

ACTIVITY SHEET



UNDERSTANDING AND BUILDING OUR WORLD AND OUR STORIES TOGETHER

At the McCord Stewart Museum, we use objects, stories, and shared experiences to help our visitors better understand the world around them, no matter their age or background. With our participatory approach and civic perspective, we prioritize observation, questions, and dialogue in our activities.

MAKING WAMPUM: MESSAGE BEARERS

PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOP AT THE MUSEUM

Length: 60 minutes

Target audience: Secondary school – CEGEP – University – Adult – Senior

Educational areas:

- Secondary school: art, history, geography
- CEGEP and university: history, anthropology, Indigenous history, politics, art history

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

Wampum belts are the physical representation of contracts or laws that had to accompany any agreement or discussion between nations. Spoken words were considered sincere only if accompanied by wampum. These objects served to materialize the given word and seal alliances. Jointly developed by the Museum and Wendat artist and educator Sonia Gros-Louis, the workshop *Making Wampum: Message Bearers* explores the materiality of wampum and collectively investigates the concept of commitment to relational words. Making collective wampum belts is also an opportunity to reflect on what we wish to honour together.

STRATEGIES

Discussion – Reflection – Analysis – Creation

ATTITUDES DEVELOPED

Critical thinking – Dialogue – Respect – Intercultural perspectives