NAGPRA at St Joseph Museum

Philosophy

St. Joseph Museums, Inc. is fully committed to the legal and ethical principles of NAGPRA and is invested in repatriating our Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian collections. The St. Joseph Museum is actively working with Native American tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations to identify and respectfully return items of cultural significance that fall under the law, funerary objects, and native Ancestors.

Collections

The St. Joseph Museum currently cares for a large collection of Native American artifacts and ethnographic items. These items came into the care of the museum through various means like donations, gifts, purchases, and archaeological excavations. Regardless of the means of acquisition, it is the goal of the St. Joseph Museums to respectfully care for the items in our control and to facilitate the return of applicable items back to their rightful owners.



The Process

The repatriation process begins with establishing and nurturing relationships with Native American tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations and is an ongoing process. The St. Joseph Museums, Inc. endeavors to establish open and transparent relationships with Native representatives. As required by the law, the St. Joseph Museum also provides the necessary paperwork to national NAGPRA offices as well as notices to tribal representatives.

Contact

For questions about the St. Joseph Museum's NAGPRA policies and procedures, please reach out to NAGPRA coordinator [Tori Zieger](mailto:tori@stjosephmuseum.org) at tori@stjosephmuseum.org.