



ARIZONA HERITAGE
CENTER
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PHOENIX
HABULOUS
EXPERIENCE™

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 7, 2017

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**Author and storyteller Jana Bommersbach shares entertaining
state history talk on January 18: “Wild, Weird, Wicked Arizona” at
Arizona Heritage Center at Papago Park**

***Public invited to join closing reception and program celebrating
Phoenix Phabulous History Mural community conversations***

For a state that has been home to Geronimo, Wyatt Earp, César Chavez and Wonder Woman, you would think Arizona would have earned some respect. Yet achieving statehood was a 50-year struggle, which finally ended on February 14, 1912.

On Thursday evening, January 18, Jana Bommersbach, acclaimed author and public speaker, presents *Wild, Weird, Wicked Arizona*, sharing stories about some of the state’s most interesting characters and time periods at Arizona Heritage Center at Papago Park.

A reception with hosted refreshments will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the final presentation of the Phoenix Phabulous lecture series featured at 6:30 p.m.

Bommersbach borrows from her writing for True West and Phoenix magazines to put Arizona, the 48th state, into perspective. She shares old Arizona secrets prissy folks would rather forget.

You will learn why this small state has had an inordinate influence on American politics, and why, no matter what outrageous thing happens anywhere in the world, there is bound to be an Arizona connection. This wicked, weird and wild romp through Arizona’s colorful history will shock, delight, inform, tickle, and leave you wanting to learn more.

Jana is one of Arizona’s most honored and respected journalists. She has won accolades in every facet of her career, as investigative reporter, magazine columnist, television commentator and author of nationally acclaimed books. She currently writes for True West Magazine, digging up the true stories behind the popular myths, with an emphasis on Arizona’s real history and women of the Old West.

Wild, Weird, Wicked Arizona is made possible by Arizona Humanities. This program is open to the public at no cost, however RSVP by phone or e-mail is requested at 480-929-0292, or

azheritagecenter@azhs.gov.

This is the fourth and final public presentation and community conversation associated with the Phoenix Phabulous exhibition, on display at the AZ Heritage Center through January 31, 2018.

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About Phoenix Phabulous Experience™ **(<http://phoenixphabulousexperience.com/>)**

Phoenix Phabulous Experience™ is a placemaking and storytelling organization designed to bring people and cultures together to celebrate the urban core of Phoenix – showcasing the sixth-largest city in the United States through storytelling, art and technology. Phoenix Phabulous Experience™ encourages civic engagement and family-friendly fun, forging community-based collaboration through its productions and community dialogues.

About the Phoenix Phabulous History Mural Collection

The Phoenix Phabulous History Mural Collection features iconic indoor murals depicting the past, present and imagined future of Phoenix, Arizona's capital city. Launched by businesswoman Carol Poore and created by local artists with help from curator Hugo Medina and Phoenix historians, authors and storytellers, the collection of 16 murals portrays nine distinct Phoenix time periods, each featuring important milestones of community life.

The nine time periods featured in the Phoenix Phabulous History Mural Collection include:

Pre 1867 – Ancient Hohokam civilization, canals and community building (600 A.D. to 1450 A.D.).

1867 to 1880 – Phoenix Wild West pioneering years following the U.S. Civil War.

1881 to 1911 – Pre-statehood emergent years of modern Phoenix.

1912 to 1945 – Statehood and Phoenix expansion.

1946 to 1959 – Post World War II boom Years.

1960 to 1979 – Suburb expansion and growth away from Downtown Phoenix.

1980 to 2000 – Phoenix emerges as a key player to the Southwest Metropolis.

2001 to Today – Major Phoenix revitalization and with particular expansion of biosciences and higher education in the urban core.

Imagined Future – A futuristic look into the vision for Phoenix.

Mural artists include Hugo Medina serving as curator, Amanda Adkins, Anel Arriola, Angel Diaz, Jessica Eddings, Anthony Galto, Damian Jim, Lauren Lee, Jim McCarty, Seth Payson, Michael Pruitt, Lucretia Torva, and Katharine Leigh Simpson.

For more information about the Phoenix Phabulous History Mural and storytelling program, visit PhoenixPhabulousExperience.com.

About Arizona Heritage Center at Papago Park
(<http://www.arizonahistoricalsociety.org/museums/tempe/>)

AZ Heritage Center at Papago Park is the home of the Centennial Museum. Nestled against the base of beautiful Papago Park, the museum features exhibits spanning more than 100 years of Central Arizona history, making it the perfect place to enjoy the best of Arizona's past and present.

Take a trip through time, from western frontier days to war times and the post war building boom. Learn how water makes life possible in the desert, and discover the beauty and variety of Arizona's vast natural resources. Marvel at the breathtaking desert vistas as you wander through our outdoor spaces.

In addition to the Centennial Museum, the AZ Heritage Center is a cultural center where visitors can participate in a variety of educational and entertaining programming and events for adults and children. Guided and self-guided tours are available for school children and adult groups, and can be customized to meet your needs.

The AZ Heritage Center is also a beautiful and functional event venue, featuring a charming brick courtyard, majestic sandstone lobby, auditorium, theater, and multiple meeting spaces. For more information, visit <http://www.arizonahistoricalsociety.org/museums/tempe/>

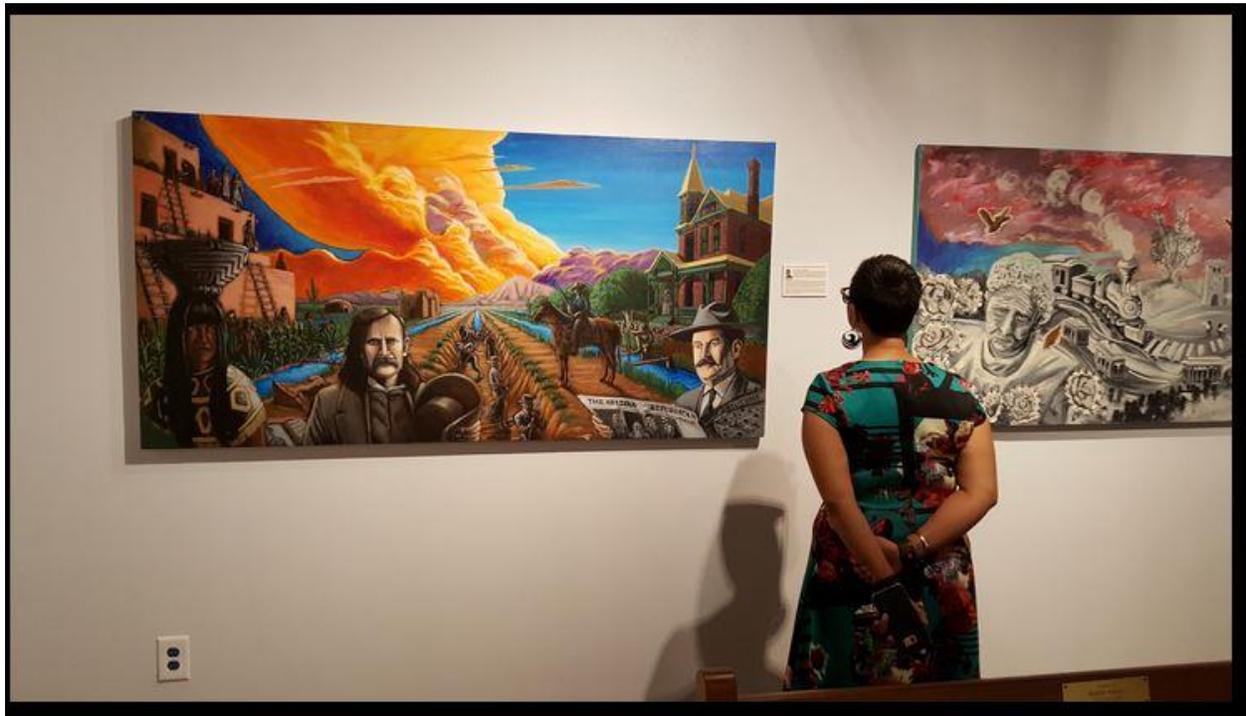
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Note: Photos on the following pages feature the Phoenix Phabulous Mural Collection installed at Arizona Heritage Center at Papago Park. Photos provided by Phoenix Phabulous Experience unless otherwise noted.



Author and speaker Jana Bommersbach, center. (Photo provided by Arizona Humanities.)







Social media promotion (short blurb)

On Thursday, January 18, 2018, don't miss local author and media celebrity, Jana Bommersbach, when she shares rare stories of "Wild, Weird, Wicked Arizona." This presentation will accompany Phoenix Phabulous Mural installation's closing reception, free to the public. RSVP at azheritagecenter@azhs.gov. Center address: 1300 North College Avenue in Tempe. Doors open and reception begins at 5:30 p.m. with program at 6:30 p.m.