

Preservation of Indigenous Collections

funded by the
National Endowment for the Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded a grant to the UCLA/Getty Program in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage for a project titled "Preservation of Indigenous Collections: Training for Tribal Materials and Museums" to be directed by Professor Ellen Pearlstein.

The award will fund continuing education programming for collections stewards that will include six online courses, two in-person regional workshops, and follow-up mentoring to support sustained application of lessons learned, targeted to Native Americans working with tribal materials at museums and cultural centers across the country.



How to apply?

Submit the following:

- one-page letter of interest
- up to 5 slides with captions showing your collections
- a letter of commitment from a junior colleague whom you have agreed to mentor

Deadlines: Nov 10, 2023 (Winter 2024)

June 7, 2024 (Fall 2024)

Nov 8, 2024 (Winter 2025)



send questions and applications to:
preservation-courses@ioa.ucla.edu



UCLA | **Getty**

Interdepartmental Program in the
**Conservation of
Cultural Heritage**



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Image Credits

Cover: Adapted from image of "Basket with Snake Design" (Barona Band of the Kumeyaay Nation), early 20th century, Barona Cultural Center & Museum, Gift of Charles Throckmorton, 2018.55.3
Photographed by Lauren Conway.

Box making images courtesy of Audrey Harrison.

Instructor portraits: "Rebecca Elder", Courtesy of Rebecca Elder; "Kara Vetter", Courtesy of Kara Vetter; "Jack Townes", Courtesy of Jeanne Brako; "Jeanne Brako", Courtesy of Jack Townes

**Online
courses**

UCLA Extension

**Preservation of
Indigenous
Collections &
Cultural Resources**

2024-25



Hands-on learning + Mentorship

About the program

We welcome applications for our online courses on Preservation of Indigenous Cultural Collections, generously funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. These are graduate level courses available to those seeking opportunities for professional development outside of a graduate program. Ideal participants are currently, or plan to become caretakers of American Indian cultural resources, either in cultural centers or museums.

Three online courses will be offered through UCLA Extension with the option of course credit. Courses will follow the UCLA quarterly academic schedule. These courses are intended to teach practical skills, impart confidence in decision-making, and help build professional and community networks. Applicants do not need to be currently enrolled at UCLA or any other institution.

Course Schedule & Descriptions*

Winter 2024
Saturdays from Jan 13 - March 16, 9am - 12pm Pacific
Preservation of Tribal Cultural Materials in Tribal Collections

Topics include cataloging; care and handling for familiar collection items; storage enclosures; policies; and conservation and ethical treatment of Native American collections. Students are asked to identify the types of materials in their own collections, as well as the community values and uses of those materials. The course then covers deterioration risks associated with different collection materials and the methods available to reduce these risks.

Fall 2024
Saturdays from Sept 28 - Nov 30, 10am - 1pm Pacific
Developing a Collections Management Plan for Tribal Collections

Topics include collections management policy (CMP) planning and writing with a focus on indigenization. Students will review and critically examine sample policies and practice case studies. Through conversations with Indigenous and non-Indigenous collections management practitioners, attendees will create an individualized CMP framework that addresses needs specific to each attendee's institution and/or community

Winter 2025
Saturdays from Jan 11 - March 15, 11am - 2pm Pacific
Exhibition Planning for Tribal Repositories with a focus on Collections Care

The course will feature case studies at three diverse institutions that have developed and hosted innovative exhibitions of Native American heritage and contemporary arts. Topics will include public access to important items that may require specialized care and collections management principles for exhibit planning and execution process. Participants will work on projects that address different exhibit challenges including the portrayal of Native peoples in exhibits, creating structurally sound exhibit mounts from archival materials, and learning to analyze exhibit venues.

***For all courses, students are requested to work with an actual personal or community collection, and to have identified a junior colleague whom you can mentor. Material packets and course books will be sent to each student.**

Meet our Instructors

Rebecca Elder

Founder of Rebecca Elder Cultural Heritage Preservation, Rebecca has twenty years of experience consulting, including over one hundred preservation assessments. She also has experience teaching Library and Archives Conservation at the University of Texas, Austin for more than ten years.



Kara Vetter

Kara Vetter is Senior Director of Cultural Resources at San Diego Museum of Us in Southern California. Previously, Kara was the Registrar at the Museum of Us and worked at the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites.



Jack Townes

Jack Townes has worked in the museum field for over thirty years. as an exhibit preparator, designer and installer. He is an innovative fabricator with metal, wood, fabrics and other materials used in museum projects.



Jeanne Brako

Jeanne Brako is a conservator and curator, formerly at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College, and now a principal of Museum Consultants of Santa Fe.

