Module 32: Exercise on Deaccessioning Objects

Oklahoma Museums Association OKMuseums.org

Please complete an evaluation at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MARCONLINE

Exercise 12: Should We Deaccession These Objects?

Suppose you are the Curator of the South Corners Museum. Consider each of the following situations and decide what you would do about deaccessioning.

1. The museum director wants to hire a new educator. He asks the board to sell the museum's coin collection to establish an endowment from which the educator's salary will be paid. What do you do?

2. The museum director realizes that a painting done by a local artist in the 19th century is very valuable. She wants to deaccession it and use the funds to install an HVAC system in the collections storage area that is now subject to large environmental fluctuations. What do you do?

3. In an effort to refine the museum's collection, the former curator deaccessioned several typewriters to which the museum had clear title. The donor of one of the typewriters now wants to know where his typewriter is. What do you do?

4. The museum wants to deaccession a valuable vase that does not fit its mission. What do you do?

Link to AAM Code of Ethics: https://www.aam-us.org/programs/ethics-standards-and-professional-practices/code-of-ethics-for-museums/

Link to AASLH Statement of Standards and Ethics:
http://download.aaslh.org/AASLH+Statement+of+Standards+and+Ethics+-+Revised+2018.pdf