



HEARD MUSEUM RESCHEDULES WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HOOP DANCE CONTEST TO MARCH 26 & 27, 2022

POPULAR EVENT RETURNS TO HEARD MUSEUM'S ICONIC DOWNTOWN PHOENIX CAMPUS

For Immediate Release:

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WHAT: **PHOENIX, Ariz. (January 20, 2022)**—The Heard Museum's World Championship Hoop Dance Contest is rescheduled for March 26 & 27, 2022. Save the date for this Valley-favorite event when the top American Indian and Canadian First Nations hoop dancers compete at the Heard Museum for the prestigious World Champion title and cash prizes.

The art of hoop dance honors cultural traditions shared by multiple Indigenous communities. With roots in healing ceremonies, traditions and practices, today's hoop dance is shared as an artistic expression to celebrate and honor Indigenous traditions throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Over the years, as the hoop dance community has grown, dancers have incorporated new and creative designs and intricate footwork while still respecting the fundamentals of the form. Each dancer presents their own choreography, weaving in aspects of tradition and culture. Men and women compete on an equal field, and individual routines may feature as few as four to as many as 50 hoops, which are manipulated to create various designs such as animals, insects and globes.

Dancers are judged on a slate of five skills: precision, timing/rhythm, showmanship, creativity and speed. Contestants compete in one of five divisions: Tiny Tots (age 5 and younger), Youth (6-12), Teen (13-17), Adult (18-39) and Senior (40 and older). Cash prizes totaling \$25,000 are awarded to winners in each division, and victors in each division can claim the honor of being the World Champion.

Through stunning performances of those women and men competing to be named the next World Champion Hoop Dancer, the event combines artistry, athleticism, tradition and suspense for an unforgettable weekend of fellowship and competition.

The [Heard Museum Guild Indian Fair & Market](#) is still scheduled for March 5 & 6, 2022, at the Heard Museum.

DATES: Saturday, March 26 & Sunday, March 27, 2022

TIME: 9 a.m. MST

LOCATION: Heard Museum, Phoenix, Ariz.

CONTACT: media@heard.org

PHOTOS: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2ql6gy86jrh90eq/AABe7nUvTJtGSI8K6pFPs4a7a?dl=0>

Photo: Scott Sixkiller Siquah (Gila River Pima/Hopi), 2020 Adult World Champion. Photo: Heard Museum, Platt Photography

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 and exhibitions that showcase the beauty and vitality of traditional and contemporary art. In part, the Heard Museum is supported 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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