



**MUSEUM of
NORTHERN
ARIZONA**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Museum of Northern Arizona's Zuni Festival of Arts & Culture
Celebrates 25th Anniversary May 23-24, 2015**

(Flagstaff, Ariz.) May 5, 2015 – Share in language, life ways and traditions of more than 50 Zuni artists at the 25th Annual Zuni Festival of Arts & Culture, Saturday, May 23, and Sunday, May 24, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA), 3101 N. Fort Valley Road in Flagstaff.

Ticket prices are \$12 for adults and \$8 for seniors (67+), students (with ID), American Indians (10+ with tribal affiliation) and youths 10-17. Children under 10 are free. The festival is presented in partnership with the A:shiwi A:wam Museum and Heritage Center (AAMHC) in Zuni, N.M.

Patrons will enjoy two days of authentic food, artist demonstrations, musical performances by the Zuni Pueblo Band and traditional dancing by the Nawetsa Family Dancers and the Zuni Olla Maidens. Insightful documentaries and lectures by educators and scholars showcase Zuni identity, emergence and migration beliefs, worldviews, and current day issues on the reservation. In addition, attendees can peruse and purchase a wide-array of art including pottery, jewelry, fetish carvings, beading and weaving by award-winning contemporary and traditional artists.

“We welcome our friends from Zuni Pueblo and the AAMHC to Flagstaff to share the richness and diversity of their culture with our community,” said Director & CEO Carrie M. Heinonen. “This Festival reminds us of the Zuni’s deep history and connection to the landscape of northern Arizona and the Colorado Plateau.”

The spiritual and ancestral landscape of the Zuni includes the San Francisco Peaks (Sunha:kwin K'yaba:chu Yalanne) in the west, Steamboat Wash in the north, Mount Taylor in the east, the Salt and Gila River basins to the south, and the Grand Canyon, the Zuni place of origin. Zuni Pueblo is the largest of 19 pueblos in New Mexico with 11,000 members spread over 600 square miles. They are often considered the most traditional of all of the Southwestern pueblo people, having managed to preserve their core beliefs and identity while integrating useful parts of the modern world. The fact that the A:shiwi language bears no similarity to any other known language is indicative of their isolation.

A members' only preview will be held Friday, May 22 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and includes a cocktail reception, silent auction and first opportunity to purchase artwork directly from the artists. The preview is free for MNA members.

Heritage Insight Discussion Series Schedule

Saturday

11:00 a.m.

1923 Shalako Film Remake

In 1923, the Heye Foundation produced the film *The Shalako Ceremony* at Zuni, N.M., which contained highly sensitive footage of the ceremony. Through a groundbreaking collaboration between the American Museum of Natural History and AAMHC, this silent film has been newly edited for cultural sensitivity with

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Zuni subtitles and narration. Jim Enote, AAMHC Director will discuss cultural ownership and exerting control of historical accuracy.

1:00 p.m.

Zuni Waffle Gardening: Economy of Space, Labor & Water

The arid environment on the Colorado Plateau necessitates efficient methods of gardening. For generations, Zuni wisdom has been passed down regarding climate, soil and crop knowledge. Learn about the Zuni's relationship with the environment, how traditional values and agricultural values are linked and how the use of waffle gardens conserves space, water and labor. After the discussion, adjourn to the New Courtyard (weather permitting) to see a waffle garden in progress.

3:00 p.m.

A:shiwi to Halona:wa: Zuni Emergence & Migration

According to the Zuni, their place of origin was *Chimik'yana'kya dey'a*, known today as Ribbon Falls on Bright Angel Creek. Learn the story of Zuni Emergence in the Grand Canyon, their migration throughout the Colorado Plateau and the eventual settlement at the "Middle Place," in what is now Zuni Pueblo.

Sunday, May 24

10:30 a.m.

Collecting Zuni Artworks: Advice from Artists and Curators, Easton Collection Center

Registration Saturday, May 23 & Sunday, May 24 until 10:00 a.m.

Learn more about Zuni artistic traditions from AAHMC Director and MNA curator Kelley Hayes-Gilpin. Study and discuss Zuni objects in MNA's collection and learn what to look for when buying and collecting Zuni art. *To register, please visit the membership table located in the Branigar/Chase lobby entrance. Shuttle service provided; registered guests may also meet outside MNA's north entrance, Sunday at 10:15 am. Limited to 10 participants. Free with festival admission, wristband required.*

1:00 p.m.

Where the Waters Run Home: The Confluence

For the Zuni, the Little Colorado River acts as an umbilical cord that connects their community back to their origins in the Colorado River. Join Zuni community members as they discuss their origins and sacred practices, ramifications of development projects such as the proposed Escalade tramway and how political and cultural sovereignty are at risk.

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The 25th Annual Zuni Festival of Arts & Culture is supported by Arizona Humanities, Arizona Commission on the Arts which receives support from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts and City of Flagstaff BBB Revenues and Flagstaff Arts Council.

For more information on the 25th Annual Zuni Festival of Arts & Culture, including a schedule of events and participating artists, visit musnaz.org or call 928.774.5213.

The **Museum of Northern Arizona** inspires a sense of love and responsibility for the beauty and diversity of the Colorado Plateau. Founded in 1928, the 200-acre campus includes an historic exhibit building with nine galleries showcasing the geology, anthropology and art of the region; research and collections facilities; a museum shop and bookstore; and more than 450 public programs annually. To learn more, visit musnaz.org or call (928) 774-5213.