

Aligning Collections and Values

This exercise will help your local historical society determine which objects best represent the community you serve. Fill this sheet out individually then compare with the rest of your team. This is a starting point: you can have more than 5 main values or unique qualities!

What are your community's shared values? What makes your town unique?

What objects in your collection best reflect these qualities?

Discussion Prompts

Explain to the group why you chose a particular value and accompanying object.

What values (if any) did everyone write down? What does this tell you about your community?

Did anyone write down the same objects for different values? What does this tell you about how you can use those objects?

If you wrote down a value and couldn't think of any objects in your collection to support it, that's okay! Discuss how your organization can add objects to the collection that will fill this gap.

Consider the entirety of your town's history. Are there values that are no longer held in your community, but which you can illustrate with objects from your collection?

Come up with a plan to highlight the objects you wrote down in upcoming exhibits and programs.

Community Values

Use this list of words as a starting point if you're feeling stuck.

Accepting	Inclusive
Adventurous	Independent
Appreciation	Industry
Belonging	Innovation
Biased	Inspiration
Caring	Integrity
Collaboration	Isolated
Compassion	Kind
Competitive	Labor
Connection	Landscape
Creative	Leadership
Curious	Learning
Democracy	Liberty
Difference	Open
Dignity	Passionate
Education	Predictable
Empathy	Preservation
Entrepreneurial	Resilience
Equality	Resistance
Ethics	Respect
Exclusive	Sacrifice
Family	Service
Flexible	Struggle
Fresh	Supportive
Friendly	Trust
Fun	Welcoming

