Consultation and Collaboration: A Starting Point for Museums and Indigenous Tribes

Welcome!

The workshop will begin at 8:30am

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The Museum Services Program provides support, resources, and training to museums in Texas.

- Consultations
- Webinars and workshops
- Resources
www.thc.texas.gov/museum-services

On our webpage:
  • Webinars
  • Workshops
  • Grants and Fundraising
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Collaboration and Consultation Workshop

**Workshop Ground Rules**

1. Use “I” statements and speak only from your own experience
2. Assume good intent and be aware of your impact
3. Maintain confidentiality—what is said here stays here, what is learned here leaves here
4. Share the air—leave room for everyone to speak and don’t interrupt
5. Seek first to understand—ask questions to clarify, not to debate
6. Participation may be verbal, but it is also deep listening
7. Challenge yourself and engage with discomfort
8. Be willing to make a mistake and be understanding when others make them
9. Seek to learn from differences—everyone’s unique backgrounds give us different life experiences
10. Please silence your cell phones
TxDOT and Tribes
Rebekah Dobrasko
Cultural Resource Management Section Director

Did You Know?

Fast Fact from TxDOT Archeology:

TxDOT projects account for 40% of permitted archeological excavations in Texas.

BRIDGING THE Past & Present
** TxDOT and Historic Preservation**

**Public Involvement**
Tribal Partnerships

Consultation and Collaboration: A Starting Point Spring 2023

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Telling a Full Story

EARLY WAXAHACHIE RESIDENTS

Native people lived on the banks of the Waxahachie Creek more than 700 years ago. Archaeologists found evidence of their life styles. They named the location the Waxahachie Creek Site based on the cultures that lived here. At this site, a unique type of pottery called “winter” was used to hold flour and corn. They also found cooking sites where people prepared their food. Radiocarbon dating methods show that this site is 1000 to 2000 years old.

The name “Waxahachie” is believed to be a combination of words from many cultures. This name has been recorded as “Wahisaachie,” “Wasahachii,” and “Wasaiachii.” The language has words such as “Waxachii,” “Wasahachii,” and “Wasaiachii.”

In the 1800s, the Waxahachie was home to many Native American tribes, including the Cherokee, Creek, and Chickasaw. The tribes sometimes fought for land and resources, leading to conflicts and tensions. Today, the Waxahachie area is home to a diverse community of people who come from different cultures and backgrounds.

Other sites near Waxahachie, such as the nearby Trinity River, have also been important to Native American history. The area was home to several tribes, including the Chickasaw, Creek, and Cherokee, who traded and interacted with each other. Today, the Waxahachie area is a reminder of the rich history and culture of the area.
Consultation and Collaboration: A Starting Point

Join Us “Beyond The Road!”

BEYOND THE ROAD

www.txdot.gov

Keywords:

Beyond The Road
Historic Preservation
Archeology and History

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Consultation & Collaboration: A Starting Point for Museums & Indigenous Tribes

Who We Are: Introductions

Welcome!
Texas Historical Commission
- Laura Casey, Museum Services Program Coordinator
- Marie Archambeault, Tribal Liaison/Archeological Reviewer
- Emily Hermans, Museum Services Program Specialist
Texas Department of Transportation
- Rebekah Dobrasko, Section Director, Cultural Resource Management, Environmental Affairs Division

Bullock Texas State History Museum
- Josefa González Mariscal, Deputy Director of Interpretation
- Angie Glasker, Curator
Introductions — Continued

Workshop Tribal Advisors
- Bryant Celestine, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
- Holly Houghten, Mescalero Apache Tribe
- Martina Minthorn, Comanche Nation
- Rick Quezada, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
- Ben Yahola, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

Workshop Facilitators
- Angie Glasker, Curator, Bullock Museum
- Matthew Davila, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Tribal Advisor, Bullock Museum
- Nan Blassingame, Cheyenne and Arapahoe Tribes, Tribal Advisor, Bullock Museum

Workshop Topics Covered

1. Why consultation and collaboration are necessary
2. Key methods to working with Tribes
3. Listening to Tribes, their members and stories

By the end of today’s workshop, you will learn:
- how to enrich museum experiences through collaborative interpretation;
- why it is important for Tribes to have voice in the interpretation of their own history;
- to work with Tribal representatives in a culturally appropriate way;
- changes to implement in museum exhibitions and program planning processes.
Activity 1: Getting To Know Each Other

Introduce yourself and tell us what your object is

Part 1: Why are consultation & collaboration necessary

In session one, we’ll do five things:

1. Review the history of relationships between museums and Tribes;
2. Review what inclusive exhibition practices look like;
3. Give examples of the types of information museums gain through consultation;
4. Define culturally informed object care and handling;
5. Discuss first steps museums can take before reaching out to Tribes.
Museum/Tribal History: Cultural Separation

“Collecting objects from our communities severed the relationships we had with these materials.”

– First Americans Museum

The World’s Historical Columbian Exposition Guide

THE DEPARTMENT OF ETHNOLOGY.

This department will have interest for the curious, as well as the highest value for the ethnologist and archaeologist. The lost civilizations of Palenque, the Aztecs, the Inca, and the Mound-builders; the singular relics of the Cliff-dwellers of Arizona and New Mexico; the almost extinct civilization, if civilization it is to be called, of the aborigines of this country; these all will have the fullest possible represen-

Anthropology building, Centennial Exposition, 1876

Museum/Tribal History: Repatriation

“NAGPRA is an important law that helps us heal from some of the more painful times in our past by empowering Tribes to protect what is sacred to them.”

– Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, Bryan Newland

NAGPRA consultation at San Diego’s Museum of Us, Courtesy NPS NAGPRA
Museum/Tribal History: Critiquing Traditional Display Techniques

Crow Bison Hunt, Milwaukee Public Museum, 2022

Anthropology Hall, National Museum of Natural History, 1911

Museum/Tribal History: Exposing American Indian Stereotypes

- No cultural differences
- No longer exist
- Image of the “Noble Savage”
- Part of nature
- Stoic People

Stereotypes exhibit at First Americans Museum, 2022
Museum/Tribal History: Richness of Diversity

- 574 Federally recognized Tribes in the United States
- They have unique histories, cultures, languages, and perspectives.
- Which Tribes’ histories and cultures exhibited should depend on location, collection, and institutional mission.

Federal Recognition is a legal term meaning the United States recognizes a government-to-government relationship with a Tribe and that a Tribe exists politically in a "dependent nation" status. Federally recognized Tribes possess certain inherent powers of self-government and entitlement to certain federal benefits, services, and protections because of a special trust relationship.

The State of Texas does not have a state recognition process.
Inclusive Exhibition Practices: Example 1

TSHA Handbook of Texas

American Museum of Natural History
Inclusive Exhibition Practices: Example 3

First Americans Museum Flip Interactive

Inclusive Exhibition Practices: Example 4

Great Bear Hunt mat, Oneida, 2021
Inclusive Exhibition Practices: Example 5

Empty exhibit case at the Field Museum, 2022

Consultation Benefits: Object Details Provide Insights to Tribal Histories

“History is not about time — it’s about place.”

— Patty Loew, PhD (Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe) from Field Museum exhibit, 2022
Inclusive Exhibition Practices: Including the Present

Men’s fancy dance regalia, worn by Darwin St. Clair, Eastern Shoshone Nation

Red jingle dress, made by Nan Blassingame, Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes

Consultation Benefits: Humanizing and Naming

Albert Johnson (HunkChoKah) & Annie Bessie Arthur Johnson Standingwater (WeHunKah)

Annie Blowsnake Thundercloud (WaConChaSkaWinKah)
Consultation Benefits: Building collections

Intro wall for the Chicago Field Museum’s *Native Truths* exhibition

Break
Part 1 continued: Why is consultation & collaboration necessary?

Activity 2: Writing and Interpretation

Writing and Interpretation Activity

What is the object’s meaning and purpose and why is it special to you?

What stories can you tell with the object?

What does the object say about you and who you are?
Writing and Interpretation Activity

With your partner(s):

- Review the information provided for your object and take notes
- Write new interpretive text for your object explaining what it is and its significance
“Imperative is the recognition of the spiritual life reverberating within our cultural items. It is a spiritual essence not meant for everyone to understand, but simply for all to acknowledge and respect.”

– Welana A. Fields Queton (Osage/Muscogee (Creek)/ Cherokee)
Object Care While On View — Case Study

Why is the Dress Hidden?
This Arapaho Ghost Dance dress is “hidden” from direct view. It is considered a highly sensitive religious item by the Tribes that practiced the Ghost Dance ceremony.
The Arapaho tribe has given our museum permission to display the dress. However, some people are uncomfortable viewing it directly. Out of respect for this sensitivity, we display it this way so that the dress cannot be inadvertently seen.
The dress is viewable for those who chose to see it.
— Image & label text from First Americans Museum

Object Care — Dioramas

Native American Church exhibition,
Comanche Nation Museum, 2022
First Steps Prior to Consultation

- Evaluate existing exhibitions and/or ones in development:
  - Do visitors infer from your exhibition(s) that Tribal cultures are only of the past?
  - Are you highlighting that change & adaptation are consistent with the Tribes’ experiences?
  - Do you acknowledge Indigenous history does not begin at European contact, nor does it end with the Reservation Period? (During the forced removal of Tribes to reservations, 1850 to 1887.)
  - Do you emphasize American Indian history is American history?

First Steps Prior to Consultation — continued

- Evaluate perspective & if correct language is used on labels:
  - Review and replace inaccurate or outdated information
  - Identify people in photographs and the makers of objects
- Determine if your Tribal narratives have a connection to your geographic location and institutional mission.
- Remove artifacts from display that should not be on display such as objects identified by Tribes to be sacred.
- Update collections inventory lists.
Lunch & Activity 3: Tablemate Discussion

How would you convince your board and/or senior leadership that working with Tribes and including Indigenous perspectives is imperative?

Part 2: Listening Session with a Tribal Representative

Martina Minthorn, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Comanche Nation
Part 3: Working with Tribes

Recap of Skill-building Objectives:

- approach successful & productive consultation(s);
- reach out to Tribes;
- appropriately acknowledge & compensate Tribal members;
- work with Tribal representatives in a culturally appropriate way.

Respectful Reciprocal Relationships

Consultations bring museums many benefits. What opportunities can museums offer to the Tribes?

- Participation in exhibition evaluation & development
- Access to collections
- Access to audiences
- Educational Programming
- Research
- Seat on board
- Internships or opportunities for students
Reciprocal Relationships Case Study: Tribal Access to Collections

Judy Helgesen & Julie Yates-Fulton (Haida Nation) with Judy’s grandfather’s Sea Grizzly Cape in the Chicago Field Museum

Which Tribes Have History in Your Geographic Area?

- 29 Federally Recognized Tribes maintain a connection to Texas
- 3 of those Tribes are located in Texas — the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, and the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas

https://native-land.ca
Which Tribes Have History in Your Geographic Area?

First Americans Museum

Which Tribes Have History in Your Geographic Area?

U.S. Forest Service Map
Where to Start Contact

Federally Recognized Tribes typically have designated staff.

- Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)
- Cultural preservation department
- Language preservation department
- Other tribal members as designated by Tribe

Define the Goals of Your Project

- Begin consultation at the start of your project
- Understand process is not about checking off a box on a list
- Leave room for adjustments
- Prepare questions ahead of time, but listen carefully during consultations
- Avoid rigid timelines
Basic Tips

- Do your homework
- Document your efforts
- Consider appointing one or two people as primary point(s) of contact

Working with Tribes

- Recognize, respect, and encourage cultural differences
- Gift-giving is appreciated and respectful
- Be aware of tribal political changes — you are consulting with Sovereign governments
Compensation and Recognition

- Acknowledge Tribal representatives as authorities on subject
- Compensate as you would any outside consultant
- Consultation expenses should be factored into project budget

Break
Consultation in Practice

Consultation is a process that involves gathering information, sharing ideas, and seeking input from stakeholders. Effective consultation involves several key components:

- Project idea
- Stakeholders
- Discussion and input
- Development and review
- Present final product
- Evaluation of the process
- Opportunities for improvement

Questions?
Activity 4: Five Content Review Questions

Which three Tribes live in Texas?
1. Ho-Chunk Nation
2. Alabama-Coushatta Tribe
3. Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
4. Kickapoo Traditional Tribe
5. Options 2, 3, & 4
6. None of the Above
Which three Tribes live in Texas?
1. Ho-Chunk Nation
2. Alabama-Coushatta Tribe
3. Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
4. Kickapoo Traditional Tribe
5. **Options 2, 3, & 4**
6. None of the Above

Who could be your first point of contact with a Tribe?
1. THPO
2. Tribal Council member
3. Chief
4. Head of cultural preservation department
5. Museum or cultural center
6. Options 1 & 4
7. All of the Above
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6. Options 1 & 4
7. All of the Above

When planning a project, how often should you talk with Tribal advisors?
1. One meeting at the end to get sign off
2. Early in the planning stages and throughout all phases of the project
3. Only after you’ve got the entire project mapped out
4. Only if they reach out to you about the project
When planning a project, how often should you talk with Tribal advisors?

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True or False – You only need to work with the three Tribes currently located in Texas?
True or **False** – You only need to work with the three Tribes currently located in Texas?

**There are 29 Tribes with a connection to Texas; you may need to work with all of them depending on the project.**

What are some reasons why Tribal members may request access to your collections?
What are some reasons why Tribal members may request access to your collections?

Possible answers: Research, object care & treatment, NAGPRA/repatriation, or reconnect to objects that were separated from their Tribe, band, or family.

Join us!

1. Read *Texas & Tribes: Shared Traditions* and do an activity with your organization
2. Research Tribes in your area and visit their websites
3. Visit a historic place associated with Tribal Texas
4. Attend a powwow
5. Plan a visit to a Tribal cultural center or museum
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Workshop Webpage: [www.thc.texas.gov/museums-and-tribes](http://www.thc.texas.gov/museums-and-tribes)
- All slides, resources, and hand-outs
- June 22 and June 29 webinars

Email from Emily Hermans
- Post-workshop survey
- Participant and instructor contact list
- Padlet

Thank you!
This 1680 encounter between Dutch and Lenape leaders was intended to celebrate the Dutch founders of "Old New York." But the scene offers only stereotypical representations and ignores how complex and violent colonization was for Native people.
This 1660 encounter between Dutch and Lenape leaders was intended to celebrate the Dutch founders of “Old New York.” But the scene offers only stereotypical representations and ignores how complex and violent colonization was for Native people.
Dutch windmill

Windmills are closely associated with Holland, and by including one in the scene, the designers wanted viewers to focus on the Dutch. The first windmills were used as lumber mills. Timber was important to the Lenape as well. Indeed, in the Munsee language, “Manhattan” means “the place where we get bows,” after hickory trees on the island with wood well-suited for making bows.
European ships, Native canoes

The numerous ships shown here communicate a sense of European power and wealth. Native people made enormous contributions and sacrifices to lay the foundation for colonial markets—and America itself. Yet this history is not always told. The small canoes were also vital to trade; they made it possible to access trade items found much further inland.
Tobacco

The cultivation and production of tobacco is an agricultural technology developed by Native people. Among the Lenape, *kwushahiteew* (tobacco) is used as a sacrament and given as a diplomatic gift.
Oratamin, sachem and diplomat

The original diorama label identified Stuyvesant but not Oratamin, a sachem (leader) of the Hackensack, a Munsee branch of the Lenape. Oratamin was a respected diplomat who conducted complex negotiations between Native groups and the Dutch newcomers. This scene does not show a true negotiation but rather subjects bringing tribute to a ruler.
Wampum

The casual presentation of this wampum belt, made from white and purple mollusk shells, does not fully capture the significance of wampum to the Lenape. The designs and colors of wampum belts have meaning, and record treaties, laws, important traditions and significant moments in history. Many Native nations throughout the Northeast used wampum.
Colonialism and cultural representation

The American Museum of Natural History and all of New York City are on original Lenape territory. In an effort to acknowledge the ongoing impact of colonialism, as well as the urgent need to reconceive how diverse peoples and cultures are represented in the Museum, we have undertaken a series of initiatives in our cultural halls. These initiatives, including re-examination of this diorama, will add a diversity of voices and perspectives to the Museum’s displays.
Who's missing?

There are very few women shown in the scene, and others are missing as well. In 1660, Manhattan was home to immigrants from Holland, as well as France, England and other European countries. Jewish immigrants arrived from Brazil and elsewhere; enslaved and free Africans also lived in New Amsterdam.
Pieter Stuyvesant

The Dutch leader Pieter Stuyvesant is shown in a position of power. Although this scene supposedly shows a peace negotiation, it depicts a one-way exchange. Stuyvesant's hand is outstretched, demanding tribute, while the soldier behind him displays a gun.
Historic Tribes of Texas

"This map does not represent or intend to represent official or legal boundaries of any Indigenous nations. To learn about definitive boundaries, contact the nations in question." - Tribal Land website

Map Created by Amy Health
Source: Tribal Land https://native-land.ca/
Not for Legal Purposes
9/22/2021