



For Immediate Release

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Heard Museum's *Away From Home: American Indian Boarding School Stories* Wins 2020 AASLH Award of Excellence

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—July 28, 2020—The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) proudly announces that the Heard Museum is the recipient of an Award of Excellence for its exhibition *Away From Home: American Indian Boarding School Stories*. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards Program, now in its 75th year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history.

Developed under the leadership of Heard Museum curator Janet Cantley, *Away From Home* conveys the complex histories surrounding United States government efforts during the 19th and 20th centuries to educate and “assimilate” American Indian youth through the controversial practice of removing children from their families and forcibly



placing them in distant boarding schools. The exhibition was developed with an advisory committee of scholars and culture bearers from Indigenous communities nationwide and presents a diversity of perspectives and personal stories that bring this challenging history to light. Founded in new scholarship, *Away From Home* replaces the Heard's 2000 groundbreaking exhibition *Remembering Our Indian School Days: The Boarding School Experience*, curated by Margaret Archuleta. *Away from Home* is on view at the Heard Museum now.

In partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Mid-America Arts Alliance (M-AAA), a traveling iteration of the exhibition is in development through the NEH on the Road program. The *Away From Home* compendium exhibition is scheduled to visit 24 institutions nationwide, ranging from libraries to museums and historical societies.

This year, AASLH is proud to confer 57 national awards honoring people, projects, exhibitions, and publications. The winners represent the best in the field and provide leadership for the future of state and local history.

The AASLH Leadership in History Awards Program was initiated in 1945 to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history throughout the United States. The awards not only honor significant achievement in the field of state and local history, but also bring public recognition to the superior and innovative accomplishments of small and large organizations, institutions, and programs in this arena. For more information about the Leadership in History Awards, contact AASLH at 615.320.3203 or go to www.aaslh.org.



The American Association for State and Local History is a not-for-profit professional organization of individuals and institutions working to preserve and promote history. From its headquarters in Nashville, Tenn., AASLH provides leadership, service, and support for its members who preserve and interpret state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all people. AASLH publishes books, technical publications, and a quarterly magazine, and it maintains numerous affinity communities and committees serving a broad range of constituents across the historical community. The association also sponsors an annual meeting, regional and national training, in-person workshops, and online training.

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