



PRESS RELEASE

Heard Museum's World Championship Hoop Dance Contest Celebrates 35 Years

Feb. 15-16, 2025

PHOENIX – The World Championship Hoop Dance Contest, a cornerstone for cultural preservation spotlighting hoop dancing, will return to the Heard Museum for its 35th year on Feb. 15 and 16!

The annual championship attracts more than 100 dancers from diverse tribal backgrounds throughout the country who will display their masterful skills at the event, carrying on the traditions of hoop dance.

During the event, guests can enjoy delicious food and drink from local vendors and the Heard Museum's award-winning restaurant. Opportunities to engage in hoop-themed family activities, explore offerings from community partners, and shop official merchandise from the Official Hoop Dance Merch Booth will also be available. For those unable to attend in person, event streaming partner Gila River Broadcasting will present a livestream of the event hosted online at [Heard.org/Event/World-Championship-Hoop-Dance-Contest/](https://www.heard.org/Event/World-Championship-Hoop-Dance-Contest/), ensuring that the spirit of the contest reaches far and wide.

The World Championship Hoop Dance Contest is a culmination of dozens of community members who show up as dedicated staff, emcees, singers, families and supporters including:

- Arena Emcee Dennis Bowen, who has committed over 30 years of live coverage
- Arena Director Eric Manuelito, who flawlessly orchestrates the competition's flow
- The Northern and Southern Drum Groups, The Cozad Singers and Thunder Boy Singers, providing the heartbeat of the event

Since the first World Championship hosted at the Heard Museum, this event has continued the profound history of hoop dancing within Indigenous communities.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit [Heard.org/Event/World-Championship-Hoop-Dance-Contest/](https://www.heard.org/Event/World-Championship-Hoop-Dance-Contest/).

Image Above: 2024 Heard Hoop Dance Contest Adult World Champion – Josiah Enriquez (Pueblo of Pojoaque)

Notes to Editors:

The 35th Annual World Championship Hoop Dance Contest will take place at the Heard Museum on

Saturday, Feb. 15 and Sunday, Feb. 16 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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 event are as follows (two-day event package): adults are \$46.80; seniors (65+) are \$39.60; military members are \$39.60 (with valid ID); university/college students with a valid ID are \$19.80; children (6-17) are \$19.80; all children 5 years and under are free, American Indian Adults and Children (with Tribal ID or CIB) are \$19.80 and Heard Museum members are \$37.80.

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 has grown to become nationally and internationally recognized for its world-class exhibitions, award-winning publications, unparalleled festivals, and innovative educational programs. Dedicated to connecting Indigenous creativity to the world, the Heard showcases the beauty and vitality of Indigenous creative expression by presenting the voice and vision of American Indian artists. A welcoming destination for children and families, the Heard offers engaging experiences that inspire curiosity and foster appreciation for American Indian art and culture. 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.

For more information, please visit heard.org.



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>.