

AERI 2010

Museums Working with Communities: The Native American Dioramas

Where: Palmer Commons, Forum Hall

When: Thursday, June 24, 4:15 - 5:00 PM

Abstract:

Museums worldwide are wrestling with questions about the representation of indigenous peoples in museum exhibits. Who decides how a culture is portrayed? Does context matter? What happens when members of the community speak out against museum exhibits? U-M Exhibit Museum of Natural History director Amy Harris will discuss these questions in telling the story of reaching the decision to remove 14 immensely popular — and largely accurate — miniature dioramas of Native American cultures from her museum in a process that unfolded over nearly 10 years.


Read more about the project [here](#)

Convener:









Amy Harris

Bio:

Amy Harris has served as Director of the University of Michigan Exhibit Museum of Natural History since 2000. Harris has a B.A. in Comparative Literature from Cornell University and a M.A. in the History of Art from the University of Michigan. Harris has 25 years of experience in the administration of cultural organizations and museums, with a particular focus on development, and holds leadership positions within the University of Michigan and in the greater Ann Arbor community.

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