



HEARD MUSEUM
CELEBRATING 90 YEARS | 1929-2019

March 24, 2020

Dear Friends,

In response to the worldwide health crisis, the Heard Museum is closed to the public until it is safe for us to open our doors. We know that many of you are feeling worried, if not scared, about the uncertainty in the world. During previous times of crisis, the Heard's galleries, sculpture gardens and historic campus have been a source of solace and inspiration for the community but this time is different. This time we are reminded that staying home saves lives. Therefore, we have turned our hearts and minds to the urgent matter of helping our community in other ways.

The Board of Trustees, staff and volunteers first wish to express our profound gratitude to the healthcare workers who are on the frontlines fighting this pandemic. The Heard Museum is taking its cue from our friends at the Birmingham Museum of Art and donating boxes of nitrile gloves, used for handling art, to the Phoenix Indian Medical Center so that their first responders have the supplies they need to safely perform their jobs.

We understand that food shelters are struggling to feed the hungry so we are sending food from our Cantina and Café to St. Mary's Food Bank. Many shelters are effectively practicing social distancing which allows one to make drop-offs without putting themselves in harm's way.

We are concerned about the toll that sheltering and isolation is having on our elders. If you suspect a person might be lonely, please reach out to them. If you think they might enjoy getting a post card from Books and More or an email message from a friend at the Heard Museum, please email me at director@heard.org with their contact information and we'll happily send one with a note of cheer and an interesting bit of information about the Heard Museum's 90-year history.

We are mindful of all the Indigenous artists that help to make the Heard Museum such a special place. If you have the means, please consider buying a work of art from them. Many of the artists that are represented by The Shop and participate in the Heard Museum Guild's Indian Fair and Market support their families and tribes through the sale of their art. You might be surprised by what a significant difference this can make in the life of an artist.

In the coming days, you will find a special *Heard@Home* page on our website. This will be a guide to online activities that are designed to educate, engage and, hopefully, provide some inspiration at this challenging time.

With lives and livelihoods at stake, we are humbled by the limits of what we can do. Please know that the entire Heard Museum family is wishing for your safety and well-being, as well as that of your loved ones. The Heard Museum will reopen its doors as soon as it is safe to do so. For 90 years, the Heard Museum has been a place for our community and visitors to gather, and it will be again. For now, we close our doors to do our part in keeping our community safe.

David M. Roche
Dickey Family Director and CEO