

Focus Group Discussion 3: Stewardship of Human Remains

March 20, 2023

Part 1. Opening and Introductions.

Land Acknowledgement: The University of Michigan is located on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe people. In 1817, the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Bodewademi Nations made the largest single land transfer to the University of Michigan. This was offered ceremonially as a gift through the Treaty at the Foot of the Rapids so that their children could be educated. Through these words of acknowledgment, their contemporary and ancestral ties to the land and their contributions to the University are renewed and reaffirmed.

Welcome, and thank you for being part of our study. The focus group will last approximately **two hours**. We gathered your informed consent to record your comments before this session. We would like to stress that you can withdraw from the study during the session or refrain from answering any questions that we pose. The recording of our session will be transcribed so we can systematically note and analyze what we learn from this discussion. Each participant will be assigned a unique alphanumeric code so your names will not appear on the transcript. Do you have any questions before we start? During the session, we would like everyone to use only their first names.

Please be ready with your pen and paper as you will be using them for our activity.

Do we have your permission to record?

Part 2. “Otherwising” Exercise

In this exercise, you will reflect individually and collectively on two prompts in a space that encourages you to think outside the box and opens our minds to the rest of the discussion. This exercise is designed to facilitate an environment where we can explore ideas that we usually wouldn't. It is also just a chance to get your ideas on paper. At least for a few minutes, prioritize quantity over quality for your responses. Wild ideas are encouraged. Responses should be limited to **1-2 sentences**. We will then discuss these responses using our Jamboard.

- 1. What, to you, are human remains?**
- 2. What is the best possible outcome for these human remains? What would this look like for you in 10 years if constraints (money, time, laws) were removed?**

Break 10 Minutes

Part 2. Discussion Questions

- 1.) What are the current laws and policies governing the repatriation of human remains in cultural heritage institutions?
- 2.) Describe the repatriation process: What agencies are involved? Please walk us through the process.

Break 5 minutes

Part 3. Closing Discussion
