



MEDIA RELEASE

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**BECOME A HEARD MUSEUM TOUR GUIDE, A MEMBER OF LAS GUIAS ('THE GUIDES'),
BY SIGNING UP FOR DOCENT TRAINING**

Informational meetings are Aug. 1, Sept. 6; weekly training classes begin Oct. 4

PHOENIX – Tour guides, or docents, are the portals through which Heard Museum visitors view its many fascinating exhibits. The Heard Museum Guild welcomes applicants to become a qualified member of the Heard's docents, called Las Guias (or, "The Guides").

Interested persons are invited to attend either of two informational meetings about the course, its requirements, and docent service. The meetings will be at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 1, or 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 6. Both will be in the Encanto Room at the Heard Museum, 2301 N. Central Ave., Phoenix.

The annual training class, after successful completion of which docents may begin giving museum tours, meets weekly at the Heard. Classes begin Oct. 4 and on each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., through April 25, 2017, with classes suspended during the holiday season. Graduates of the class will begin to lead tours in mid-2017.

Prospective docents are taught about the museum's exhibits, American Indian culture, history and art, and hone their skills at describing the art works on display. Through lecture, video, reading, guest speakers, discussion and field trips, Las Guias trainees gain a thorough knowledge of the history, culture and art of the American Indians of the Southwest. They also receive special training in cultural sensitivity and presentation skills for museum guests of all ages.

The instructor will be Jaclyn Roessel (Navajo), the Heard's director of education and public programs. The newly trained docents will begin giving tours in mid-2017 and must commit to giving a minimum of 30 tours per year for at least two years after completing the course.

To be eligible for Las Guias, one must first be enrolled as a member of the Heard Museum Guild. The \$200 class fee also covers the cost of a required criminal background check. To receive an application, email class facilitator Jim Szabo at jimszabo3@yahoo.com.

For more information about Las Guias, visit <http://www.heardguild.org/museum-guides>.

Heard Museum – American Indian Art and History
2301 North Central Ave., Phoenix, Ariz. 85004-1323
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About the Heard

Since 1929, the Heard Museum, a private non-profit organization, has enchanted visitors from around the world with the art, culture and history of indigenous peoples of the Americas with an emphasis on tribes and other cultures of the Southwest. With more than 40,000 fine artworks and cultural artifacts in its permanent collection, 12 long-term and changing exhibit galleries, an education center, an award-winning Shop, the Books & More boutique bookstore, Coffee Cantina and Courtyard Café, the Heard Museum is a place of learning, discovery and unforgettable experiences.

Exhibit, event and program funding are supported, in part, by the generosity of Heard Museum members and donors, the Arizona Commission on the arts, City of Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture, Institute of Museum and Library Services, National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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