



2019 SICC ē-micimināyakik Gathering
Museums, Cultural Centres, Archives, Interpretive Centres & Libraries
Keynote Address
Nancy Odegaard

Title: Pesticide Contaminants on Museum Collections

Biography: Dr. Nancy Odegaard is an objects conservator and Head of the Preservation Division at the Arizona State Museum of the University of Arizona. She is also a professor with the Department of Material Science & Engineering, the School of Anthropology, American Indian Studies and the Heritage Conservation Certificate Program in the College of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape Architecture. She is also actively involved with the preservation program at the Mission San Xavier del Bac, built between 1783-1797 and located on the Tohono O’odham reservation near Tucson. Her work includes survey, examination, analysis, new treatment methodologies, and collaborations related to the field of conservation. She has led major conservation projects involving survey, tribal consultation, research, treatment, and storage upgrades for a wide range of collection types. She regularly works with Indigenous community partners across the United States on collection issues, including contaminated collections. Her books include: *Old Poisons New Problems: Information and Resource Guide for Contaminated Cultural Materials in Museum Collections* (AltaMira); *A Guide to Handling Anthropological Museum Objects* (WAAC); *Curating Human Remains: A Guide for Museums and Academic Institution* (AltaMira); and, *Material Characterization Test for Objects of Art and Archaeology* (Archetype).

Abstract: Museums and collectors have a long history of routine treatment with pesticides. They don’t poison things to harm them or the people working with them, rather they try to protect them from various pests to preserve them. There are many chemical formulations and some of them have significant human toxicity and leave a poisonous residue behind. A poison is a substance that can do harm if it enters the body. Entrance into the body depends on the poison’s form, its chemical properties, and its pathway into the individual. This talk will clarify the issue of pesticide contamination in cultural collections and discuss steps on how to proceed safely.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will be how to:

- Develop a history of pesticide use in collections;
- Utilize safety protocols for handling contaminated collections;
- Examine objects for physical evidence of pesticide use;
- Create a team of specialists;
- Prepare a technical report; and,
- Plan for a consultation and Consider points for tribal members and for museums.