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## **HEARD MUSEUM HAS RICH HISTORY IN PHOENIX**

PHOENIX, Ariz. — For more than 80 years, the Heard Museum has been a landmark in Phoenix, a place where visitors from across the globe come to experience Native art, history and cultural references.

The Heard Museum, a private, non-profit institution, encompasses 130,000 square feet of galleries, classrooms and performance spaces. This vast space is more than eight times the size of the original structure. The Heard was founded in 1929 by Dwight and Maie Heard a prominent Phoenix couple that moved to the Valley in 1895 from Chicago, in order to share their exemplary collection of primarily American Indian artifacts and art.

In the 1950s, the Heard Museum underwent significant growth. Upon Maie Heard's death in 1951, the Board of Trustees worked to ensure the museum's continuation, and several staff members were hired. (Dwight Heard passed away in 1929 shortly before the museum opened.) In 1956, the Heard Museum Auxiliary was established to assist with educational programs. Today, the Heard Museum Guild numbers nearly 450 volunteers.

## **Expanding the Heard**

In 1958, volunteers launched two aggressive fundraising projects — a shop and bookstore and a major event featuring Native artists, food and fun. Both activities continue with great success today, thanks to the continuing support of Guild members who work in the shop and meticulously plan the Indian Fair & Market (which today draws nearly 20,000 people). Both enjoy national recognition and are major contributors to the Heard Museum's operations. Also in 1958, the first of three expansion projects was completed, adding additional classroom and office space to the museum.

The next expansion occurred in 1968-69, nearly doubling the original building. A 350-seat auditorium was added as well as a large gallery on the east side and the Gallery of Indian Art on the west.

The Heard experienced another expansion in 1983, when it nearly doubled in size again to 78,000 square feet. And in 1999, the Heard added 50,000 square feet, including several new structures: a Museum Shop twice the size of the former shop, the Steele Auditorium with plush theater-style seating for performances and events, the Dorrance Education Center with three classrooms, a cafe, an artist studio and the Nina Mason Pulliam Pavilion, which included a new admissions entrance and three galleries. Also added was an expanded Library and Archives, new administrative space, new collections storage facilities and new exhibit preparation areas.

The expansion also added three new exhibit galleries, bringing to 10 the number of galleries at the Heard. *HOME: Native People in the Southwest* opened to the public in May 2005 and is the museum's \$7.6 million, 21,000-square-foot signature experience, housing almost 2,000 objects from the permanent collection.

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The Heard Museum continues to enhance and expand within its current footprint. A new boutique bookstore, cantina and coffee bar will open its doors in February 2011. In March 2011, the Heard Museum opened 11<sup>th</sup> gallery, the Nichols Sculpture Garden, with a groundbreaking exhibit by Creek artist Retha Walden Gambaro. The Berlin Mezzanine, on the second floor overlooking the Crossroads Gallery, opened in February 2012 as a fine arts gallery featuring shorter-term exhibits.

In November 2007, the Heard Museum opened the Berlin Gallery at the Heard Museum Shop. The gallery added a retail gallery featuring American Indian fine art by more than 20 master and up-and-coming artists. The Berlin Gallery extended the educational mission of the Heard Museum by providing an expanded space for the exhibition and sale of American Indian painting, sculpture, photography, as well as prints and drawings.

In summer 2014, the Berlin Gallery officially became the Collectors' Room, a 2,400-square foot gallery featuring the finest of American Indian fine art, designed to inspire each collector to learn more about adding the very best of Native artworks to his or her collection and to display them proudly and spectacularly. Artists currently represented include: Fritz Scholder (Luiseño), Steve Yazzie (Navajo), and Doug Hyde (Nez Perce/Assiniboine/Chippewa).

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