



PRESS RELEASE

Josiah Enriquez Named 36th Annual World Hoop Dance Champion

Enriquez Wins Title for Third Consecutive Year

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

PHOENIX – At the Heard Museum’s 36th annual World Hoop Dance Championship Contest, Josiah Enriquez clinched the title of champion for the third year in a row with a total score of 214 points out of 225. Judged on precision, timing/rhythm, showmanship, creativity, and speed, 128 of the top Indigenous hoop dancers competed for the prestigious title and prizes totaling \$25,000 across multiple age divisions.

"My gratitude to everyone involved, from the staff and judges at the Heard, to my friends, students at fellow teachers at The Lightning Boy Foundation, and all the contestants who come to this amazing Contest from all over the US and Canada," said Enriquez. "I also want to thank the incredible crowd that comes out to support this event."

Enriquez is a 23-year-old hoop dancer who is Navajo, from the Pueblos of Pojoaque and Isleta 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:

2026 Heard Hoop Dance Contest Champion

- First Place: Josiah Enriquez (Pueblo of Pojoaque, Navajo, Isleta)
- First Runner-Up: Scott Sixkiller Siquah (Gila River Pima)
- Second Runner-Up: Tony Duncan (Apache, Arikara & Hidasta)
- Third Runner-Up: Talon Duncan (Arikara Hidasta Mandan Apache)
- Fourth Runner-Up: Kailayne Jensen (Navajo/Maricopa)
- Fifth Runner-Up: Tyrese Jensen (Navajo)

2026 Heard Hoop Dance Contest Senior Champion

- First Place: Terry Goedel (Yakama/Tulalip)
- First Runner-Up: Moontee Siquah (Hopi-Tewa, Choctaw)
- Second Runner-Up: Lane Jensen (Navajo/Maricopa)

2026 Heard Hoop Dance Contest Teen Champion

- First Place: Mateo Ulibarri (Pueblos of Pojoaque and Santa Clara)
- First Runner-Up: JaiPo Jarvier (Pueblo of Pojoaque, Santa Clara Pueblo, Taos Pueblo, Tohono O'odham Nation)
- Second Runner-Up: Shikeyah Torres (Navajo and Mexican)

2026 Heard Hoop Dance Contest Youth Champion

- First Place: Victor Duncan (Plains Cree, Taino, Apache, Arikara, Hidasta, Mandan)
- First Runner-Up: Cooper Nez (Navajo)
- Second Runner-Up: Leo Brady (Lakota, Navajo, Sac N Fox, Pawnee, Cheyenne, Kiowa Apache)

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 Ted & Mary Jo Shen, Arizona Community Foundation, Jay Kahn Memorial Fund, Richard O. Kern Fund, APS, The Diane & Bruce Halle Foundation, The Steele Foundation and SRP.

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

Above image: Josiah Enriquez, the 36th Annual World Hoop Dance Champion

Notes to Editors:

The 36th Annual World Championship Hoop Contest took place on Feb. 14 through Feb. 15, 2026 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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<https://bit.ly/3yVh8ho>.