

We Are Making History.

This poster speaks to two kinds of stories, those of cherished family heirlooms lived and told by people in the present, and those of museum and archival artifacts whose stories reflect Oklahoma's history. Can you tell the difference? Things, the basic unit of archaeological study, are much more than material to be interpreted to understand past lifeways. Rather they are symbols, memories, and to some, as alive and present as we are.

Objects have meaning through their ongoing relationship with people, past and present. Some object's stories are sacred, only ever intended to be known by a select few. Others are communal, a way to bring us together and create common ground. Whether artifact or heirloom, for us or for someone else, things and their stories have the power to tell us who we are. Archaeology, seemingly about the past, speaks to both our present and future.

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