

M U S E U M S



Donations

Frequently Asked Questions

Are donations tax-deductible?

Yes, donations to the Las Cruces Museums System (LCMS) are tax deductible. Donors are responsible for obtaining appraisals of the materials prior to donation. The LCMS will not appraise your items. It is also the donor's responsibility to obtain, complete, and file the appropriate forms with the IRS.

Where can I get an appraisal?

The LCMS will not appraise or otherwise assign a monetary value to your objects. You can locate an appraiser through the American Society of Appraisers. The Society maintains a database of appraisers at <http://www.appraisers.org/find-an-appraiser>, searchable by location.

What can I expect through the donation process?

- Materials can be dropped off at one of the museums, and you will be provided with a Temporary Custody Receipt, which acknowledges the items are in our care.
- After you bring materials to donate, the Collections team may contact you to obtain more provenience information about the item(s) you wish to donate. This information helps the committee decide to accept or decline a gift.
- All donors will be notified of the Committee's decision within a week of the Committee meeting. If donations are declined, Collections staff will make arrangements with you for the return of your item(s). If donations are accepted, you will be required to sign a Deed of Gift, which formalizes the donation to the LCMS. The LCMS only accepts unconditional gifts.

When will my donation be put on display?

We will not be able to guarantee when or if your item will be put on display. Our collections serve the needs of education, exhibition, preservation, and research. Collections staff works with the Exhibits team to balance the needs of an exhibit with the long-term preservation of collections so that Las Cruces material culture is protected for generations to come.

For more information on Donations, please contact us at 575-541-2296.