

The Slater Area Historical Association (SAHA) has a commitment to serve people, both present and future generations. This value guided the creation of and remains the most fundamental principle in the following Code of Ethics.

CODE OF ETHICS

Our purpose is to collect, preserve, interpret, exhibit and educate with the items owned, loaned and used, in order to advance knowledge and nourish the human spirit.

SAHA is organized as a public trust, holding our collections and information as a benefit for those we serve. As a nonprofit institution, we comply with applicable local, state, and federal laws as well as with the specific legal standards governing trust responsibilities. SAHA has an inherent responsibility to maintain our integrity so as to warrant public confidence. This means to operate not only legally, but also ethically.

Loyalty to the mission of SAHA and to the public it serves is the essence of museum work whether volunteer or paid. Where conflicts of interest arise – actual, potential or perceived – the duty of loyalty must never be compromised. No individual may use his or her position for personal gain or to benefit another at the expense of the museum, its mission, its reputation and the society it serves.

GOVERNANCE

In acceptance of this code, SAHA will assume responsibility for the actions of the volunteers in the performance of museum-related duties. The Board of Directors of SAHA shall ensure that:

- all those who work for or on behalf of SAHA understand and support its mission and public trust responsibilities
- its members understand and fulfill their trusteeship and act corporately, not as individuals
- its collections and programs and its physical, human and financial resources are protected, maintained and developed in support of its mission
- SAHA is responsive to and represents the interests of society
- SAHA maintains the relationship with staff in which shared roles are recognized and separate responsibilities respected

- working relationships are based on equity and mutual respect
- professional standards and practices guide operations
- policies are articulated and oversight is practiced
- governance promotes the public good rather than individual financial gain.

COLLECTIONS

The stewardship of SAHA's collections entails the highest public trust and the presumption of rightful ownership, permanence, care, documentation, accessibility and responsible disposal.

SAHA ensures that:

- collections in its custody support its mission and public trust responsibilities
- collections in its custody are lawfully held, protected, secured, unencumbered, cared for and preserved
- collections in its custody are accounted for and documented
- access to the collections and related information is permitted and regulated
- acquisition, disposal, and loan activities are conducted in a manner that respects the protection and preservation of natural and cultural resources and discourages illicit trade in such materials
- acquisition, disposal, and loan activities conform to its mission and public trust responsibilities
- disposal of collections through sale, trade or research activities is solely for the advancement of SAHA's mission. Proceeds from the sale of collections are to be used consistent with the established standards of SAHA's discipline, but in no event shall they be used for anything other than acquisition or direct care of collections.
- Collections-related activities promote the public good rather than individual financial gain
- competing claims of ownership in connection with objects in its custody should be handled openly, seriously, responsively and with respect for the dignity of all parties involved.

PROGRAMS

SAHA serves society by advancing an understanding and appreciation of the cultural commonwealth through exhibitions, presentations, research, publications and educational activities. These programs further SAHA's mission and are responsive to the concerns, interests and needs of society.

Thus, SAHA ensures that:

- programs support its mission and public trust responsibilities
- programs are accessible and encourage participation of the widest possible audience consistent with its mission and resources
- programs respect values, traditions and concerns
- revenue-producing activities and activities that involve relationships with external entities are compatible with the mission and support its public trust responsibilities
- programs promote the public good rather than individual financial gain

PROMULGATION

This Code of Ethics for SAHA was adopted by the Board of Directors on _____

This Code of Ethics for SAHA was reviewed and updated by the Board of Directors on _____