



PRESS RELEASE

Heard Museum Awards Top Honors at One of the World's Largest Indigenous Art Markets

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

PHOENIX – The [Heard Museum](https://www.heard.org) has announced the winners of the 2026 Heard Guild Indian Fair & Market juried competition, with **Jacqueline Rickard (Walker River Paiute)** earning the event's top honor, Best of Show, for her basket *It Is Pure Joy, Basket Creation*.

The annual market featured more than 640 Indigenous artists competing for over \$160,000 in prize money, making it one of the largest Indigenous art markets in the world.

Rickard received the award during the Indian Fair & Market awards reception held March 6 in Phoenix. The prestigious Best of Show honor recognizes the highest achievement among hundreds of juried works submitted by Indigenous artists from across North America.

"I am truly grateful for the opportunity to participate in the annual Heard Museum Guild Indian Fair and Market. I am in awe of the wonderful craftsmanship of all the people who entered the competition, and I'm deeply honored that my basket was chosen for Best of Show. When I received the news, I sat in disbelief, but indeed, I had won. I was blown away. I am now in recovery, and my senses are restored. 2026 was my first time at the market and museum. Everyone was gracious, helpful, and delightful. The museum itself is incredible. I look forward to returning next year." -Jacqueline Rickard

The event also celebrated emerging artists through the Youth Art Show & Sale. **Aiden Kahn (Navajo)** received the Youth Best of Show award for *A Day With Shimasani (Grandma)*.

Additional honors were presented across multiple artistic categories, recognizing excellence in jewelry, pottery, sculpture, textiles, painting, and more.

2026 Heard Guild Indian Fair & Market Best of Classification Awards

- Best Jewelry, Lapidary, and Metal Work – Roy Talahaftewa | Hopi | "Concho Belt, Water & Corn Clan Migration"
- Best Pottery – Jared Tso | Navajo | "Hastiin Bob Square Bun"
- Best Two-Dimensional Art – Merlin Little Thunder | Cheyenne | "From a Place of Strength and Beauty"
- Best Pueblo Carvings – Tayron Polequaptewa | Hopi | "Monongya Katsina"
- Best Sculpture – Leon Misak Kinneeveauk | Inupiaq | "Katang the Shaman of Visions Past"
- Best Weavings and Textiles – Kevin Aspaas | Navajo | "Holy Corn"

- Best Diverse Art Forms – Kevin Pourier | Olgala Lakota
- Best Baskets – Jacqueline Rickard | Walker River Paiute | “It Is Pure Joy, Basket Creation”

2026 Heard Guild Indian Fair & Market Conrad House Innovation Award

Earl Patterson, Jr. (Hopi)
“Grinding Stone”

2026 Heard Guild Indian Fair & Market Idyllwild Arts Imagination Award

Shelby Rowe (Chickasaw)
“I’ll Walk You Home”

2026 Heard Guild Indian Fair & Market Indian Arts & Crafts Association Commemorative Award

Kyle Lee-Anderson (Navajo)
“Night Sky”

The Best of Show winners were announced at the awards reception during the Heard Guild Indian Fair & Market in Phoenix on March 6, 2026. The Best of Show award is made possible thanks to the generous support of Howard R. and Joy M. Berlin, the Head Family, Sharron Lewis, and Kristine & Lee Peterson. The Youth Art Show & Sale is made possible with lead support by Susan Orr in memory of William and Tyler Orr. The full list of the 2026 juried competition [winners can be found here](#).

The community celebration was a gathering of creativity that blends traditional heritage with modern innovation, and also included a variety of engaging experiences, including the Youth Art Show and Sale, a Family Fun Zone, and delicious bites from local vendors.

The Heard Guild Indian Fair & Market draws tens of thousands of visitors annually and is widely recognized as one of the most important gatherings of Indigenous artists in the world. Proceeds from ticket sales support the Heard Museum’s mission to advance American Indian art.

For more information on the Heard Museum, visit [heard.org](https://www.heard.org)

Above image: Jacqueline Rickard, *It Is Pure Joy, Basket Creation*

Notes to Editors:

The 68th annual Heard Museum Guild Indian Fair & Market took place March 7 and 8, 2026.

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.



Follow updates on the exhibition via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
Use @heardmuseum.

Media Contact:

Ivana Morales
973-864-4523

ivana@evolveprandmarketing.com



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