

Placer County Museums Division  
**Contemporary Collecting Guide**

**Mission Statement**

Placer County Museums Division defines contemporary collecting as accumulating material belonging to the present time and that which reflects Placer County today. Contemporary collecting records current history and builds our collections for future generations. It works to provide material for exhibitions, research and learning about the lives of people of Placer County.

**Collecting Objectives**

Placer County Museums aims to collect a representative sample of what is new, current and innovative in Placer County. The goal of the contemporary collecting is to:

- reach out to people of Placer County and represent their lives and stories
- develop lasting partnerships
- improve the quality of museum collections
- make collections more accessible and relevant to different types of visitors

**Collecting Criteria**

The materials collected must have relevance to:

- significant event or local project of importance that occurred in Placer County
- local business or school activity
- local individual or group

The above can be collected in a number of media:

- Three-dimensional objects
- Photographs and archival material
- Oral history and sound recordings
- Film/ video
- Electronic media

The objects collected must fit the criteria for acquisition of the Placer County Museums Collections Management Policy.

### **Collecting Strategy**

- Write articles to local newspapers and newsletters to increase awareness and understanding of contemporary collecting at Placer County Museums
- Meet with leaders of local business or community groups to get their help in acquiring contemporary material for the collection
- Develop projects to involve local community in contemporary collecting
- Create contemporary themed exhibitions
- Keep up to date with local events and changes

### **Evaluation**

- Review collection for weaknesses and strengths in terms of contemporary material
- Design contemporary collecting projects around identified gaps in the collection
- Identify potential new sources of donations
- Conduct surveys to help identify social trends