

Collections Ethics

The effectiveness of MCHS depends on the public's belief that the Society is faithfully carrying out its mission honestly and fairly for the benefit of the community. Therefore, employment (paid or unpaid) by the Society is a public trust, and staff and volunteers are expected to act accordingly.

Ethical standards for MCHS staff and volunteers must go beyond compliance with legal standards. These standards must be stringent, in order to warrant public confidence. Perceptions of unfair practices are as serious as the practice itself, and care must be taken to avoid even the appearance of self-dealing by the Board, staff and volunteers.

Conflicts of interest will be avoided. If a member of the Board has a personal or business interest in any of the Society's actions (including accession and deaccession decisions), he or she will make this interest known and recuse him/herself from any vote relating to such actions.

- No Board member, staff or volunteer will seek to obtain for private collection any object or artifact which would be of benefit to the MCHS collections.
- Objects deaccessioned from the permanent collection will under no circumstances be given or sold to any Board member, staff or volunteer unless at public auction. Even under this circumstance, such practice is strongly discouraged. Items abandoned on the premises, which have no ownership determination after the three month investigation period, will not be given or sold to any Board member, staff or volunteer.
- Privacy will be respected, in regards to Board members, staff, volunteers, donors and lenders. Personal information will not be made public, with the exception of names used in acknowledging gifts, donations and loans. Donor and lender requests for anonymity in this regard will be complied with to the extent possible.