

INTRO PANEL

MISSION DRIVEN COLLECTING

Collecting art, ethnographic objects, and scientific specimens from dragon flies to dinosaur skeletons is an essential aspect of the Museum of Northern Arizona's mission, *to inspire a sense of love and responsibility for the beauty and diversity of the Colorado Plateau through collecting, studying, interpreting, and preserving the region's natural and cultural heritage*. Our mission helps to determine which objects are appropriate for the museum and guides us as we improve our collections. Some institutions have broad, international mission statements while others are defined by a geographical region or by object type; for MNA the focus is on our magnificent region: the Colorado Plateau. Our mission is the common thread linking the new acquisitions in this exhibition with other objects on view and with MNA's entire collection.

Objects enter the Museum's collections in a variety of ways—as gifts and bequests, transfers, or purchases. *Gifts or bequests* represent the largest percentage of MNA's new acquisitions. These donations come from generous individuals who feel a strong connection with the institution and believe in its mission. MNA honors these generous commitments by safeguarding and preserving these collections for the public today and for future generations.

MNA's collections currently include:

- 3,200 fine art objects
- 15,000 ethnographic objects
- 225,000 catalogued archaeological objects (with an additional 17,296 cubic feet of archeological research material)
- 20,000 paleontological specimens
- 4,000 rock and mineral specimens
- 355,500 biological specimens (including 33,000 plant species in our herbarium and 300,000 insects)
- 3,536 linear feet of paper materials and 284,000 images in our archives
- 50,000 books, 28,000 separates (pamphlets/booklets), several thousand maps, and several hundred periodicals in our library

This will be placed near the *Chelichnus bucklandi* trackway V10797

Museum of Northern Arizona research projects often lead to new acquisitions, particularly in the fields of archeology, natural science, and paleontology. Materials collected in the field by Museum scientists and researchers often come to the Museum outright, or there may be shared ownership with other organizations or agencies involved in the project. The Museum also accepts materials collected by other groups or agencies into its collections under *curation agreements*. This allows objects to be safely housed, and the Museum facilitates access for other researchers.

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Once an object becomes a part of MNA's collections, even if it is not on public display, it may be utilized in a variety of ways:

- Scientists, tribal members, artists, historians, and students, visit to conduct research with the collections.
- Other museums and institutions may borrow objects to go on exhibit or to aid in research by their staff.
- Photographs of all types of objects may be used in print and digital publications, or in social media.

(139 words)

Comment [AP1]: Amber – can you provide these numbers?