



PRESS RELEASE

## **Heard Museum Moondance Raises \$1.2 Million**

**PHOENIX** – On Oct. 25, 450 guests enjoyed a joyous evening at Moondance, the Heard Museum’s annual gala that raised \$1.2 million for the museum’s exhibitions, programs and operations. Heard trustee Matthew Boland chaired the event, which honored fellow trustee Sharron Lewis and artist Jesse Monongye (1952-2024).

“Moondance is a celebration of the Heard Museum and the community that supports it,” said David M. Roche, Heard Museum Dickey Family Director and CEO. “This year we recognized two extraordinary individuals who have created an enduring legacy at our museum.”

The evening featured an exclusive one-night-only exhibition, *Opal Moons and Lapis Skies*, a tribute to the late lapidary Navajo/Hopi artist Jesse Monongye. Moondance guests also participated in a silent auction featuring more than forty extraordinary lots of handmade jewelry by Indigenous artists including works by Charles Loloma, Denise Wallace, Robert and Bernice Leekya, gala honoree Jesse Monongye, and many more.

Following a reception and exhibition viewing, guests were treated to a surprise performance by Indigenous Enterprise, a highlight of the dinner program. M Culinary Concepts presented the custom menu with a surprise dessert tribute to Jesse Monongye with his favorite “burger” and shake combo. Local favorite Instant Classics Band had everyone dancing under the moon with a play list inspired by Monongye’s favorite tunes.

Believing in the power of the arts to heal and connect, honoree Sharron Lewis has dedicated decades to uplifting institutions that reflect her values. Sharron is especially devoted to the Heard Museum and its mission of preserving and celebrating Native art and culture. Through her involvement, she is passionately dedicated to supporting Indigenous artist and to building bridges between past and future, tradition and innovation. Dozens of Lewis’ close friends attended Moondance, many of whom made tribute gifts to the Museum in her honor.

The evening ended with guests receiving a gift from chair Matthew Boland of blue corn pancake mix and prickly pear syrup “because every great night deserves an equally great breakfast!”

For more information, please visit [heard.org](https://heard.org).

---

*Image Above: Bo Monongye, honoree Jesse Monongye's son, and honoree Heard trustee Sharron Lewis. Photo credit Sandra Tenuto.*

Notes to Editors:

Moondance took place on Saturday, Oct. 25 at 6 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. From June 1 to Aug. 31, the Museum and Shop are open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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](http://heard.org).



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

---

### **Media Contact:**

Ivana Morales  
973-864-4523  
[ivana@evolveprandmarketing.com](mailto:ivana@evolveprandmarketing.com)  
[evolveprandmarketing.com](http://evolveprandmarketing.com)



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