



AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Wednesday, September 18, 2024
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

South Building Community Room, NHM

Zoom Option:

[HTTPS://NHM-ORG.ZOOM.US/J/87072394362?pwd=WAPoaHUGMYBfBOAbKMZnLBSxHWVRLB.1](https://nhm-org.zoom.us/j/87072394362?pwd=WAPoaHUGMYBfBOAbKMZnLBSxHWVRLB.1)

MEETING ID: 870 7239 4362

PASSCODE: 607040

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Approval of Minutes from September 13, 2023 Meeting**
Approve the minutes from the last Board of Governors meeting.
- III. **Board of Governors President’s Report**
Annual updates from the President of the Board of Governors’.
- IV. **Museum President’s Report**
Annual updates from the President of the Museum.
- V. **La Brea Tar Pits Reimagining** ACTION
Resolution in support of funding the La Brea Tar Pits Reimagining Capital Project.
- VI. **Election of Officers** ACTION
Vote to elect Board of Governors’ officers for 2024-2025.
- VII. **Annual Report**
Summary of the Museum’s activities and achievements related to County collections over the past year.
- VIII. **Deaccession of the Hart Trust Collection and Associated Trust Collection Items** ACTION
Summary of items for deaccession associated with the William S. Hart Museum transfer to the City of Santa Clarita.
- IX. **Deaccession of Seaver Newspapers** ACTION
Summary of items for deaccession of the Seaver Newspapers.
- X. **Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Updates**
Updates related to the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Initiative.



XI. **Public Comment**

XII. **Adjournment**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE LOS ANGELES
COUNTY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY IN SUPPORT OF FUNDING
FOR THE LA BREA TAR PITS REIMAGINING CAPITAL PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors recognizes that the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County are the primary scientific educational and research arm of the County of Los Angeles (“County”), serving all Angelenos from across the entire County, welcoming visitors from across the United States, around the world, and generating new knowledge through research while stewarding one of the largest natural history collections in the world; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors recognizes the public-private partnership with the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History Foundation, incorporated in 1965, which continues with this opportunity to effectively leverage County assets in a fiscally responsible way; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors recognizes that La Brea Tar Pits is the most important ice age fossil location in the world, the only active paleontological site in an urban area, and a unique world wonder that is a source of pride for all Angelenos across the entire County; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors recognizes that the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) included La Brea Tar Pits its assemblage of 100 geological heritage sites around the world; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors recognizes that the National Parks Service in 1964, designated La Brea Tar Pits as a National Natural Landmark; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors further recognizes that with more than 3.5 million fossils already unearthed, it’s an unparalleled record of the last major episode of global climate change and that understanding what happened in the past is key to finding solutions to the current local, national and international climate crisis, and preparing for our future; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors further recognizes that the La Brea Tar Pits is a significant tourism draw with more than 400,000 individuals, students and families from around the country and around the world visiting each year; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors acknowledges that because the George C. Page Museum (“Museum”) was built almost 50 years ago, the exhibitions, program and educational spaces are outdated and insufficient; the Museum building has significant deferred maintenance and lacks the necessary facilities for modern-day scientific research, restricting the ability to adequately host

international scientists, interns, and researchers or to protect and maintain the important fossils and artifacts collection for future use; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors is proud of the community-driven process that resulted in the selection of the renowned architecture and design firm Weiss/Manfredi who captured the public's imagination with its approach to unify the disjointed elements of the 13-acre site, including the Lake Pit, the historic excavation pits, the park, and Museum; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors acknowledges the County Board of Supervisors ("Board") directed priority of Child Protection & Poverty Alleviation and is aware that La Brea Tar Pits project will fulfill this priority by doubling the number of school children served, strengthening the pipeline of new generations of scientists through education, internships and apprenticeships through equitable access to programs and initiatives, while increasing opportunities for historically underserved children; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors acknowledges the County Board directed priority of Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion and is aware that La Brea Tar Pits project will fulfill this priority by multiple paths including: increasing Postsecondary Credentials and STEAM Pathways via further STEAM workforce development, internships, mentorships, and apprenticeships; providing meaningful engagement and professional development opportunities for youth and marginalized communities; increasing stable full-time employment with new hire diversity, competitive salaries and professional development opportunities; prioritizing internal promotions towards higher-paying roles to increase family incomes above the poverty level; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors acknowledges the County Board directed priority of Health Integration, Environmental Justice & Climate Health and is aware that La Brea Tar Pits project will fulfill this priority by providing an oasis of nature, gathering space and shade equity that nurtures health, well being and community, and provide educational and program opportunities to build climate literacy and inspire this and future generations to better steward our planet; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors acknowledges the County Board directed priority of Sustainability and is aware that La Brea Tar Pits project will fulfill this priority as a model for museums in sustainability with an ambitious approach to net zero carbon, water use and waste reduction, pollinator and bird friendly landscape with native plant species, shade canopy, and storm water reclamation; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors recognizes that the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation indicates the La Brea Tar Pits Reimagining Project will generate significant local economic impact through tourism, tax revenue, and job creation; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors recognizes initial support from the County, led by the efforts of the Third District, and the State of California; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors recognizes the work of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History Foundation (“Foundation”) to generate philanthropic support for the project and understands that the Foundation is committed to pursuing significant funding, well beyond a 1:1 match for something that will become a County asset, to realize this mission critical effort.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that

The Board of Governors calls for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (“Board”), including Supervisor Horvath, Chair of the Board, Supervisor Solis, Supervisor Mitchell, Supervisor Hahn, and Supervisor Barger, with voice and vote, to support proposals to fund the the La Brea Tar Pits Reimagining Capital Project, encompassing the 13-acre site, including the Lake Pit, the historic excavation pits, the park, and Museum; and, to be it, further,

The Board of Governors calls for copies of this resolution to be forwarded to our above named County Supervisors, the County Chief Executive Officer, our Senators and Members of Congress, State Senators and State Assemblymembers, and to members of the Los Angeles City Council.

Approved by the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History Board of Governors on September 18, 2024:

Curtis Jung, President of the Board

Charlene Dimas-Peinado, Vice-President of the Board

Noramae Munster, Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DAWYN R. HARRISON

County Counsel

By: Casey Youn, Principal Deputy County Counsel



**PROPOSED OFFICERS
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
FY 2025**

President
Vice-President
Secretary

Curtis Jung
Charlene Dimas-Peinado
Noramae Munster



Deaccession / Museum Transfer Data Sheet

Date: August 1, 2024
NHMLAC Section: History/Research and Collections
Initiated by: Beth Werling

CHECK ONE:

A. MUSEUM TRANSFER

From: _____ To: _____
 NHMLAC Section Name of Organization, Institution, Group, Tribe, etc.

For (please provide brief explanation): _____

B. DEACCESSION OF MUSEUM MATERIAL


From: History/Research and Collections
 NHMLAC Section

For: Public sale/auction Destruction Transfer to another institution/museum
 Other (please provide brief explanation: _____)

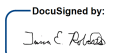
Accession Number / Cat#	Description	Reason for Transfer/Deaccession
A.7211	William S. Hart Trust Collection	Transfer to City of Santa Clarita
Multiple accession numbers	Associated Hart Trust Collection items	Transfer to City of Santa Clarita

Deaccession approval is requested in advance, provisional on the completion of the transfer agreement with the City and the approval of probate court. The deaccession will be effective only when those conditions are met. See attached explanation for additional details.

APPROVED BY (all signatures must be obtained to complete transaction):

DocuSigned by:


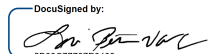
 Department Curator

DocuSigned by:



 Associate Vice President, Research & Collections

DocuSigned by:


 Senior Vice President, Research & Collections

DocuSigned by:


 President & Director

DocuSigned by:


 Chief Registrar

Additional Information for Hart Collection Deaccessions, August 2024

William S. Hart Trust Collection - A.7211

We request advance approval of the future deaccession of A.7211, in conjunction with the planned transfer of William S. Hart Park and Museum from the County of Los Angeles to the City of Santa Clarita. This deaccession would be effective upon the execution of the transfer agreement and the approval of probate court, at which point the collection would be transferred to the City. Until that point, the collection would remain accessioned and under the stewardship of the Natural History Museum.

Contents: Approximately 6,000 objects, including artwork, furniture, housewares, clothing, personal items, horse tack, books, documents, photographs, theater and film memorabilia, film reels, and ephemera. The bulk of the collection is on-site at the William S. Hart Museum, on display or in storage. Archival materials, including photographs and papers, are located in NHM's Seaver Center for Western History Research.

History: This collection was bequeathed to the County of Los Angeles by William S. Hart. The County took possession of it in 1957, and it was put in the care of the NHM History Department. It was transferred to L.A. County Parks and Recreation in 1962, then returned to NHM History in 1988. In 1991 it was moved to NHM Education, before being transferred back to History in 2000.

Scope of deaccession: Some objects from the original bequest have previously been individually deaccessioned due to theft, destruction, damage, or loss, and those are not included here. However, over more than 65 years of County stewardship, other objects have been destroyed, stolen, or lost, without ever being formally deaccessioned. These objects are still recorded as part of A.7211 and are covered by this deaccession, but will not be part of the transfer to the City of Santa Clarita.

Associated Hart Trust Collection items (multiple accession numbers)

We request advance approval of the future deaccession of items associated with the Hart Museum collection, but not part of the original bequest. The deaccession would become effective simultaneously with that of the Trust Collection, conditioned upon the conclusion of probate and the execution of the transfer agreement. Until then, it would remain the property of the Natural History Museum.

Contents: This associated collection includes approximately 250 objects such as tribute artwork, photographs, documents, newspapers, books, horse tack, memorabilia, and ephemera.

History: These objects have various histories, but typically were either acquired by the Museum with the Hart collection upon the transfer from Parks & Recreation in 1988, or donated by members of the public after that point. Whether these were formally accessioned or not, they have been treated as part of the permanent collection.

Scope of deaccession: This deaccession request covers only objects that Research & Collections considers to be primarily part of the Hart Collection, with a fundamental connection to William S. Hart or the Hart Museum. While these are not part of the Trust Collection, they should remain part of the Hart Collection and be transferred to the City of Santa Clarita.

This request does not include objects that Research & Collections considers to be primarily part of its larger history or education collections, which may have a secondary association with William S. Hart. It also does not include objects accessioned to the Foundation collection, for which there is a separate deaccession process.



Deaccession / Museum Transfer Data Sheet

Date: Aug 1, 2024
NHMLAC Section: R&C: History Department
Initiated by: Betty L. Uyeda

CHECK ONE:

A. MUSEUM TRANSFER
 From: _____ To: _____
 NHMLAC Section Name of Organization, Institution, Group, Tribe, etc.

For (please provide brief explanation): _____

B. DEACCESSION OF MUSEUM MATERIAL
 From: R&C History Department
 NHMLAC Section
 For: Public sale/auction Destruction Transfer to another institution/museum
 Other (please provide brief explanation): _____

Accession Number / Cat#	Description	Reason for Transfer/Deaccession
Multiple accession numbers, see attached list	Approximately 20,298 newspapers, see attached list. Also attached is an Appendix listing items without accession numbers consisting of about 598 titles, each ranging from one single issue to a number of issues.	Newspapers have been deposited at the museum since it opened in 1913, and the collection continued to grow in ensuing years. When the library closed several years ago it was planned for the newspaper collection to be moved out. There is a lack of storage space; many newspapers have become brittle and in poor condition; many newspapers are now available digitally.

APPROVED BY (all signatures must be obtained to complete transaction):

DocuSigned by: William Estrada 7/15/2024
ARCFAD4B7E1E404

Department Curator
 DocuSigned by: _____ 7/24/2024
27323F418C95484...
 Senior Vice President, Research & Collections

DocuSigned by: Susan Uyeda 8/2/2024
D01608CB92DC49E...
 Chief Registrar

DocuSigned by: Jane E. Pollock 7/24/2024
1B081F5C83A8479

Associate Vice President, Research & Collections
 DocuSigned by: _____ 8/2/2024
5B88C77787E6403
 President & Director

Additional Information for Newspaper Deaccessions, August 2024

Contents: This deaccession covers approximately 20,298 newspapers with known accession numbers or origin information, plus approximately 598 additional titles without this kind of information. Because of their age, the lack of an accession number on an individual newspaper may not indicate that it was never accessioned. In particular, there are early museum accession records for “newspapers” without titles or issues listed, making it impossible to match them up completely. We have treated these newspapers as part of the Seaver Center collection for many years, and are asking that the Board of Governors treat them all as an accessioned collection.

History: Individual newspapers and series may have been acquired in several ways. Some were donated to the museum, for example as part of donations from other organizations or by individuals. Others were collected through subscriptions held by the museum’s library or by individual staff members. They cover a wide range of dates from the middle to late 19th century to the 1990s, and they include everything from long runs of common Los Angeles titles to single issues or fragments of newspapers from other countries or small local publishers.

Disposition of deaccessioned titles: The Seaver Center has reached out to local and national partner organizations to try to place rarer titles in other permanent repositories. Institutions to which we will transfer newspapers include university libraries and research centers (UC Riverside, UC Santa Barbara, University of Florida, UNLV, University of New Mexico), state libraries and historical societies (Pennsylvania, Georgia, Maine, Colorado, Washington, Ohio, Virginia, Missouri, Mississippi), historical museums and archives (Museum of Chinese in America, American Antiquarian Society, Coney Island Museum), and various local public libraries and historical societies. In the curatorial opinion of Research and Collections, these partner institutions can better house historic papers, are better able to share them with scholars and the public, and/or are better able to fully digitize them for enhanced preservation and access. In some cases, transferring our deaccessioned titles fills gaps in another institution’s incomplete run of a given newspaper.

Newspapers, which are printed on acidic paper that becomes brittle and discolored over time, are particularly difficult to care for in museum collections. Recognizing that historic newspapers often cannot be kept from disintegrating, many institutions have put considerable effort into digitization, including through the “Chronicling America” initiative led by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. As a result, some titles in our collection are no longer of interest to partners, often because they have already been digitized and made available or because they are so common in collections (like back issues of the *Los Angeles Times*) that additional copies merely duplicate existing resources. When no partner institution has expressed interest, deaccessioned newspapers will be discarded.

County Counsel

By: Casey Youn, Principal Deputy County Counsel