



MUSEUM of NORTHERN ARIZONA
Celebrating the Colorado Plateau

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Summer Heritage Festival returns July 2 & 3, 2022

The Museum of Northern Arizona will again host the annual art festival this year, welcoming all Native artists from the Colorado Plateau region

[Flagstaff] More than an art market, the summer Heritage Festival at the Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA) is an unparalleled opportunity to experience the diverse Indigenous cultures of the Colorado Plateau region, which has been inhabited for thousands of years. The 2022 Heritage Festival includes an outdoor art market, main stage performances, outdoor games and workshops, humanities-based presentations, gardens, puppet shows, and pop-up performances.

MNA has held a festival on Fourth of July weekend since 1930, when the first Hopi Craftsmen Show took place. The annual festival has gone through many changes over the years but has consistently remained an event focused on celebrating the cultures of the region. For 2022 the Heritage Festival returns bigger and better than ever, making room to include the Acoma, Apache, Diné (Navajo), Havasupai, Hualapai, Pai, Ute, Yavapai, and Zuni. In one weekend visitors can taste Hopi Piki bread, play Zuni games, enjoy traditional dances and music, and gain insights during talks by cultural experts.

The 2022 Heritage Festival will spread across the beautiful museum campus in view of the sacred San Francisco Peaks. With an expanded artist market and mainstage performances under tents outdoors, there will be plenty of space and fresh air. Nearly 200 artists will be part of the outdoor artist market. This includes jewelers, weavers, potters, basket makers, carvers, painters, and more. Among the artists will be many familiar faces, and some new ones. Thirty-four artists will be showing art at the MNA festival for the first time, including an Acoma potter, Laguna beader, and a Havasupai fashion designer. Four artists will be returning for the first time since 2003, which was the last time MNA held a Pai Festival.

See the up-to-date list of artists at <https://musnaz.org/all-upcoming-events/heritagefestival/>

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Festival Performances

Each day there will be three mainstage performances under the big tent, plus smaller pop-up performances spread across the festival. Many of the mainstage performances will be preceded by talks providing deeper cultural insight and context. The mainstage performers include:

Olla Maidens (Zuni)

An all-women's group who honor their ancestors by dancing with fragile water jars balanced on their heads.

Polequaptewa Dance Group (Hopi)

The dances and regalia are rich with symbolism, representing aspects of Hopi life and the wish for water.

Dineh Tah' Dancers (Diné)

Their songs and dances portray cultural traditions, such as the Corn Grinding Act, the Basket Dance, and the Bow and Arrow Dance.

Tha 'yoties & Sage Bond (Hopi/Tewa/Diné)

Dropping in on their summer tour to launch a new concept album, "Xoyote Soldier," inspired by the work and vision of activist and Hopi Coyote Clan member Vernon Masayseva.

Demonstrations

Watch a Zuni lapidary artist shape stone into an animal, a master weaver turning yarn into textile design, and Hopi jeweler work with metal and gourds. Most demonstrators will be in the Jaime Major Golightly Courtyard, but some will also be located around the festival grounds.

Piki Bread by Evelyn Numkena

This paper-thin bread made from blue corn and ash is baked by sweeping the batter across a hot stone by hand. It's amazing to watch, and even better to taste.

Traditional Zuni games

Test your skills and enjoy some vigorous activity with traditional Zuni games, led by Elroy Natachu. These games promote health and wellness, as well as passing on tradition.

Natural dyes with Roy Kady

Learn how native plants, fungi, and roots are used to dye fibers, as well as stories about the role of fiber arts in traditional Diné culture.

Paint with Art of the People

This collaboration of skilled artists paint together, and encourages others to try painting too. Don't be afraid to pick up a paintbrush and add something to the canvas. By the end of the festival, all the paintings they create will be raffled off to raise funds for the Buddy Whitethorne Foundation.

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Collections open house

Festival goers will also be able to visit the Easton Collection Center and view special items from the collections which are not often displayed. The Easton Collection Center cares for thousands of objects of cultural importance. Native artists regularly visit the collection center to learn from the art of their ancestors.

Built in consultation with a Native American Advisory Committee, the Easton Collection Center faces East to greet the rising sun and has a curving shape to invoke the cycles of life. The building lobby captures dramatic views of the sacred San Francisco Peaks. A glazed solar aperture next to the main entry door casts rays from the rising sun onto the structure's inner door on the vernal and autumnal equinoxes and marks the path between the summer and winter solstices on the inner wall of the building's vestibule. The exterior landscape design consists of plants native to this region. The Museum of Northern Arizona cares for more than 800,000 artifacts, objects, and specimens in its permanent collections of anthropology, biology, geology, and fine arts, with a focus on the Colorado Plateau, including the Grand Canyon. MNA houses extensive federal and tribal research collections and significant library and archival collections.

Museum Exhibitions

The museum exhibits will also be open during the festival, including *Baje Whitethorne Sr.: Nááts'ílid/Rainbow Light* and *The Great Unknown: Artists at Glen Canyon and Lake Powell*. Baje Whitethorne Sr. will be at the Heritage Festival and is a founding member of Art of the People, an artist's collaborative that invites public participation. Born and raised on the Navajo Reservation, Baje was first drawn into the world of storytelling when he and his brothers would make up stories on the way to their grandmother's house. His art often depicts the landscape around his family home near Shonto and the harmony of the Navajo way of life. In addition to his paintings, Baje is an accomplished printmaker, sculptor, jeweler, author, and illustrator. The retrospective exhibition of his artwork presents the full spectrum of his art, which is full of life and energy.

Festival History

Supporting artists has been and continues to be important to MNA and the annual summer festivals were originally created to provide an economic opportunity for Native artists. MNA has worked closely with artists from the Hopi tribe since 1930, when the museum held the first Hopi Craftsmen Show to give artists the chance to sell their unique artwork for a fair price. By 1932 a festival was added for Navajo artists. In 1987, MNA created a festival for Zuni artists. Decades went by with great success. Artists were able to earn profit on their own work while educating the community about their own culture. In 2018 the festival won the Outstanding Arizona Cultural and Historic Preservation award from the Arizona Office of Tourism, recognizing the value of the festival in helping visitors, from near and abroad, better understand the way of life of the people of the Colorado Plateau. During the pandemic year of 2020, the museum made the heartbreaking decision to cancel the art festival. The festival had only been canceled once before, during World War II. In 2021, recognizing that it was important to find a safe way to host the summer festival which provides an important source of income for Native artists, the museum adapted the festival as a smaller scale event held across four weekends, while also broadening the art market to welcome artists from all tribes of the Colorado Plateau. This year the festival returns to a larger format, but continues to welcome artists from all over the Colorado Plateau.

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Parking: Free festival parking will be located at Flagstaff High School on 400 W. Elm Ave. Free shuttles will carry festival goers comfortably from the free parking area to the festival, courtesy of Twin Arrows Resort and Casino. The only parking at the museum will be strictly for vehicles with a handicap-permit.

COVID: The festival is being held primarily outdoors, to safeguard the well-being of artists, visitors, volunteers, and staff. The museum staff will continue to closely monitor the situation and follow guidelines from the CDC as well as the Arizona Department of Health and Safety. Additions, adjustments, or cancellations will be conducted if necessary.

Sponsors: The 2022 Heritage Festival is made possible with grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Arizona Tourism, and Creative Flagstaff, as well as sponsorship from Garlands, Twin Arrows Resort and Casino and Basha's.

The Museum of Northern Arizona's address is 3101 N Fort Valley Rd Flagstaff, AZ 86001. Located two miles from downtown Flagstaff along scenic Highway 180 to Grand Canyon National Park. If there are any questions please call 928-774-5213.

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High-resolution photos available upon request. Interviews of artists available upon request.

About the Museum of Northern Arizona: Founded in 1928, the mission of the Museum of Northern Arizona is to inspire a sense of love and responsibility for the beauty and diversity of the Colorado Plateau through collecting, studying, interpreting, and preserving the region's natural and cultural heritage. MNA works in collaboration with native peoples of the Southwest to protect and foster the cultures, traditions, and beliefs of the Colorado Plateau by encouraging artistic expression and supporting, empowering, and educating visitors about the region's art and cultures. The Museum, located at 3101 N. Ft. Valley Rd. in Flagstaff, is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.