

Human Remains Research Request Form

Access to human remains in the Penn Museum's collections is covered by the Museum's Human Remains Policy. All requests for access will be reviewed by the relevant curatorial section, the Human Remains Committee, and The NAGPRA Committee, as necessary. The following criteria will be used to evaluate all requests:

- The research involving human remains aligns with the University's and Museum's missions.
- The researcher meets the requirements outlined in the Human Remains Policy document, as well as the Museum's Guidelines for Access to Collections document.
- The source, descendant community and/or stakeholder practices and cultural norms are appropriately considered during research.
- The individual proposing research has completed or will complete the Human Remains Training requirements before starting research.

For detailed information on eligibility criteria and approved research methods, please review the Penn Museum Human Remains Policy, which can be found online at:
<https://www.penn.museum/img/documents/PM-HRP-full-20230920.pdf>.

To request access to human remains please provide the information outlined below and submit your request to hrc@pennmuseum.org. Requests will be reviewed on a rolling basis and average response time is a minimum of six weeks from the date of submission.

Please note that this form should not be used for repatriation requests. All repatriation requests should be submitted to the Director's Office at Director@PennMuseum.org.

Human Remains Research Request Form

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Position Title (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Institutional Affiliation:

- Tribe/Community
- Museum
- College/University
- Independent Scholar or Researcher
- Other

Preferred Date(s) for Research Visit: _____

How many days do you anticipate requiring for your visit? _____

Do you propose to conduct any of the following? If yes, the relevant forms are available upon request:

- Photography
- Illustrations
- 3D scanning
- Replication (rubblings, impressions, and casts) *
- Scientific testing or x-radiography *

** Requires separate request and approval*

Purpose of Request*:

- Research
- Exhibition
- Teaching/Class Use
- Publication
- Consultation
- Other

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Is the project related to any of the following?

- Repatriation or Ethical Returns Request
- Forensic case
- None of the above

Please provide the following information as attachments:

1. A description of the project and the research question(s) that will be answered or explored. Please detail methodologies to be used and a bibliography of the most relevant comparable studies.
2. A description of descendant or stakeholder community input into the proposed research. Elaborate on community input as part of the project, the role of ongoing community consultation in the project, and how community partners were identified. Provide letters of support or relevant permissions where appropriate. If obtaining permissions from community is not relevant or feasible, please describe why consultation is not being pursued and/or documentation of good faith attempts at obtaining community input.
3. Most human remains at the Penn Museum are housed within the Biological Anthropology Section. Please contact the Biological Anthropology Section (biologicalanthropologysection@pennmuseum.org) for assistance in developing the list of collections for which you are requesting access. A list of collections materials with accession numbers must be submitted as part of the Human Remains Research Request Form. If your research includes collections materials from outside the Biological Anthropology Section, please complete the [Penn Museum Collections Access Request Form](#) and submit it to the relevant curatorial section. Curatorial section email contacts can be found online at <https://www.penn.museum/about/contact-us>.
4. If the request includes scientific testing, please give a brief description of the testing and why it is a necessary component of the request. Any research request that involves testing or sampling must be approved by the Penn Museum Scientific Testing Committee (STC). All testing, whether destructive or non-destructive, and all scientific examination other than visual or those using standard microscopy is subject to review by the STC. The STC is independent of the Human Remains Committee and will have a separate timeline for review. Please contact the STC at stc@pennmuseum.org for additional information and necessary forms.
5. Plans for dissemination of the research.
6. A statement of intent to publish, if relevant, and if the Requestor is not affiliated with the Penn Museum. If the publication place and date are known, these should be included. Permission to publish is granted only on receipt of this information; a request may be submitted at a later date.

In accordance with the standard research agreement, the researcher agrees to submit a digital copy of any paper or publication that results from the work undertaken during the research visit, including any and all analytical data from analytical review, results from laboratory sampling and analysis, images (photographs, lab images, illustrations, drawings, videos, x-rays, CT scans, 3D scans, and other media) collected during the research visit, and any other associated material generated directly from the visit. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in the denial of future requests.