



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.

Tribes 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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