



PRESS RELEASE

\$2.5 million Lilly Endowment Inc. Grant will Create a Dedicated Endowment at the Heard Museum

PHOENIX - The Heard Museum has received a \$2.5 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its Religion and Cultural Institutions Initiative. The grant will establish the Lilly Endowment Indigenous Religions Interpretation Fund (LEIRIF), which will empower the Heard Museum in perpetuity to educate visitors about a multitude of American Indian religions.

The fund will enable the museum to create a safe and welcoming environment where visitors can contemplate the different religious views and practices of millions of Native Americans as expressed by religious leaders, scholars and culture bearers from hundreds of North American tribes. The LEIRIF will support a broad range of activities including exhibitions, public programs, and collections research.

"We are deeply grateful for this Lilly Endowment grant that will enable us to deepen our engagement with Native American communities by investing in work that explores the role that spiritual knowledge plays in their creative practices," said David M. Roche, the Heard Museum Dickey Family Director and CEO. "Our deep conviction is that sharing this knowledge fosters tolerance and understanding, while shedding light on our shared humanity."

In 2019, Lilly Endowment launched the Religion and Cultural Institutions Initiative. Its aim is to support museums and other cultural organizations as they strengthen their capacity to provide fair, accurate and balanced portrayals of the role religion has played and continues to play in the United States and around the world. The Heard Museum received a \$2.5 million grant through the initiative's first round of funding in 2020. It supported the creation of the exhibition Substance of Stars, which presents works of art inspired by the origin stories of four tribes including the Haudenosaunee, the Yup'ik, the Navajo, and the Akimel O'odham. Currently on view, it is also the Heard's first fully immersive exhibition.

"The United States is widely considered to be one of the most religiously diverse nations today," said Christopher L. Coble, Lilly Endowment's vice president for religion. "Many individuals and families trust museums and other cultural institutions and visit them to learn about their communities and the world. We are excited to support these organizations as they continue to develop their capacities to help visitors understand and appreciate the diverse religious beliefs, practices and perspectives of their neighbors and others in communities around the globe."

Image Above: Substance of Stars Stellar View

Notes to Editors:

The Heard Museum and Museum Shop are 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 \$26; seniors (65+) are \$21; military members are \$21 (with valid ID); university/college students with a valid ID are \$10; children (6-17) are \$10; 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 Lilly Endowment Inc.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly, Sr. and his sons Eli and J.K. Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. Although the gifts of stock remain a financial bedrock of the Endowment, it is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with the founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion. Although the Endowment maintains a special commitment to its founders' hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana, it also funds programs throughout the United States, especially in the field of religion. While the primary aim of its religion grantmaking focuses on strengthening the leadership and vitality of Christian congregations in the United States, the Endowment also seeks to foster public understanding about religion and lift up in fair, accurate and balanced ways the contributions that people of all faiths and diverse religious communities make to our greater civic well-being.



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

Media Contact: Ivana Morales 973-864-4523
ivana@evolv_eprandmarket_ing.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING

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