

11TH AGENT OF
DETERIORATION:
INCORRECT
CULTURAL CARE





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DISCLAIMER ON RESPECT

HOW DID THIS START?

Melanie Deer's
realization during
teaching of
collections

Gathered
international and
intercultural team

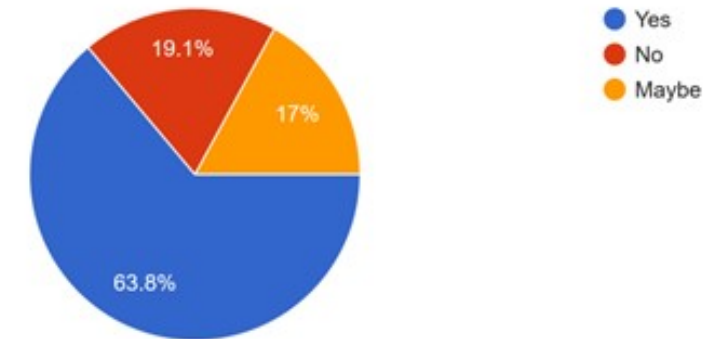
Created a survey to
gain feedback

PREVIOUS SURVEY

- 94 Respondents
- 83% support or possible support
- Based our understanding of this concept on the survey and follow up discussions

Do you support the addition of this Agent?

94 responses



WHAT IS CULTURAL CARE?

- Specific practices to care for an item or being based on appropriate cultural understanding
- Is typical “Western” care appropriate?
- Who determines if the care is incorrect?

WHAT ARE WE DOING

- We are trying to make cultural care a standard of care

HOW ARE WE DOING IT

- We are targeting the international understanding of Agents of Deterioration established by the CCI in the 1990s.



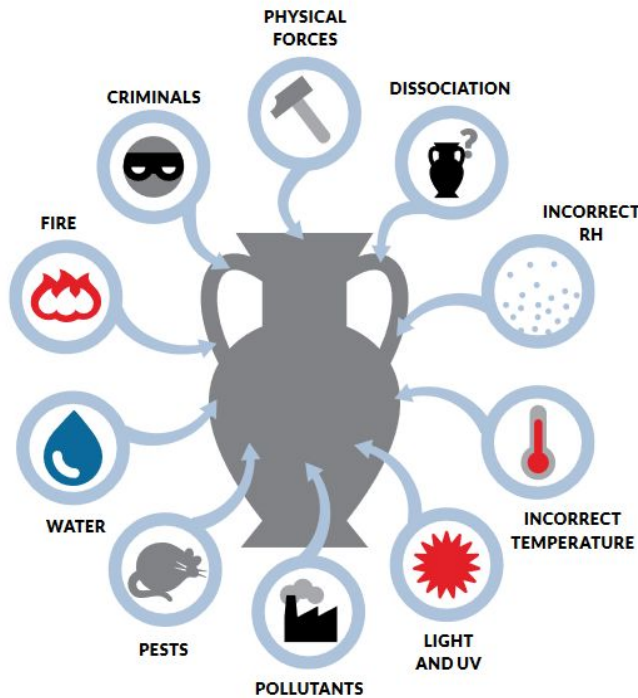
Appropriate
Cultural Care

Collections
Care/Policies/Actions

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CURRENT 10 AGENTS OF DETERIORATION



Water

Fire

Incorrect Temperature

Incorrect Humidity

Theft/Vandalism

Physical Damage

Chemical Damage

Pests

Light/UV/Infrared

Dissociation/Curatorial Neglect

HOW DOES INCORRECT CULTURAL CARE FIT?

- Placing another culture's guidelines on a different culture's items and beings
- A form of degradation, even if not physical
 - Suffocation of items
 - Harming the community it was taken from
 - Sami drums

IMPORTANCE TO ORIGIN CULTURES

- The ability for indigenous people to care for their items was taken away from them
- Caring for items is more than just the preservation of a physical item, it is the care for a soul, and can impact the living people themselves
- Appropriate cultural care is key to a culture's survival

IMPORTANCE INTERNATIONALLY

- Incorrect cultural care is an unfortunate global reality
- Some institutions have appropriate qualified staff, many do not
 - Especially ethnological museums in Europe
- UNESCO's Expert Mechanism for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

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CURRENT SURVEY





THANK YOU

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