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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7459; NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-NPS0043592; PPWOCRADN0-PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Birmingham Museum of Art (BMA) intends to repatriate certain cultural items that meet the definition of unassociated funerary objects and that have a cultural affiliation with the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice may occur on or after [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE **FEDERAL REGISTER**].

ADDRESSES: Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Dr. Anne Forschler-Tarrasch, Director of Collections & Exhibitions, Birmingham Museum of Art, 2000 Rev. Abraham Woods, Jr. Boulevard, Birmingham, AL 35203, email *aforschler@artsbma.org.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the BMA, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the summary or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of information available

A total of three cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The three unassociated funerary objects are one pipe bowl, one string of shell beads, and one axe head. On unknown dates, the items were removed from Lauderdale County, Alabama by Dr. Samuel Fischer, III, of Birmingham, Alabama. The pipe bowl and string of shell beads were removed from Florence, Lauderdale County, Alabama. The axe head was removed from Seven Mile Island, Tennessee River, Lauderdale County, Alabama. In 1969, Fischer donated the items to the

BMA as part of a larger donation including Native American human remains and associated funerary objects, since published in Notices of Inventory Completion in the *Federal Register,* as well as other Native American items collected from different locations along the Tennessee River.

Determinations

The BMA has determined that:

- The three unassociated funerary objects described in this notice are reasonably believed to have been placed intentionally with or near human remains, and are connected, either at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony of a Native American culture according to the Native American traditional knowledge of a lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization. The unassociated funerary objects have been identified by a preponderance of the evidence as related to human remains, specific individuals, or families, or removed from a specific burial site or burial area of an individual or individuals with cultural affiliation to an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.
- There is a connection between the cultural items described in this notice and The Chickasaw Nation.

Requests for Repatriation

Additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under ADDRESSES. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE **FEDERAL REGISTER**]. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the BMA must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the cultural

items are considered a single request and not competing requests. The BMA is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and to any other consulting parties.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3004 and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.9.

Dated: August 20, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,
Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

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