



PRESS RELEASE

Josiah Enriquez Named 35th Annual World Hoop Dance Champion

Enriquez Wins Title for Second Consecutive Year

Images available at: [Heard.org/Press](https://www.heard.org/press)

PHOENIX – At the Heard Museum’s 35th annual World Hoop Dance Championship Contest, Josiah Enriquez clinched the title of champion for the second year in a row with a total score of 199 points out of 225. Judged on precision, timing/rhythm, showmanship, creativity, and speed, 124 of the top Indigenous hoop dancers competed for the prestigious title and prizes totaling \$25,000 across multiple age divisions.

"Defending my title at the 35th Annual Hoop Dance Competition is an incredible honor, and I am deeply proud to be part of such an amazing and supportive community," said Enriquez. "This journey has been more than just a competition—it's been about inspiring the youth, preserving tradition, and paying tribute to the legacies of Nakotah Larance and Valentino Rivera. Carrying their spirit forward while creating my own legacy has been nothing short of extraordinary, and I am grateful for every step of this path."

Enriquez is a 22-year-old Navajo, Isleta and Pueblo Hoop dancer from the Pueblo of Pojoaque in New Mexico. He started dancing and participating in traditional ceremonies at three but didn't start hoop dancing until the age of 8, inspired by his teacher, Nakotah Larance, dancer Valentino Rivera, and his grandmother along with the kids of the Lightning Boy Foundation. Being able to teach has revealed a completely different level of understanding of the hoop dance for Enriquez.

The winners across the age divisions are:

2025 Heard Hoop Dance Contest Champion

- First Place: Josiah Enriquez (Pueblo of Pojoaque, Navajo, Isleta)
- First Runner-Up: Talon Ree Duncan (Three Affiliated)
- Second Runner-Up: Tony Duncan (Apache, Arikara & Hidasta)
- Third Runner-Up: Scott Sixkiller Siquah (Gila River Pima, Hopi/Tewa, Cherokee, Choctaw)
- Fourth Runner-Up: Joseph Secody (Diné)
- Fifth Runner-Up: Sky Duncan (San Carlos Apache)

2025 Heard Hoop Dance Contest Senior Champion

- First Place: Dallas Arcand (Cree, Nakota Sioux, Metis)
- First Runner-Up: Terry Goedel (Yakama/Tulalip)
- Second Runner-Up: Moontee Siquah (Hopi-Tewa, Choctaw)

2025 Heard Hoop Dance Contest Teen Champion

- First Place: Mateo Ulibarri (Pueblos of Pojoaque and Santa Clara)
- First Runner-Up: Kailayne Jensen (Diné, Maricopa)
- Second Runner-Up: Cyrus First Charger (Blackfoot Confederacy, Blood Tribe)

2025 Heard Hoop Dance Contest Youth Champion

- First Place: Victor Duncan (Plains Cree, Taino, Apache, Arikara, Hidasta, Mandan)
- First Runner-Up: Aaron James Vigil (Pueblo of Pojoaque, Nambe Pueblo)
- Second Runner-Up: Lakai Torres (Diné, Mexican)

“This event is a cornerstone for cultural preservation and the Heard is honored to host hundreds of dancers from all over North America in a place where their masterful skills are on full display for the community to celebrate,” said David M. Roche, Dickey Family Director and Heard Museum CEO. “We are so appreciative of the dancers and dozens of volunteers who invested so much time and effort to bring the championship to the Valley for another incredible year.”

At the event, guests also enjoyed 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 were also available.

The World Championship Hoop Dance Contest was made possible by support from APS, Susan Orr in memory of her husband William and son Tyler, the Jay Kahn Memorial Fund, the Richard O. Kern Fund, Desert Diamond Casino, the Arizona Community Foundation, Ted & Mary Jo Shen and the Tohono O’odham Nation.

For more information on the Heard Museum, visit <https://heard.org/>

Above image: Josiah Enriquez, the 35th Annual World Hoop Dance Champion

Notes to Editors:

The 35th Annual World Championship Hoop Contest took place on Feb. 15 through Feb. 16, 2025 at The Heard Museum.

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 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.



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