



PRESS RELEASE

Iconic Heard Museum Signature Events Spotlight Indigenous Art and Dance

PHOENIX – [The Heard Museum](https://www.heard.org) is gearing up for two major 2026 events, the 36th annual World Championship Hoop Dance Contest happening Feb. 14-15, and the 68th annual Indian Fair & Market taking place March 7-8.

Kicking off the season is the World Championship Hoop Dance Contest, which features more than 100 dancers from diverse tribal backgrounds across North America showcasing their intricate footwork and vivid motion in a vibrant display of tradition and talent. From Tiny Tots (dancers as young as four years old) to the Senior Division, attendees will be amazed at their agility.

The Cozad Singers and Mandaree Singers are the two host drum groups. Longtime emcee Dennis Bowen, Sr. (Seneca) returns to keep the dancers moving and the crowd entertained.

Attendees will enjoy a full festival experience, including food and drinks from local vendors and the Heard Museum's award-winning restaurant. The Family Fun Zone offers activities for all ages from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, while guests can also explore community partner booths and shop for official merchandise at the Hoop Dance Merch Booth. The event continues to be a cornerstone for celebrating Indigenous culture and artistry at the Heard Museum.

In March, the Indian Fair & Market brings together more than 600 Indigenous artists representing tribal nations across the United States and Canada. Selected through a competitive jury process, these artists will showcase their works that celebrate creativity, tradition, and innovation.

The weekend festivities begin with the Best of Juried Competition awards ceremony on March 6, where expert judges will select the prestigious Best of Show winner from hundreds of breathtaking pieces. Returning for its second year, The Youth Art Show and Sale will highlight talented young artists in grades seven through 12, with over \$10,000 in prizes awarded and their artwork available for purchase.

Visitors of all ages can also enjoy the Family Fun Zone throughout the weekend, featuring games, artmaking, a bounce house, and more. To end the action-packed weekend, all children under 12 will be admitted for free on Sunday. The Indian Fair & Market continues its legacy as one of the largest and most dynamic Indigenous art gatherings in the country.

Tickets are now available for both events. For more information about each event and the Heard

Museum, please visit heard.org.

Notes to Editors:

Ticket sales for each event are now open. Adult tickets are \$26 for Hoop Dance and \$30 for the Fair. Tickets are available at heard.org/hoop and heard.org/fair.

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.



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

Media Contact:

Ivana Morales
973-864-4523
ivana@evolveprandmarketing.com



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