



ALASKA HUMANITIES FORUM CODE OF ETHICS

- (1) While the body of law and custom on which the Code is based is rooted in relations with the Native peoples of North America, grantees are urged to follow it whenever living cultures and peoples are involved; and
- (2) The Code is based on the National Endowment for the Humanities' adherence to Public Law 95-561, the Indian Religious Freedom Act; Public Law 96-515, the National Historic Preservation Act amendments of 1980; and other relevant public laws governing relations with Native peoples of North America, and is constructed to conform to the principles of these laws.

Please sign the following statements, thereby assuring the Forum that work funded by its grant will adhere to the following provisions:

- (a) Every effort will be made in advance of project execution to engage the agreement, advice, and cooperation of members of the Native community in the planning and execution of the projects, in the interpretation of data gathered from it, and in the disposition of its results. The aims of the investigation, exhibition, or project should be communicated to the Native community and the anticipated consequences and results of research or data-gathering should be explained as fully as possible to the individuals and groups likely to be affected.
- (b) Where research or exhibitions of materials involves the acquisition of material (objects and documents) and transfer of information on the assumption of trust between persons, the rights, expressed interests, and sensitivities of those originating the material must be safeguarded.
- (c) There is an obligation on the part of the scholar/researcher/principal investigator to reflect on the foreseeable repercussions of research and publication on the participant community or individuals and in inform them of the probable impact.
- (d) Native community consultants have the right to remain anonymous or be specifically named and given credit if they so choose. This right should be respected where it has been explicitly promised. Where there is no clear understanding to the contrary, sources should be kept confidential. Because funded proposals, grant reports, and other written material in the Forum's possession are available to the public, no identifications contrary to the wishes of community consultants should appear.
- (e) Investigators using recording devices such as cameras or tape recorders or the technique of oral interviewing are also subject to the above criteria. Subjects under study should be informed of the capacities of such machines and of potential archived material to result from them and should be free to accept or reject their use.
- (f) Individuals or group community consultants should be fairly compensated (through reciprocal exchange or monetary payment) for their services/information, and there may be no exploitation of subjects under study. Every attempt should be made to guarantee appropriate credit (in the form of co-authorship or co-investigatorship) and the equitable distribution of financial rewards where appropriate for products resulting from projects.
- (g) Any report or work considered for publication (and where applicable and possible, films or exhibitions and the like) should be supplied to the Native representatives of the elders and traditional leaders of the community. Every effort should be made to see that such a representational body has an opportunity to view the films or exhibitions that result from work undertaken in the community.
- (h) This Code should not interfere with or preclude any formal agreements made between researchers and Native peoples for the course of research undertaken with Federal funds. Further, the Code does not preclude or supercede ethical codes subscribed to and endorsed by various professional associations, but rather, intends only to make clear the standards expected of those receiving Forum funds.

Project Director: _____ *Date:* _____