

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT OF CULTURALLY SENSITIVE MATERIALS

Culturally sensitive materials are items that, owing to their power, require special care and handling and/or may only be viewed by certain people. This page outlines the Museum of Anthropology at UBC's (MOA) procedures for identifying and managing these materials.

MOA is committed to respecting the values and spiritual beliefs of the cultures represented in its collections. These collections contain objects and belongings that are important to the communities they come from (originating communities). We understand that the presence of these materials at MOA may affect community members, and acknowledge that originating communities retain cultural, spiritual and ritual rights to them, as well as to the privileges and knowledge the pieces contain.

MOA is always open to entering into discussions with originating communities as to the proper care, display, and storage of culturally sensitive materials. We will work to take appropriate measures (as outlined below) to ensure that all agreed-upon restrictions are observed.

MOA's practices of collections care and display are responsive and evolving. We are committed to working together with originating communities to identify objects and belongings that are culturally sensitive. Together we will develop appropriate storage and display protocols.

Let us know your concerns:

If you have a concern about current MOA practices please email MOA Collections Manager Nancy Bruegeman at nancy.bruegeman@ubc.ca. Or, you can fill out a Comments Card, available at the MOA Admissions or Reception desks.

If possible, please identify the piece(s) by their MOA identification number(s). If the MOA number is not available, please try to provide enough description and details that we will be to identify it. In addition, please provide information about your concern and your relationship to the originating community, along with your name and email address or phone number, to help us to reach you.

MOA's Collections Manager will meet with relevant Museum staff to discuss your concern. She will then send you a response outlining the steps we have taken or inviting you to discuss the issue further. MOA keeps all records of these discussions for future reference.