

# Donation Frequently Asked Questions

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## Are You Thinking of Donating Your Artifacts to the Cape Fear Museum?

Cape Fear Museum uses its mission statement to guide its decisions on what to accept into the collection:

*Cape Fear Museum collects, preserves, and interprets objects relating to the history, science, and cultures of the Lower Cape Fear (LCF) region, and makes those objects and their interpretation available to the public through educations exhibitions and programs.*

The criteria for accepting an object are established through answering the following questions:

1. For Material Culture items, was it made or used in the LCF region?
2. For Natural History items, is it indigenous to the LCF region?

Thus, the collection is intended to represent all aspects of the region, from natural history to history, from prehistory to the 21st century.

The Museum primarily collects three-dimensional objects. It also collects two-dimensional objects that are of a visual nature and can be exhibited, such as photographs, drawings, etc. Two-dimensional objects that are not visual in nature, such as letters, newspapers, bills, invoices, etc., are usually more useful as a research tool and are often referred to the Local History Room of the New Hanover County Public Library. The Museum makes every effort not to compete with the collecting missions of other cultural institutions in the region.

The Museum does not accept human remains.

## How do I know if my object is from the Lower Cape Fear Area?

The Museum defines the Lower Cape Fear region as a 50-mile radius from Wilmington, which includes all of New Hanover, Brunswick and Pender counties, and parts of Columbus, Bladen, Sampson, Duplin, and Onslow counties.

## How does the museum decide what donations to accept?

Museum staff consider several things before it accepts a donation:

*Condition.* Is the object in good condition? If not, what will it cost for the Museum to make stable enough for display?

*Size.* How big is the object? Can the museum properly store and/or display this object?

*Duplication.* Does the museum already have a similar object?

## What else do I need to know?

The Museum only accepts unconditional gifts. We cannot accept objects on which restrictions are placed. The donor must hold clear title to the object and have obtained it legally.

All objects donated to the Museum will be considered outright and unconditional property of CFM. The donor will not receive any goods or services in exchange for the donation.

**Thank you for considering donating to the Cape Fear Museum's collection!** Contributions from friends like you allow us more easily to document, preserve, and exhibit the Lower Cape Fear's rich history.