



Frequently Asked Questions

Will the Museum appraise my donation for its monetary value?

We do not provide appraisals for the monetary value of a donation. Values can often be determined by consulting one of the many price guides available in libraries and bookstores. Or you may consult a certified, licensed appraiser.

To find a licensed appraiser in your area, contact:

- The American Society of Appraisers
- Appraisers Association of America
- International Society of Appraisers

It is the donor's responsibility to arrange for the appraisal. If the appraisal takes place after the donation has been made, the Museum will work with the appraiser to schedule a time to make the object(s) available for their inspection.

Can I take a tax deduction?

Yes. Cape Fear Museum is recognized as a qualified, charitable organization, thus the fair market value of your donation is generally tax deductible. You may use the signed Contract of Gift as an acknowledgment of your donation to the Museum. The IRS requires that you include Form 8283 – available from your accountant or the IRS – with your tax return if the value of your donation is greater than \$500.

Can I mail or drop off a donation?

The Museum cannot accept unsolicited donations through the mail or in person without prior communication. We ask that you contact the curator before mailing or dropping off a donation.

Will the Museum exhibit the artifacts I donate?

Cape Fear Museum does not guarantee that any objects donated to its collection will be exhibited. Exhibitions change, and therefore, object on exhibit change. Artifacts will deteriorate when on exhibit for extended periods, and it is routine to rest objects in safe storage to prolong their life. Only a small fraction of the collection is on view at any given time.

Will the Museum take good care of the artifacts I donate?

The Museum allocates a significant portion of its annual county budget to maintaining proper conditions in its storage areas and galleries to insure the long-term preservation of all its collections.

Do you accept loans?

We do not accept long-term loans. We do accept short-term loans, for up to one year in length, when an object is needed for a planned exhibition.

Will the Museum allow the general public to have access to my donation?

Cape Fear Museum makes the images in its permanent collection available to the public for research. Three-dimensional objects are available for research on a limited basis by appointment.

Will the artifacts I donate be loaned to other Museums?

Objects from the collection are occasionally loaned to other cultural institutions for temporary exhibitions. Most objects and images are made available to such institutions for research purposes.

If I donate artifacts to the Museum, will you return them to me at my request?

We cannot return accessioned collections to the donor. Once the Museum decides to accept a donation, the donor is asked to sign a Contract of Gift, which legally transfers ownership of the objects to Cape Fear Museum.

Questions?

Contact Barbara Rowe, curator
Cape Fear Museum
814 Market Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
910-798-4365
browe@nhcgov.com