



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Indigenous Peoples' Day celebrated with two days of festivities at Eiteljorg**

*A weekend of museum events includes cultural performances, artwork and storytelling*

INDIANAPOLIS –The Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art will offer a robust variety of events honoring Indigenous Peoples' Day: a community celebration on Saturday, Oct. 7, in partnership with Robert's Camera and Canon, and a free-admission day on Monday, Oct. 9, the official date of the observance.

The two-day celebration highlights the vibrancy, resilience, and immeasurable impact Native peoples have made across the world. Featuring cultural performances, storytelling, artwork, beadwork and weaving demonstrations, food and activities, the Eiteljorg will celebrate a wide array of Native and Indigenous cultures, through activities that all age groups will enjoy.

On Saturday, Oct. 7, the Eiteljorg Museum will be open with regular admission from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. In partnership with Roberts Camera and Canon, the day features a full schedule of events. On the museum's outdoor stage under The Sails will be traditional Indigenous singing and dancing from members of award-winning pow wow drum group, Warpaint, featuring lead singer Kaya Little Turtle of the Lumbee / Tuscarora Nations in North Carolina. Also featured is Nanticoke Lenape artist Leonard Harmon, who was born into a family of artists. His passion for culinary arts, dance and traditional Native arts eventually led him to mixed media art and contemporary painting. Giovanni Sanchez, Roberts Camera photo lab and rentals manager, and his daughters also will share contemporary pow wow dances, representing the Mexico / Nahua and Diné (Navajo) peoples.

Visitors on Oct. 7 also can hear performances by several Indigenous storytellers, including renowned Turtle Clan Haudenosaunee storyteller Perry Ground, who has shared his stories at museums and schools across the country. Two Tsimshian artists will be present: Carving artist David R. Boxley will give a cultural performance, while award-winning artist Kandi McGilton -- known for her devilfish bags and cedar bark weaving -- will show her work and talk about her language revitalization efforts as co-founder of the Haayk Foundation.

During the Oct. 7 events, the museum's partners, Roberts Camera and Canon, will hold a photography workshop from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. that requires a separate fee. Register for that at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/mry7dany>.

Then on Monday, Oct. 9, which is the official date of Indigenous Peoples' Day, admission is free for all Eiteljorg visitors from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The day includes additional cultural performances, art-making demonstrations with David Boxley and Kandi McGilton, and in-gallery programming.

Two curator-led gallery tours will take place Oct. 9 highlighting the brilliance, wisdom, tenacity and vibrancy of Indigenous ways of knowing, art, and culture as they continue to contribute to contemporary America. Tours are at 11 a.m. with Monica Raphael (Anishinaabe / Sičánǵu Lakota), who is the Thomas G. and Susan C. Hoback curator of Great Lakes Native cultures and community engagement; and at 3 p.m. with Dorene Red Cloud (Oglala Lakota), who is curator of Native art.

“On Indigenous People’s Day, I pay homage and celebrate this day as well as every day: That despite brutal attempts to erase the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, we the First Peoples and Indigenous People of this land still exist today and continue to celebrate our culture and ways of knowing, while also thriving in contemporary America,” said Monica Raphael (Anishinaabe / Sičánǵu Lakota), who is the Thomas G. and Susan C. Hoback curator of Great Lakes Native cultures and community engagement at the Eiteljorg.

For a schedule of performers and additional Indigenous Peoples Day resources, visit [Eiteljorg.com/indigenous-peoples-day/](http://Eiteljorg.com/indigenous-peoples-day/). On Oct. 7 and 9, visitors to the events can also experience the Eiteljorg’s various galleries, including the Native American Galleries, featuring the exhibition *Expressions of Life: Native Art in North America*.

Funding for Indigenous People’s Day programming was provided by the Margot L. Eccles Arts & Culture Fund, a fund of the Central Indiana Community Foundation.

### **About the Eiteljorg**

A cultural pillar for 34 years in downtown Indianapolis’ scenic White River State Park, the [Eiteljorg Museum](http://Eiteljorg.com) seeks to inspire an appreciation and understanding of the arts, histories and cultures of the Native peoples of North America and the diverse peoples of the American West by telling amazing stories. Located on the Central Canal at 500 West Washington St., the Eiteljorg is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.

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