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Date: April 30, 2008

Glendale, AZ - For Immediate Release

Valley Museums Celebrate International Museum Day

Central Arizona is home to nearly 100 diverse museums in the Gila, Maricopa, Pinal and Yavapai county area. Each year, the Central Arizona Museum Association and Valley Museums celebrate International Museum Day on May 18th with special promotions, programs and discounts.

International Museum Day aims at raising public awareness about the vital role museums play in their communities. In 2007 for the 30th anniversary of International Museum Day, over 20,000 museums in 70 countries participated with special programs for the public.

Museums are not just a place to visit when you are on vacation. They are an excellent place to spend time with family and friends, to gain educational experience, and for socializing. Many museums offer programming for adults and children ranging from lectures to coffee and tea social hours, free events, workshops, demonstrations, van trips to other destinations and so much more. For a list of Museums throughout Central Arizona please visit www.azcama.com and click on "By Name" or "By Location" to see what museum is near you!

Here are a few opportunities from various museums that visitors can take advantage of in celebration of International Museum Day:

African American Multicultural Museum at Parkway Plaza, 617 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, AZ, (480) 314-4400 e-mail: museum@prodigy.net

Enjoy the "Jazz America" exhibit, a compilation of jazz art, vintage jazz artifacts and informational pointers that highlight the impact on history by some of the great jazz giants. Admission and parking will be free during this exhibit for the entire month of May.

Arizona Museum of Natural History, 53 Macdonald St., Mesa, AZ, (480)644-2230, <http://AzMNH.org>

Arizona Museum of Natural History is celebrating May Museum Month with a special Phoenix Landing Party on Friday, May 9, 5:30-8:00 pm! Help us set the stage for the Mars Mission, Phoenix Landing in late May. Kids, of all ages, have you built a model Phoenix Lander? If so, email liz.Williams@cityofmesa.org to find-out how to have your model on display during the party. Everyone else, come see the museum and all the terrific Phoenix Lander models. Special Admission is: \$3.00 for under 18 years and \$5.00 for everyone else, except members are free! (*Feathered Dinosaurs* is open.)

Arizona State University, Tempe AZ

ASU will celebrate International Museum Day on Friday, May 16, with tours to 10 museums, galleries and collections on the Tempe campus. For a printable map, schedule and details, visit www.asu.edu/museums

- 8:30-9:30 am – Space Photography Lab and Museum of Geology
- 9:30-10:30 am – Center for Meteorite Studies
- 10:30-11:30 am – Life Sciences Living Collection
- 11:30 am-12:30 pm – Museum of Anthropology
- 12:30-1 pm – Harry Wood Gallery
- 1:30-2:30 pm – Arizona Historical Foundation and Luhrs Gallery
- 2:30-3:30 pm – Archaeological Research Institute
- 3:30-4:30 pm – ASU Art Museum

ASU Art Museum at 10th Street and Mill Ave., Tempe, AZ 480-965-2787, ASUartmuseum.asu.edu

On this year's International Museum Day (May 18) between 1 and 5 pm, free catalogs will be available to visitors in addition to 10% off at ASU Art Museum gift stores.

Enjoy current exhibitions: *Monumental Proportion: Selections from the Permanent Collection and Loads*, March 10th -August; *Susan Beiner: Synthetic Reality* at ASU Art Museum, Ceramics Research Center, March 15th -August 2nd. Always FREE admission.

The Bead Museum, 5754 W. Glenn Dr., Glendale, AZ, 623-931-2737, www.BeadMuseumAZ.org

On International Museum Day, May 18, enjoy free admission to see the permanent exhibitions at The Bead Museum. Explore the history of beads that were used for prayer and healing, communication, exchange, to honor ancestors as well as adornment. Visit the store to receive a 10% discount on books and beads! Hours are Mon-Sat 10a-5p, Thurs 10a-8p, Sun 11a-4p. Regular admission is \$5 Adults and \$2.50 Children 4-12.

Buckeye Museum, 116 E. Hwy. 85, Buckeye, AZ – SE corner of Town Park, 623-349-6315

Come on over to the Buckeye Museum during the month of May and step into the past. Learn about the history of the Buckeye Valley from its early beginnings. An impressive collection of prehistoric pottery as well as historic photographs and other artifacts help to bring the past to life. Admission is free. Group tours are welcome with advance notice. Open September through June, Wednesday & Thursday 12:00 to 4:00 and Friday & Saturday 10:00 to 4:00.

Deer Valley Rock Art Center, 3711 W. Deer Valley Rd, Phoenix, AZ - two miles north of Highway 101 and two miles west of I-17, (623) 582-8007, www.asu.edu/clas/shesc/dvrac

Two-for-one museum admission to celebrate International Museum Day on Sunday, May 18, 2008 from 12pm-5pm. The Rock Art Center, a 47-acre nature preserve, archaeological site, and museum, protects the largest concentration of Native American rock art in the Phoenix Valley. Our interpretive trail takes visitors back 5000 years when ancient people marked boulders with thousands of petroglyphs.

Hall of Flame Museum of Firefighting, 6101 E Van Buren, Phoenix, AZ, (602)275-3473

From noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 18, the Hall of Flame Museum of Firefighting will offer a 50% discount on admission in observance of International Museum Day. Regular adult admission is \$6, but on May 18 it's just \$3! Come on down and enjoy the thrilling and colorful history of Firefighting for half price from noon to 4 p.m.

Heard Museum, 2301 N Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ, 602-258-8848, www.heard.org
Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 N Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ, 602-257-1222, www.phxart.org

In honor of International Museum Day, the Heard Museum and Phoenix Art Museum are offering two museums for the price of one! On Sunday, May 18, purchase a general admission ticket at the Heard or Phoenix Art Museum, then head two blocks down the street and show your receipt for a complimentary admission to the other museum. Complimentary admission valid May 18 only.

Heard Museum North Scottsdale, 32633 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, AZ, 480-488-9817

Heard Museum West, 16126 N. Civic Center Plaza, Surprise, AZ, 623-344-2200
See two exhibitions about American Indians at the Heard Museum's two community locations. For International Museum Day on May 18, the Heard Museum West and Heard Museum North Scottsdale are offering a 2-for-1 coupon online at the museum's website, www.heard.org, that will be valid on this special day. Just print the coupon and bring it in to either museum.

McCullough-Price House, 300 S Chandler Village Dr., Chandler, AZ - just SW of the Chandler Fashion Center, (480)782-2876, www.chandleraz.gov/PriceHouse

The McCullough-Price House is a 1938 Pueblo-revival style historic home, which now serves the City of Chandler as visitors center, exhibit gallery and special event facility. Current exhibit: *Waterworks Paints the Southwest*, Apr 5-June 6, which features watercolor media by local artists. The McCullough Price House will be open special hours on Sunday, May 18 from 12-4pm to celebrate International Museum Day. Always FREE admission, free gift to visitors on May 18.

Pueblo Grande Museum, 4619 East Washington, Phoenix, AZ, 602-495-0901,
www.pueblogrande.com

Saturday, May 17 2008, Pueblo Grande Museum is celebrating International Museum Day by offering free admission! Enjoy the prehistoric ruins of the Hohokam people along our interpretive trail as well as three galleries and a theatre. Currently we have our new children's interpretive gallery, "Dig It! Explore Archaeology" and our new exhibit, "Beneath the Runways; Uncovering the Past at Sky Harbor Airport".

Scottsdale Historical Museum, 7333 Scottsdale Mall, Scottsdale, AZ (480) 946-0394,
www.scottsdalemuseum.com.

The Scottsdale Historical Museum will offer a 15% discount in the Museum Gift Shop on International Museum Day May 18, 2008. The Scottsdale Historical Museum has displays on early education in Scottsdale as well as historic photographs of Scottsdale.

Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, 7374 E Second St., Scottsdale, AZ
(480)994-ARTS, www.smoca.org

Visit SMOCA to support your favorite museum on May 18th from noon to 5 pm. Anyone who becomes a new member will receive 20% off in the Museum Store.

Tempe Historical Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave., Tempe, AZ, (480)350-5100,
www.tempe.gov/museum

Admission free on Sunday May 18, 1 – 5 pm. The Tempe Historical Museum is commemorating International Museum Day with a celebration of the diverse groups of people who have shaped Tempe into the community it is today. Scrapbooks from our Family History Album project will be on display along with information about creating your own album. Discover points of connection and raise your awareness of differences between you and your neighbors based on heritage, characteristics and values. And, tell us your Tempe stories!

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