



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Todd Vigil, 480.227.5779, tvigil@heard.org

Media Kit and Photos: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/380rfqse1ec63dr/AABH1ldR64G8AB4YKdtoz-9Ra?dl=0>

Event Link: <https://heard.org/event/hoop/>

Media Viability: Interviews, b-roll available

HEARD MUSEUM'S ANNUAL HOOP DANCE CONTEST IS GOING VIRTUAL

An online celebration of artistry, sheer athleticism and cultural traditions to be premiered free online. Dancers to compete for \$11,000 in prize money.

PHOENIX (Dec. 18, 2020) – The Heard Museum Virtual Hoop Dance Contest will be presented as a prerecorded online event on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021. Go online to heard.org/event/hoop/ or visit us on social media for continued updates.

“Considering the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having around the world, most especially the devastating toll it is taking on many American Indian and First Nations communities, we felt it was important to transition our Hoop Dance Contest to a virtual platform for 2021,” said Dan Hagerty, Director of Strategic Programming at the Heard Museum. “In partnership with our strategic advisors, we are excited to invite competitors from around the U.S. and Canada to participate this year in a safe manner. We look forward to welcoming the hoop community and spectators back to the Heard Museum’s campus in 2022.”

Dennis Bowen, Sr. (Seneca), Steve LaRance (Hopi/Assiniboine), Sue Pappas, Moontee Siquah (Hopi/Tewa/Choctaw) and Ginger Sykes Torres (Diné) have joined the Virtual Hoop Dance Team as advisors. Eric Hernandez (Lumbee) who will produce the virtual program is a Native filmmaker from Los Angeles known for creating viral videos on his YouTube channel, CirqueLife. He has competed in the annual Hoop dance event six times in the past, and most recently has been on a world tour as the lead Hoop Dancer with Cirque du Soeil’s *TOTEM*.

“The roots of hoop dancing can be traced back to traditional Native healing ceremonies,” said Bowen, longtime host and emcee of the World Championship Hoop Dance Contest. “Considering what we have all experienced this year, I can’t think of a better way of

sharing this tradition of healing and offering hope and joy to audiences across North America.”

Support for this program has been provided by:

Albertsons and Safeway Foundation

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR DANCERS

The event webpage includes a PDF of Contest Rules, developed with input from the contest staff and advisors to the program. Please read the rules carefully and direct any questions to hoopdance@heard.org.

In order to compete, you must fully complete your online registration before the cutoff deadline of Jan. 11, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. Arizona time. We strongly encourage you to register early. Registration will open on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2020. Visit heard.org/hoop for a link to Contest Rules and online registration.

Once you have registered, your registration materials will be verified within three (3) business days. Upon verification, you will receive a confirmation email at the address you provide that will contain further information about preparing and submitting your video.

Video submissions for each contestant must be received according to the guidelines outlined in the Rules no later than Jan. 18, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. Arizona time.

Contest Rules

[World Championship Hoop Dance Contest 2021 Rules](#)

Contestant Information

Prizes

| Youth (6-12) | Teen (13-17) | Adult (18-39) | Senior (40+) |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1st: \$350 | 1st: \$750 | 1st: \$2,500 | 1st: \$1,500 |
| 2nd: \$200 | 2nd: \$500 | 2nd: \$1,500 | 2nd: \$1,000 |
| 3rd: \$150 | 3rd: \$350 | 3rd: \$1,000 | 3rd: \$500 |

A cash prize of \$250 in each age division will also be awarded for a “Viewer’s Choice.” Online voting will take place the week prior to the virtual event. Further details on voting will be announced.

2020 Winners

Adult (18-39)

World Adult Champion: Scott Sixkiller-Sinquah (Gila River Pima/Hopi)

2nd Place: Tyrese Jensen (Diné/Pima-Maricopa)

3rd Place: James Jones (Tallcree First Nation)

4th Place: Sampson Sixkiller-Sinquah (Gila River Pima/Hopi/Cherokee)

5th Place: Talon Duncan (San Carlos Apache/Arikara/Hidatsa/Mandan)

6th Place: Patrick Willie (Diné)

Senior (40 and above)

World Senior Champion: Moontee Sinquah (Hopi Tewa/Choctaw)

2nd Place: Lisa Odjig (Obijwe/Odawa/Pottawatomi)

3rd Place: Terry Goedel (Yakama/Tulalip)

Teen (13-17)

World Teen Champion: Nedallas Hammill (Diné/Ho-Chunk)

2nd Place: Josiah Enriquez (Pueblo of Pojaque)

3rd Place: Joseph Romero (Pueblo of Pojaque/Nambé)

Youth (6-12)

World Youth Champion: Kailayne Jensen (Diné)

2nd Place: Isaiah George (Santa Clara Pueblo)

3rd Place: JaiP'o Harvier (Pueblo of Pojoaque)

About the Heard Museum

Since its founding in 1929, the Heard Museum, a private nonprofit organization, has grown in size and stature to become recognized internationally for the quality of its collections, world-class exhibitions, educational programming and unmatched festivals. Dedicated to the advancement of American Indian art, the Heard successfully presents the stories of American Indian people from a first-person perspective, as well as exhibitions that showcase the beauty and vitality of traditional and contemporary art. The Heard Museum is supported, in part, by the generosity of Heard Museum members and donors, the Arizona Commission on the Arts, and the City of Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture. In association with the Smithsonian, the Heard Museum is part of a select group of museums and cultural, educational and arts organizations that share the Smithsonian's resources with the nation.

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