

Idabel Mayor Craig Young and Museum board members Jan Herron, Judy Petre and Don Herron at the Open House Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



The Founder's Gallery is now open to the public. Visitors can see some of the finest pieces in the Museum's collection

Construction is almost finished...for now! The project has officially entered the "punch list" stage. The pyramid, exhibit installation, and landscaping were finished during the summer. Only minor interior work remains!

Previously unseen public spaces were revealed on April 27, at an Open House party. The three-day event featured scholars and performers from around the nation. However, the real highlight of the show was Acrocanthosaurus. Over 600 people attended the Open House. Several hundred visited in the following weeks. The sudden increase has exceeded even our own estimates. We are truly victims of our own success!

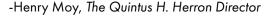
# Open House Highlights



The Open House weekend of April 25-28 was exceptional, with over 900 visitors, including nearly 600 on Saturday, April 27 when we re-opened the Acro Gallery and sponsored an "Open House" of all the public spaces of the Museum. A month of record-breaking rainfall inhibited our ability to complete landscaping, provide for waterseal testing, and complete the Museum Store. However, music performances, workshops, and lectures by the Martha Battles and Co. Choctaw Dancers, JL Sports Chinese

Lion dancers, Commanche flautist Tim Nevaquaya, the Dondoko Taiko (Japanese) Drummers, paleontologist Dr. Kenneth Carpenter, state archeologist Dr. Kary Stackelbeck and others made for a day of fun and educational celebration.

Having reached the "punch list" milestone, we begin looking back the past three years with some nostalgia and satisfaction. It has been a longer time coming than originally anticipated, but the project grew over 125% from its initial planning. We are extremely gratified with the overwhelmingly positive response from visitors and expect the significant rise of recent attendance to continue; May's visitation was the third highest monthly total in the Museum's history. We continue to provide free admission and low-cost programs while many venues are hiking their fees and charges. We are grateful to our Corporate Partners, established scholarship funds, and other supporters for allowing us to maintain our visitor-friendly structure.





Dondoko Taiko drummers (Dallas)



Exhibits 2

# Mary Bratton Curtis Gallery

# Art of the Aloha Shirt (through August 11)

Art of the Aloha Shirt features designs of John "Keoni" Meigs, the long-recognized co-creator/promoter of the iconic "Hawaiin Shirt." Since its introduction in the 1940's, this shirt has been an important element of fashion and is considered both gauche and chic. It is appreciated as a modern/contemporary folk art of Hawaii. This exhibit is made available by Exhibits USA, a division of the MidAmerica Arts Alliance and supported by the Oklahoma Arts Council. It is locally sponsored by Idabel Regional Arts Council, with additional support from the McCurtain County Art Club.



Waikiki Reef (c. late 1940s) by John "Keoni" Meigs; (American, 1923-2003); 24 x 30 inches; Keoni Collection

# The Art of Roberto Ugalde and Michael Archuleta (August 20 - November 24)

Two artists working in the American Southwest, Ugalde and Archuleta express their colorful visions in very different ways. Ugalde magnifies the colors of vegetation, particularly trees. His favorite is the aspen, which provides various shades of color through the seasons, that he highlights dramatically. Archuleta draws inspiration from the animal world, well-known for his Blue Donkey series. This exhibit was facilitated by Michael McCormick and Sons Gallery in Taos, NM.

# Nathaniel and Lana Grey Gallery

### Enameled Asian Works (through July 21)

Examples of glass-enameling techniques including cloisonne, "Canton" enameling, ceramic underglaze etc., drawn from the Museum's collections.

## Russian Lacquer Boxes (July 30 – January 5, 2020)

A stunning exhibit of traditional Russian lacquerwares, highlighting their mastery of the medium which includes the manufacture of papier-mache boxes, processing and application of lacquers, plus detailed miniature painting (using egg tempera or oils). The tradition began in the late Middle Ages as an offshoot of painting religious icons. The exhibit's objects are borrowed from Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art in Shawnee, OK.

# Lifeways Gallery

In this gallery, objects from the Museum's collections are used to illustrate the ethnological themes of Domestic Life, Beliefs, Encounters, and Technology and Art. It also houses the new Recent Acquisitions Area (which for the next decade will honor ongoing donors to the collections Dr. Richard and Nancy Weiss) and the Gregory H. Perino Archaeological Study Area, where collections of regional archaeological material are available for research and appreciation. It honors the work of Gregory H. Perino (1914 - 2005), archaeologist and the Museum's first director (1975 - 1984).

# Founder's Gallery

Inspired by Museum cofounders Quintus and Mary Herron, the Founder's Gallery celebrates the generosity of the Herron family and other major donors to the collections. It features some of the finest examples of material culture available for public study.

# J. Marshall and Sally Gettys Family Gallery

This new, intimate exhibit space honors the work of the late J. Marshall Gettys, and acknowledges the continuing generosity of his wife Sally Gettys, their extended family, and friends. Exhibits 3

# Ed and Cindy Fulmer Dinosaur Den

This new space (attached to the gallery housing the cast skeleton of Acrocanthosaurus atokensis), provides interpretive materials that place Acro in context with other dinosaurs of the Mesozoic Era. Acro, the official State Dinosaur of Oklahoma, lived during the early Cretaceous period, about 110 – 125 million years ago. The original fossil of the McCurtain County specimen was the most complete one ever recovered, and gave paleontologists new information on the era's "top" predator.

## Don and Mary Etta Herron Reception Hall

The reception area at the main entrance to the Museum houses artist Marvin Oliver's (1946-2019) glass sculpture Raven Kachina, Chris Powell's "rabbit sculpture", Elizabeth, and several large Talavera-style lidded- jars. In the adjoining lobby are four works by James Strickland, plus assorted ethnographic wood carvings from around the world.

# RECENT ACQUISITIONS

### Gifts to the Collections

Group of Precolumbian **artifacts** from Panama including ten (10) decorated ceramic vessels and three (3) "trifacial" projectile points. **Gift of MAW** (CA)

Monumental cloisonne jars/vases (Chinese, 20th century); decorated ceramic vessel (Wari, Peru 7th-8th centuries); human effigy figure (Veracruz, MX 12th - 13th centuries); carved wood vernacular figurines (100) depicting various artisans and tradesmen, carved wood staffs (2) with ancestral figure finial, split cane, nine (9) covered split-cane basketry containers, and one folding chair, two (2) carved wood bulul figures, (Ifugao peoples, Luzon, Phillipines, mid-20th century); carved stone face fragment displaying the "serene countenance" from Buddhist statue, modeled brass portrait head of monk, modeled terracotta head of Buddha with "snail" curls (Thailand, 19th-early 20th centuries); lacquered wood, seated Buddha figure (Laos, 19th century); net-stitched, beaded bottle and group of eight (8) carved, decorated wood "kachina" and other figures (Navajo, 20th century); native American drum with clock mechanism (American Southwest, contemporary); case-clock of carved wood with brass, mechanical movement, (German, late 19th century); carved, painted wood Mwo Society "maiden-spirit" mask with mirror inlay (Igbo, early 20th century) and a "telephone-wire" decorated bottle; two (2) carved wood bowls shell inlays (Maori, New Zealand, early 20th century). Gift of R. Weiss (AZ)



The late Marvin Oliver and his wife Brigette Ellis posing with his sculpture, Raven Kachina. Gift of Jan Herron and Gama Leyva

Buddha Figure; (Laos, 19th century); Gift of R. Weiss (AZ)



# RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Native-style leather **purse** with beaded fringe (American, ca. 1920) and three (3) ceramic **fragments** (central Mexico, n.d.) Gift of **Pattie J. James** (CO)

Carved wood "American Indian" **figure** (carver unknown, early 20th century) and a wood and beaded-hide **cradleboard** (Kiowa, late 19th century). Gift of **Dr. Nira Levine** (OR)



 Wood and beaded-hide cradleboard; (Kiowa, late 19th century); Gift of Dr. Nira Levine

Double handled, plaited splint "picnic basket" (Great Lakes region, ca. 1950). Gift/Transfer from Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art (OK)

Acrylic on canvas painting: portrait of Fred Bushyhead (1982), by his brother, **Jerome Bushyhead** (Cherokee-American, 1929 - 2000). Gift of **Ron and Doris Smithee** (OK)

Collection of 89 hand and backstrap loom-woven textiles (Highland Guatemala, late 20th century). Gift of Jane Riggs (MD)



Loom-woven faja (belt); (Highland Guatemala, late 20th Century); Gift of Jane Riggs (MD)

Oil **painting** on canvas: Lobo-guara ("maned wolf," 2018) by **Jose Efigenio Pinto Coelho** (Brazilian, b. 1960). Gift of the **Artist** (MG, Brazil)



Lobo-guara ("maned wolf," 2018) by Jose Efigenio Pinto Coelho; (Brazil, b. 1960); Gift of the *Artist* 



Sculpture by Helen Cordero; (Cochiti Pueblo, 1915-1994); Gift of Lee Thompson (CO)

Ceramic sculptures (3) including storyteller figures by Helen Cordero (Cochiti Pueblo, 1915 - 1994) and Maxine Toya (Jemez, b. 1948), and a 1985 figure of a drummer by Kevin Peshlakai (Navajo/Cochiti, b. 1964); a micaceous clay jar by Lonnie Vigil (Cochiti, b. 1949), unmarked blackware jar, probably from Santa Clara Pueblo, two (2) native American cotton dresses. Gift of Lee Thompson (CO)

#### Museum Purchases

Acrylic on paperboard: 1980 untitled landscape with stylized tipis by Jerome Bushyhead (Cherokee-American, 1929 – 2000)

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Samantha Aguilar of Augusta University (Georgia) and Katy Smith of Arkansas State University served as interns this summer. "Sam" assisted Keeper of Collections Daniel Vick on various exhibition projects while Katy worked with Head of Programs Christina Eastep on the Museum's summer programs. After 10 years in various capacities at the Museum, Christina Eastep has stepped down, moving with her family to Louisiana. Katy Smith, from DeQueen, who spent the summer working as an intern with Chrissy, has stepped into the Head of Programs role.

Head of Communications **Brian Hendershot** has moved to Sacramento, CA where he assumed a position with the Crocker Art Museum. Joining him in the move to California is museum assistant **Courtneigh Wood**. Replacing Brian is Broken Bow native and University of Central Oklahoma alumnus **Carlin Stafford**. He returns to McCurtain County (with fond memories of being a Museum Summer Explorer camper for two years during his Lukfata elementary school days), after positions in broadcast news production and copy writing at Great Falls, Montana's KFBB and Oklahoma City's News 9, KOCO and KFOR television news stations. Meanwhile, Courtneigh's position is being filled by Hochatown resident **Donita Jacobs**, who returns to McCurtain County after a career in events planning and management in the Dallas area.





Donita Jacobs (left) and Carlin Stafford (Right) join the staff at the museum

Sincere condolences to the family of Ford Hendershot (1943 – 2019), noted photographer, naturalist, and a good friend of the Museum.

We are sad to announce the passing of longtime Museum donor **Dr**. **Leonard Levine** (Portland, OR). Our thoughts are with his family.



The Museum recently hosted newly elected Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt and his wife Sarah. They attended a "meet and greet reception," organized by local State Representative Johnny Tadlock and Oklahoma Tourism Commission member Michelle Finch Walker. The Governor and Mrs. Stitt were in southeastern Oklahoma to celebrate their wedding anniversary.

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# Musings: Meet Katy Smith



Hi! I'm Katy Smith, the new Head of Programs here at the Museum. I earned my Bachelor of the Arts degree in General History from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas in 2017, and recently graduated with my Masters in Public History from Arkansas State in August 2019.

I'm from De Queen, Arkansas, which is just right across the state-line. It's refreshing to come back to the area and work so close to home, after living across the state for two years! McCurtain County is familiar to me. I have family in Broken Bow and they often travel over to Idabel to go out to eat. Furthermore, I grew up taking field trips to the Museum. It's awesome to see how its far it has come!

Earlier this summer, I interned in the Programs department under Christina Eastep as a one of the final credits for my degree, and it was one of my favorite experiences yet. From preparing for Explorers Camp and Dino Camp to helping out in the Museum Store, I learned so much about the inner workings of museum programming. Chrissy was an incredible mentor, and I am so excited to continue and build upon the work she's done throughout her tenure and to establish some traditions of my own. I know I have some big shoes to fill, but I am ready to give it my best shot!



An artist working on his pieces during a summer painting class, hosted by **Dr. Gleny Beach**.



Katy Smith answering questions during this summer's Dino Camp

### **Programs**

Several events have been planned as we head into fall. The Museum will be hosting Beer and Baskets on August 10th. Attendees can learn how to make baskets from local artist Linda Lou Alexander and enjoy several different beers from Beavers Bend Brewery!

The following week, on August 17th, will be Fun with Water Colors! All ages are welcome! Supplies will be provided. On September 28th, the Museum will team up with the Southeastern Public Library System of Oklahoma for a Night at the Museum! From 6-9 pm, visitors can enjoy a fun, interactive experience where the Museum comes to life!

The Annual Patrons Dinner is scheduled for October 25. This year's special guests are visiting artists Roberto Ugalde and Michael Archuleta.

# GIFTS AND SUPPORT

(Names in **bold** are of donors whose gifts were received in the last quarter)

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Located in Idabel, Oklahoma, the Museum of the Red River is the largest cultural institution in a 150-mile radius. Its mission is to preserve and celebrate the world's artistic heritage, while emphasizing the contributions made by native American groups. Its exhibition program includes temporary and permanent displays, most using objects drawn from its collections. The Museum also installs off-site exhibits throughout Southeast Oklahoma.

It offers dozens of educational programs each year, often in partnership with local organizations. It also houses a Public Reference Library and Research Library, which contain over 6000 volumes and printed materials illustrating cultural history. Hands-on, interactive learning opportunities are available year-round in the Holland and Sallie Webb Family Learning Center.

The Museum neither solicits nor accepts government funding. It is supported by earned and investment income and the ongoing support of individuals and organizations. Admission to the Museum is free, thanks to its Corporate Partners. To keep up with the latest Museum news, visit www.museumoftheredriver.org.

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