ANTHROPOLOGY CASE STUDY

THE DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE REPATRIATION INITIATIVE

WHAT CAN ANTHROPOLOGISTS DO FOR YOU?

CAREER READINESS COMMISSION

The Denver Museum of Nature & Science (DMNS) collection of Indigenous artifacts has a longstanding history rooted in looting and stealing. Their method of repatriation in compliance with NAGPRA was to hold on to these artifacts until tribes approached the museum for repatriation. This put the onus on the concerned parties, as opposed to they themselves taking initiative .

DMNS introduced a team of anthropologists who introduced written policy stating that any illegally acquired items would not be accepted. The team reevaluated and complied with past NAGPRA claims that had been ignored. Additionally, they re-examined museum artifacts determined to be “culturally unaffiliated” (including human remains) and consulted 142 tribes to form a formal disposition agreements, returning the remains to the tribes for reburial

ANTHROPOLOGY TEAM:

Isabel Tovar,
Dr. Stephen E. Nash,
Dr. Chip Colwell

Read the full story here ↘

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