

Guidelines for Respectful NAGPRA Consultations Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Historic Preservation Office

“I would shake you by the hand, and ask you to listen for a little while to what I have to say... Let it not surprise you my friends, when I say, that the spot on which we stand has never been purchased or rightly obtained; and that by justice, human and divine, it is the property now of the remnant of that great people from whom I am descended. They left it in the tortures of starvation and to improve their miserable existence...”

–John W. Quinney

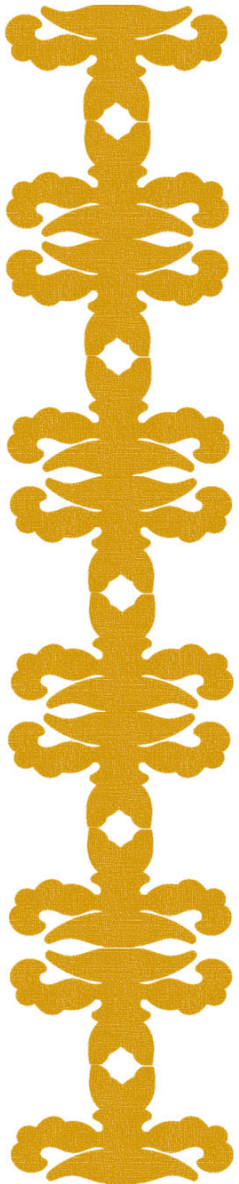
July 4, 1854 Reidsville, NY

Grandson of Joseph Quanaukaunt, sachem (1777) in Stockbridge on his father’s side,
and grandson of David Naunauneeconuck of Stockbridge on his mother’s side

Thank you for your interest in a consultation about the repatriation of ancestral remains and ancestors, respectfully returning ancestors for burial, and repatriating cultural heritage items.

As a foundation for ongoing conversations, acknowledge that you’re on stolen lands and that ancestral remains are often a painful reminder of this. Your sensitivity to this shows us that you understand the importance of this issue to tribes.

In that spirit, we offer some key do’s and don’ts for consultation.

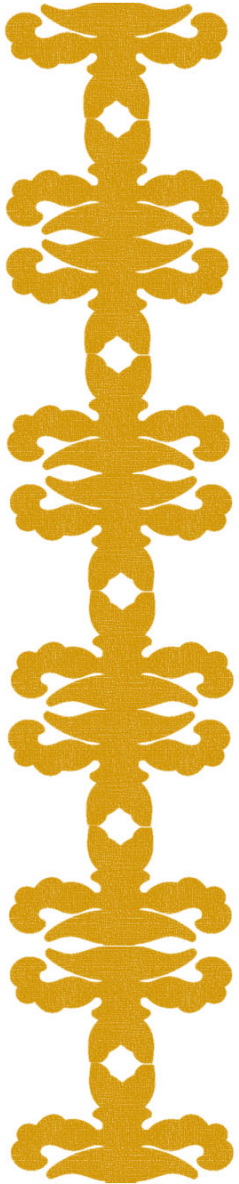


Do's

- Seek out and inform yourself about Mohican history from accurate and reliable , beginning with the wealth of information on the Stockbridge-Munsee [website](#), [factsheet](#), and [linktr.ee](#)
- Make sure that if you are in possession of ancestral remains, that you honor them by keeping them stored in clean, dry, protected areas until they can be repatriated
- Pay attention to terminology—words such as *dispossession* and *repatriation* are vital to understanding the depth of the issue at hand
- Be willing to represent ancestors, sites, and objects through the perspective of indigenous peoples
- Realize the benefits of working together with a tribe and that repatriation adds value to the experience.
- View history as a verb, as a process of constantly rewriting and carrying forward other understandings
- Talk about indigenous people as part of the future and not just history
- Acknowledge the flourishing indigenous communities that exist in the presence despite histories of systemic violence
- Reach out again if you don't hear back from us within 30 days

Don'ts

- Share images of ancestral remains or funerary materials
- Discuss ongoing NAGPRA consultations without approval from the tribe
- Deny indigenous people a place in modernity



Additional Resources

Familiarize yourself with the many resources already available, including frequently asked questions about

- Joining the [NAGPRA Community of Practice](#)
- [NAGPRA Compliance Guide](#)
- [Repatriation and You: A Community Guide for the Berkshires and Hudson Valley](#)
- [Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act](#)
- [Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians Policy for Treatment and Disposition of Human Remains and Cultural Items That May Be Discovered Inadvertently during Planned Activities](#)
- [Student NAGPRA Suggested Reading List](#)

