

**REN-19-031: Auctioneers and Buyers Should Incorporate UNDRIP into Their Ethical Standards and Purchasing Practices of Indigenous Items and Collectors Should Support Contemporary Artists**

*Sponsor: The Association on American Indian Affairs*

**Summary:**

- The export and subsequent sale of tribal cultural heritage in foreign auction houses continues to be a pressing issue facing tribal nations.
- Resolution REN-19-031 opposes the export and sale of tribal cultural heritage items without tribal consent and addresses the ethical standards of auction houses.

**Issue:**

This resolution is in response to the long-standing loss of cultural heritage items by tribal nations to auction houses. REN-19-031 builds on previous NCAI resolutions by highlighting new places for advocacy. As the title of the resolution suggests, two key areas are (1) addressing auctioneers' professional codes of ethics and (2) finding ways to encourage potential purchasers to look to contemporary Native artists as opposed to focusing on "antiquities."

**Action:**

REN-19-031 directs NCAI to:

1. Support the improvement of auctioneer ethical standards based on, but not limited to, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Articles, 11, 12, 15, 18 and 31;
2. Oppose all forms of sale, collection, and display or loan of cultural heritage items without free prior and informed consent of affected tribal nations; and
3. Urge auction houses to buy contemporary American Indian and Alaska Native art.

*For additional information, please contact Jacob Schellinger at [jschellinger@ncai.org](mailto:jschellinger@ncai.org) or Darren Modzelewski at [dmodzelewski@ncai.org](mailto:dmodzelewski@ncai.org).*

## **Resolution Action Plan: REN-19-031**

**Title:** Auctioneers and Buyers Should Incorporate UNDRIP into Their Ethical Standards and Purchasing Practices of Indigenous Items and Collectors Should Support Contemporary Artists

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### **Action Plan:**

- 30 Days:
  - Research and familiarize oneself with resolution subject area.
  - Evaluate advocacy opportunities.
  - Contact resolution sponsor to coordinate requested assistance.
- 60 Days:
  - Assess opportunities for cross-coordination with other affected communities referenced in the resolution.
  - When and if appropriate, conduct Hill visits on related legislation.
- 90 Days:
  - Revise plan and coordinate with partners, as appropriate.
- 120 Days:
  - Continue implementation of the plan.
  - Prepare an activities update at NCAI Mid Year Conference.