

SIGNIFICANCE PROJECT STATEMENT

Museums Wellington is carrying out a significance project on the Experience Wellington Collections, this was begun in 2010 until 2014, put on hold to work on the development of Wellington Museum and restarted following The Attic opening in November 2015. The purpose of a significance project is to align a museum's collection to its policy, specifically to:

Objective: De-accession and dispose of items that do not meet Experience Wellington's Collections Policy

Background: To develop heritage collections to ensure that our limited resources are being used to store, care and manage collections which fit the Collections Policy and contribute to our goal that heritage collections contribute to our understanding of Wellington's unique identity, its history, art and creativity. In applying the policy this may mean that items are identified for de-accessioning and disposing as they do not meet the Collections Policy of Experience Wellington or there is no other valid reason for retaining the item/s in the collection. Experience Wellington has established procedures for de-accessioning and disposal which are consistent with international museum practice.

The criteria governing future collection development as set out in the Collections Policy (2009) has been used as the basis for the significance assessment. That states:

The geographical focus of the Collections is generally the greater Wellington region, with a particular focus on the heritage and histories of Māori and other peoples of Wellington - Te Upoko o Te Ika a Maui.

Collection development activities are focused on three themes:

- The settlement of Wellington, and
- The history of Wellington including its social, cultural and economic development, and
- New Zealand's astronomical history as it relates directly to the Carter Observatory.

These themes represent the key areas in which Experience Wellington will build the Collections on behalf of the people of Wellington.