



**PLAN
CARE
HEAL**

A guide to working with
spontaneous memorial collections

Preparing for rapid-response collecting

Learning Objective

To consider the required steps for the early planning stage in rapid response collecting

Scenario Summary

LOCATION: IN THE MUSEUM

You are the head curator of a local authority museum. A spontaneous memorial has formed in a busy, centrally-located square in your city, in aftermath of a terrorist attack, which killed several people and injured more. You have been asked by the local authority to take charge of the memorial's removal and collection. You have no previous experience of rapid-response collecting.

Design a flowchart of considerations and actions to guide you and your colleagues.

Key Considerations

- What steps do you take to prepare yourself and others for this task?
- Who else is involved in this process?
- What challenges do you anticipate you will encounter?

- What resources/expertise/support do you need to do this effectively?

Further training, support, and key readings

Pam Schwartz, Whitney Broadaway, Emilie S. Arnold, Adam M. Ware, Jessica Domingo. 2018. 'Rapid-Response Collecting after the Pulse Nightclub Massacre' in *The Public Historian*, 40:1, pp. 105-114

[The National Archives online guidance to rapid-response collecting](#)

Miles, E., Cordner, S. and Kavanagh, J. (eds) (2020) *Contemporary collecting: an ethical toolkit for museum practitioners*

Arvanitis, K. 2019. 'The Manchester Together Archive: Researching and Developing a Museum Practice of Spontaneous Memorials' in *Museum and Society*, 17:3, University of Leicester, pp. 510-532