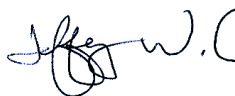
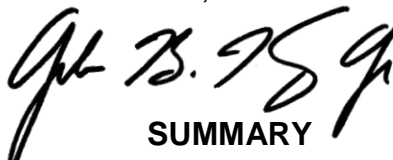




TO: Cultural Education Committee
FROM: Jeffrey Cannell 
SUBJECT: Contemporary Native Art Collection
DATE: December 8, 2014

AUTHORIZATION(S):


SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Overview and background of the Contemporary Native American Art collection maintained by the State Museum.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For Information. Education Law section 234 establishes an “Indian Collection” within the Museum. Specifically, *“There shall be made, as the Indian section of the state museum, as complete a collection as practicable of the historical, ethnographic and other records and relics of the Indians of the state of New York, including implements or other articles pertaining to their domestic life, agriculture, the chase, war, religion, burial and other rites or customs.”* Staff will review efforts to increase the collection of contemporary New York Native American art as a component of the Museum’s response to this section of Education Law.

Background Information

Lisa Anderson, curator of bioarchaeology, will review recent additions to the Museum’s collection of Native American art. In 2013 the Museum reinitiated the collecting in this area. The Museum’s “Collection of Contemporary Native American Art” represents the master craftsmanship and vibrant innovation in the artistic expressions of New York State's First Nations. Building on an initiative begun in 1986 and now numbering more than 130 objects, 21 new works were added to the collection in 2014 by artists representing 6 nations. In 2014 and 2015, 10 objects, from 10 artists representing 7 nations will be added to the collection.