

Accreditation Commission Policy on:

Statements of Support from Parent Organizations

Originally Approved April 5, 2006

Revisions* Approved by the Accreditation Commission on March 10, 2010
(new text shown in red)

- Parent organization: A larger organization within which a museum operates. Examples of parent organizations include: colleges or universities; tribal, municipal, state, or federal governments; state historical societies supervising multiple sites; corporate foundations, etc.
- A museum that operates within a parent organization relies on that parent organization for some or all of its human, physical, and/or financial resources. Levels and kinds of support from the parent will vary from organization to organization, and may vary from year to year.
- The Accreditation Commission requires museums operating within a parent organization to submit evidence (issued/approved by the parent organization's governing body) documenting:
 - the importance of the museum, and the collections in its care, to the parent organization
 - the parent organization's commitment to use its resources to support the museum and its mission, and to protect the museum's tangible and intangible assets held in the public trust
 - the nature of the parent organization's support and relationship with the museum
- This evidence must articulate that the parent:
 - values the museum as an intellectual and educational resource
 - sees the museum and its collections as essential components of what it does
 - is committed to the museum's continued success in fulfilling its mission and meeting its public trust responsibilities, especially with regard to the collection (if one exists)
 - is committed to following AAM and museum field standards, particularly with regard to the museum's collections, the use of deaccessioning proceeds, and collecting and gift-acceptance policies
- This evidence can take a variety of forms:
 - a resolution passed by the parent organization's governing body;
 - internal parent organization policy or agreement between the parent and the museum
 - section of the parent organization's bylaws, other organizing or governance documents or policies (i.e., parent organization document that describes its administrative and organizational structure and operations, and how the museum fits into that structure);
 - a section of the parent organization's formally approved institutional plan that addresses the museum

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- other evidence that shows a history of support from the parent organization (e.g., financial reports) and demonstrates for the Commission that there is a precedent for future regular and stable support
 - a resolution stating the parent organization's commitment that it will **not** consider the museum's collections as disposable assets
- The Commission considers it a best practice, and strongly prefers, for the evidence to be approved by the corpus of the ultimate governing authority, not by an individual representing this governing body, or to whom authority for oversight of the museum has been delegated.
- The evidence must be a document(s) approved by the parent organization, not just by the museum.