Approaching Collections That Evoke Trauma

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Featured Speaker

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Focusing on special projects with collections, media interactions, Council collections support, NMAAHC Treasures national community program, and representative for Mellon Foundation Smithsonian Institution Pan-Institutional Undergraduate Conservation Internship Program for Underrepresented Groups at NMAAHC.
Please Be Mindful

Thank you for joining today’s webinar.

This presentation contains includes speech, text and images related to racial violence and trauma, including recent events.
Collections
WHAT’S IN YOUR COLLECTION?

SENSITIVE

SACRED

SPECIAL
UNDERSTANDING THE COLLECTION

Critical Collection Questions

- But How?
- Why?
- Wait-Help Me Understand!
- Can You Repeat What You Just Said?
STORIES YOU TELL

Critical Collection Questions

- Vision
- Mission
- Purpose
- Focus
- Care and Context
RESPECT THE OBJECT

Critical Collection Considerations

- “The Truth Is Always Enough”
- Don’t Rush
- Wrestle Until You Get It Right
- Provide Safety and Respite
Images outlined in red may not be suitable for younger or more sensitive visitors.
THE TEAM - NEED TO KNOW

Guidance

- Select Community
- The Team
- Leave No One Behind
NEVER ALONE

- Director and Sr. Management
- Curatorial
- Collections
- Public Affairs
- Education
- Advancement
- Project Management
- Digitization
- Community
- Security
- Facilities
THE AMAZING ROLE OF EDUCATORS

- Trauma Informed Principles
- Exhibitions
- Events
- Community Interactions
- Communications
Sensitive Collection Object
Emmett Till - Casket

Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, In memory of Emmett Till and his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley
Exhibition Experience
Sometimes more than a mount, a label, and a link is required.
Do you have an object or collection which requires special handling?
NATIONAL MUSEUM of AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE

A people’s journey. A nation’s story.