



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Heard Museum's World Championship Hoop Dance Contest Returns Feb. 18 and 19** *Championship Brings Top Hoop Dancers From Around the Country to Phoenix Museum Stage*

**PHOENIX** – [The Heard Museum](#) is excited to present the [33<sup>rd</sup> Annual World Championship Hoop Dance Contest](#) on Saturday, Feb. 18 and Sunday, Feb. 19, during which dozens of the top Indigenous hoop dancers will compete at the Heard Museum's Libby Amphitheater for the prestigious World Champion title and prizes totaling \$25,000 across multiple age divisions.

"Our Hoop Dance Contest is a beloved event that the community looks forward to every year," said David M. Roche, Dickey Family Director and Heard Museum CEO. "It is more than a contest, it is an opportunity to learn from those preserving their history and legacy. We see hundreds of people from all over the world travel to join us in celebrating Indigenous talent and culture."

The annual World Championship Hoop Dance Contest is recognized as the premier competition for the art of hoop dance throughout North America.

The art of hoop dance honors cultural practices shared by multiple Indigenous communities. With roots in healing ceremonies, traditions and practices, today's hoop dance is shared as an artistic expression to 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 in their regalia and intricate footwork in their dancing while still respecting the fundamentals of the form. Individual routines can feature as few as four to as many as 50 hoops, which are manipulated to create various formations such as animals, insects, and globes.

Dancers are judged on a slate of five skills: precision, timing/rhythm, showmanship, creativity, and speed. Contestants of all genres compete together 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). A collective prize pool of \$25,000 will be awarded to winners across divisions, and victors in each division can claim the honor of being the World Champion.

For dancers interested in competing, contestant registration is open through Feb. 13 at 11:59 p.m. Applications can be completed at [heard.org/hoop-dance-registration-form/](http://heard.org/hoop-dance-registration-form/).

Gates open at 8:15 a.m. both days, and the dancing will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual World Championship Hoop Dance Contest and to purchase tickets, visit [heard.org/hoop](http://heard.org/hoop).

### **About the Heard**

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. For more information, please visit [heard.org](http://heard.org).

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