

Appendix for Proposed Deaccessions 2026

Presented to the Board of Trustees: June 24, 2026

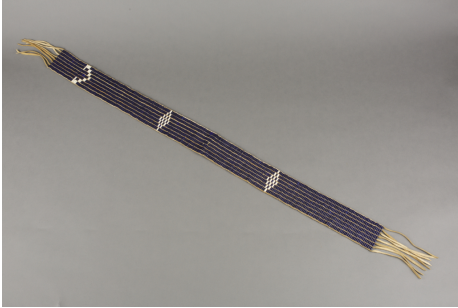
Native American Art Candidates for Deaccessioning:

Approved by the Collections Committee: June 8, 2026

Reviewers:

Kathleen Ash-Milby, Curator of Native American Art

G. Peter Jemison, Seneca Nation

ID	Image	Object
87.70.1		Unidentified artist <i>Beaded belt (facsimile wampum belt)</i>, 20th century glass beads on hide 3 x 47 ¾ inches Known provenance: The Elizabeth Cole Butler Collection Gifted to the Portland Art Museum in 1987.
	This object was identified in the collections database when it was acquired in 1987 as a beaded belt from the Northeast Woodlands. At the time there was no curator on staff with expertise in Native American art. It was recognizably a Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) wampum belt, which are sacred and diplomatic objects used by the Six Nations to memorialize and reify relationships, agreements such as treaties, and recognize leadership roles, among other ceremonial and cultural purposes. Kathleen Ash-Milby consulted with G. Peter Jemison, a faithkeeper of the Seneca Nation (January 21-22, 2026), who identified it immediately as a facsimile of a specific Seneca wampum belt that was repatriated to the Tonawanda Seneca Nation from the New York State Museum. The facsimile is close to the original iconography of the Seneca Condolence Belt. Upon physical examination, the beads were determined to obviously be glass instead of wampum (a purple and white shell), and the hide appeared to be very new, which would be highly suspicious for an object made in the 17th century or earlier.	