



2324 Alameda Avenue, Alameda CA 94501
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We (the Board of the Alameda Museum) are writing for your advice and collaboration on objects in the museum collection that were taken from the Ohlone community.

Most objects in this collection were excavated in 1908 from a shellmound that was removed for the opening of Santa Clara Ave. in the vicinity between High St. and Mound St. Other objects were mostly given to the museum by Alameda residents over the past ~30 years, and have widely varying provenance and records associated with them. We recognize that these objects were forcibly taken from the Ohlone community, and it is important to us that our stewardship of them reflects the context in which they are viewed and valued by the Ohlone people today. The objects include food preparation and other tools, beads and other decorative objects, and arrowheads of stone, bone, and shell. All of these objects are currently on public display in the museum.

To be transparent, the museum has not historically devoted the time, resources, and expertise to this effort that we should, but we know that it is critically important to ensure that these objects are stewarded with respect and repair. Whether that means changes in storage or display, and/or deaccessioning and repatriation, we are open-minded on how we address next steps. To that end, we have also reached out to the Chairpeople of the Muwekma and Ohlone Tribe. For next steps, we would be happy to have a conversation with you, and have you visit the museum to view the objects, to discuss the best path forward.

Thank you for your time and engagement. We look forward to speaking with you further.

Sincerely,

Valerie Turpen, President
Melissa Hagaman
Melissa Marchi
Ron Mooney
Kalie Sacco
Rasheed Shabazz