The Road Home: NAGPRA from a Museum Perspective

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) is a Federal law passed in 1990. NAGPRA provides a process for museums and Federal agencies to return certain Native American cultural items -- human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony -- to lineal descendants, and culturally affiliated Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations. Over the last twenty years, Sacramento State Archaeological Curation Facility has taken steps towards NAGPRA compliance. Consultation is considered to be one of the most important stages along this route as it involves communication and collaboration between the museum and Native groups.

Steps along the Path

Inventory human remains & objects, consult with Tribes, make cultural affiliation determinations, publish Notices, and repatriate.

NAGPRA Grants: Helping to Pave the Way

Zallio Collection: 2009 NAGPRA Grant
Re-evaluate CUI determination for the Zallio legacy collection, create a “User-Friendly Database” for NAGPRA consultation, and create an intertribal agreement for CUI remains.

American River Project: 2011 NAGPRA Grant
Document and inventory a series of ethnographic village sites along the American River and create a GIS spatial database to expedite the NAGPRA consultation process.

Steps Towards Repatriation

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