



## PRESS RELEASE

# Heard Museum Honors Beloved Indigenous Cuisine Staple in New Exhibition

*Blue Bird Examines the Intersection of Food, Art and Fashion*

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**PHOENIX** – [The Heard Museum](#) is honoring the iconic Blue Bird Flour, an ingredient famous for its use in Native American cuisine, with its new exhibition *Blue Bird* opening Friday, Feb. 6. Blue Bird Flour is well known for its use in frybread and tortilla recipes, and its logo has become a motif in Native popular culture.

“Blue Bird is a ubiquitous brand built into who my people, the Diné/Navajo, are,” said Olivia Barney, exhibition curator. “It’s in the taste and the weight of the bread. Since I can remember, it’s been in our homes, at gatherings and markets.”

The upcoming exhibition will feature artworks that explore how Native people have reimagined the reusable Blue Bird cloth bag, transforming it into items that honor tradition, creativity, and the principle of using every part of what is given. On display will be a compact yet illuminating selection of creations, including clothing, bags, face masks, and paintings. Highlighting the inventiveness found across Indian Country, the exhibition includes works by artists:

- Neil R. David Sr. (Hopi-Tewa)
- Sherry Denipah Sykes (Diné)
- Ruthe Blalock Jones/Chu-Lun-Dit (Shawnee-Delaware-Peoria)
- Valjean McCarty Hessing (Choctaw)
- Cathy Short (Citizen Potawatomi Nation)
- Linda and Norbert Peshlakai (Diné)
- Toni Williams (Northern Arapaho)

Additionally, four Arizona artists will be featured: Kathleen Tom-Garcia (Diné), Selina A. Scott (Diné, Latina), Amber B. Scott (Diné, Hopi, Yavapai) and Ginger Sykes Torres (Diné).

Frybread originated more than 160 years ago when forcibly displaced tribes, particularly the Diné, were given government rations of ingredients such as flour, sugar and lard.

Blue Bird Flour is a finely ground, high-protein enriched flour milled in Cortez Milling Co. in Colorado which started in the 1930s, where the high altitude gives the wheat a superior flavor. While often

associated with Native people from the Southwest United States, the use of the product and the practice of frybread-making extend widely across tribes throughout the country.

The accessibility, available at major retailers like Fry's, Safeway, Bashas' and more, and unique qualities of Blue Bird continue to reinforce its enduring place in Native kitchens and cultural expression.

For more information about each event and the Heard Museum, please visit [heard.org](http://heard.org).

*Pictured above: Toni Williams (Northern Arapaho), Shirt, c. 2015. Blue Bird Flour bag cloth. Collection of Kathy and Bill Howard*

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Notes to Editors:

*Blue Bird* will open to the public on Friday, Feb. 6 through March 7, 2027.

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.

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### **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).

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To follow updates on the museum via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, use [@heardmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/heardmuseum).

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<https://bit.ly/3yVh8ho>.