

Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) Collections Access Policy (Native American Collection Access)

1. Scholar requests to access collections.

The scholar, researcher etc. is responsible for contacting the relevant Tribe(s) or Native Hawaiian Organization(s) (NHO) and requesting approval(s)* to see the cultural items held in trust in the Native American collection of the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA). Per Section 10.1(d)(3) of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 43 CFR Part 10, mandates that a museum must “obtain free, prior, and informed consent from lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, or Native Hawaiian organizations prior to allowing any exhibition of, access to, or research on human remains or cultural items.” *The required approval(s) is a letter from the relevant Tribe(s) or NHO(s) addressed to the DIA for the list of specific cultural items.

After tribal approval, the scholar/researcher must complete the Microsoft request form available on the **DIA’s website**, and include the following documents with the submission:

- A copy of the request letter from the researcher to the relevant Tribe(s) or NHO(s);
- A copy of the approval(s) by the Tribes(s) or NHO(s),
- Any requirements stipulated by the Tribe(s) or NHO(s),
- The approved list of cultural items, and
- Your resume with 3 current referrals.

Once the relevant Tribe(s) or NHO(s) have approved the list of cultural items, no changes may be made. **Until the relevant Tribe(s) or NHO(s) respond, the DIA will not allow access to cultural items held in trust in the Native American collection.**

DIA Review.

After approval(s) is received by the DIA, the estimated preparation time for access to cultural items will depend on the number requested, their size, their current condition, and the date of the request:

- 1–20 items (small or medium) require a minimum of 3 weeks' notice.
- 25–50 items (small or medium) require a minimum of 6-8 weeks' notice.
- 100+ items (small or medium) require a minimum of 8-12 weeks' notice.
- Larger items may require additional time.
- Other previously scheduled visits may impact access to the collection.

DIA staff will review the list of requested cultural items, supply a checklist with the available data, and inform the requestor if any data is restricted, sensitive, or private.

Additional archival data (if available) pertaining to the requested cultural items will require more research time from museum staff.

2. Site visit.

- Researchers will be limited to a specified number of participants, depending upon DIA Collection spaces.

3. Handling Requirements and Collection Areas.

- DIA staff will facilitate the handling of cultural items.
- The DIA Care and Trust Agreement must be followed including any specified gender handling.
- Eating and drinking are not allowed in Collection spaces.
- Only pencils may be used in Collection spaces.

- Service Animals are allowed with written certification and prior approval by the Tribe(s) or NHO(s).
- There will be strict adherence to the above procedures.

4. Photographs and Publications.

- Photographs may be taken if allowed by the Tribe(s) or NHO(s) and may be used for research purposes only.
- The DIA retains copyright to all collection images it provides to researchers including images of cultural items.
- Publication or reproduction must go through the DIA Rights & Reproduction process according to its policies and with obtained permission from the Tribe(s) or NHO(s).
- The DIA requires a copy of the resulting research, published or unpublished (the latter to remain confidential), for its files upon completion at no cost to the museum.

Questions about access to the Native American collection should be emailed to NACollections@dia.org and questions regarding Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act should be emailed to NAGPRA@dia.org.

For further guidance on the duty of care requirements under NAGPRA, refer to <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nagpra/upload/Duty-of-Care-FAQ.pdf>.