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PRESS RELEASE

Heard Museum Moondance Gala Raises Over \$1.2 Million

PHOENIX (Oct. 23, 2023) – On Oct. 21, more than 400 guests enjoyed a joyous evening at Moondance, the Heard Museum’s annual gala. Guests viewed the Heard’s new Grand Gallery exhibition *Early Days: Indigenous Art from the McMichael*. Moondance honored longtime Heard Museum partner Bank of America and Richard I. Chavez, jewelry and lapidary artist from the San Felipe Pueblo tribe in New Mexico. The gala featured a cocktail reception, a catered dinner and desserts, and dancing with live music performances. This year’s campaign committee was chaired by Sharron Lewis, who led a fundraising effort that totaled over \$1.2 million.

“Thanks to the generosity of individual and corporate sponsors, Moondance 2023 was one of the Heard Museum’s most successful fundraising events to date,” said David M. Roche, Dickey Family Director and Heard Museum CEO. “This support enables the Heard to educate and delight communities with the beauty and traditions of American Indian art.”

Guests had the privilege of viewing *Early Days*, which is on view at the Heard Museum through January 2024, and is made possible at the Heard Museum by signature sponsor EPCOR and sponsor Lili Chester. Additional support is provided by donors to the Grand Gallery Exhibition Fund.

During the cocktail reception, guests enjoyed live music performances from Mariachi Estrellas Musicales, Craig Bohlmer (Cherokee) on piano, Game Ayala (Yaqui) on guitar. At dinner, an honoree video presentation by Steven Yazzie (Navajo/Laguna Pueblo/European) was shared and the evening concluded with a packed dance floor led by The Herndon Brothers. Throughout the evening, guests perused items in the record-setting silent auction, including works by premier American Indian artists like Allan Houser, Charles Loloma, Denise Wallace, and Dan Namingha.

For more information, please visit heard.org.

Notes to Editors:

Moondance took place on Saturday, Oct. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

The Heard Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is closed on Easter, Independence Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Ticket prices for the museum are as follows: adults are \$25 at the door, \$22.50 online; seniors (65+) are \$20 at the door, \$18 online; students with a valid ID are \$10 at the door, \$9 online; children (6-17) are \$10 at the door, \$9 online; all children 5 years and under, American Indians (with Tribal ID or CIB) and Heard Museum members are free.

Photography of any kind may not be used for publication without written permission from the museum and/or artists.

Credentialed members of the media may contact a member of the marketing staff for more information concerning photography of public events or museum galleries.

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. For more information, please visit heard.org.

About *Early Days*:

Early Days is the first survey of Indigenous art from Canada of this scope to be presented internationally. Showcasing the diversity and vitality of Indigenous art in Canada, *Early Days* features objects ranging from 18th-century ceremonial regalia to the work of the vanguard artists of the 1960s, '70s and '80s—such as Norval Morrisseau, Carl Beam and Alex Janvier— and leading contemporary Indigenous artists like Kent Monkman, Meryl McMaster and Rebecca Belmore.



To follow updates on the museum via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, use @heardmuseum.

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A full media kit with logos, high-resolution images, past announcements and more can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3yVh8ho>.