

## Photos of Old Things: A Case Study of Secondary Archaeology

Education and Museum Partnership This case study examines the benefits and barriers of forming a partnership of a high school and a local natural history museum. Currently, museums are underfunded and face questions of cultural relevance and value. With ever decreasing budgets, exploring innovative ways of completing organizational mission statements or visions are needed.

In 2017, the high school entered into a partnership with a regional museum to develop 3D photo modeling course. This partnership aimed to be mutually beneficial to the museum and students. The museum receives a low-cost database of 3D images that can be used for further study or outreach. The digital collections are important for helping lower barriers of entry to studying these artifacts traditionally out of reach to the public. In turn, the partnership with the high school supports the museum's mission of an empowered community that loves, understands, and protects the world through engaging with their collections.

To benefit students, they acquired real world skills by learning 3D scanning technology. They did this through engaging with museum collections. Students were given the rare chance to interact with authentic artifacts. While artifacts are usually placed behind glass, students developed a more complete appreciation by connecting with the object for several hours as they modeled these items. This led to the students gaining an appreciation of the intricacies of the museum collection. In a field that relies on membership to help with research, it is imperative to engage community members to see the value of cultural institutions such as a museum. As teenagers developmentally are open, being able to work closely with a collection helps cement this value.

Barriers to this partnership could have been mishandled or broken artifacts, lack any interest amongst the students, and organizational challenges with working in storage or lab space in museums. This poster will examine different means of overcoming them. There is also an institutionalized belief that the students would have been unable to accomplish such tasks. These types of partnerships will help foster an understanding within archaeologists and collections managers that using secondary students is essential to continue both the work of preservation as well as fostering student appreciation. This poster demonstrates that fostering a relationship between collections and archaeologists with high school and undergrads is important for the future of the field.