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**PHOENIX STORYTELLING EVENING AT JUNE 6 FIRST FRIDAY
WITH PHOENIX PHABULOUS HISTORY MURAL
AT BURTON BARR CENTRAL LIBRARY**

Phoenix, AZ (May 23, 2014) — At First Friday on Friday, June 6, the public is invited to experience an evening of festive music, entertainment and storytelling featuring Phoenix authors, historians and artists at Burton Barr Central Library and the musical group Us Gaias.

Storytelling will be hosted on the second floor of the library, along with the Phoenix Phabulous History Mural. Storytelling will begin at 6:30 p.m. and again at 8 p.m.

Speakers include Phoenix authors and historians Donna Reiner, Ph.D., who will discuss the history of surviving summers in Phoenix (Summers Weren't for Sissies), and Frank Barrios, who will discuss the 1888 through 1911 time period as well as his book, *Mexicans in Phoenix*. Local artist Aileen Frick will discuss her latest "We Are Phoenix" collection of paintings featuring iconic locations in Downtown Phoenix.

The Phoenix Phabulous History Mural features nine time periods of Phoenix, each artistically represented in a collection of indoor murals. The project was produced by Phoenix Phabulous Experience™ and curated by Phoenix artist Hugo Medina., in collaboration with Phoenix Center for the Arts.

The Phoenix Phabulous History Mural provides presentation and dialogue opportunities for visitors, residents, and students to discuss the past, present and imagined future of Phoenix. During its traveling schedule at public places, scholars, artists, authors, and storytellers of all ages and backgrounds will share presentations about time periods, special topics of interest, and stories that bring together the diverse cultures and communities of Phoenix.

During the June 6 First Friday at Burton Barr Central Library, the musical group Us Gaias will inspire and entertain the audience with an enchanting blend of African, Latin, Native American, chant and pop-driven influences. Formed in 2007, Us Gaias (from Greek *gaia* earth) is a performing ensemble incubated by Phoenix Women's Chorus that combines lush vocals with percussion soundscapes.

For more information about the Phoenix Phabulous History Mural and the nine time periods in Phoenix history, visit www.PhoenixPhabulousExperience.com.

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(Photos provided by Phoenix Phabulous Experience.)

Installation at Burton Barr Central Library:



From April 2014 First Friday at Arizona Multihousing Association





Phoenix Phabulous History Mural at Phoenix City Hall Lobby





(Photos provided by Phoenix Phabulous Experience™ – please contact Dr. Carol A. Poore at 602-451-6769 for additional Phoenix Phabulous History Mural photos, including individual murals and the artists working on murals.)

About the Phoenix Phabulous History Mural

The Phoenix Phabulous History Mural is a collection of iconic indoor murals depicting the past, present and imagined future of Arizona's capital city. Created by local artists with help from Phoenix historians, authors and storytellers, the collection of 12 murals portrays nine distinct Phoenix time periods, each featuring important milestones of community life, beginning with the ancient Hohokam civilization and continuing into the city's future opportunities.

The nine time periods featured in the Phoenix Phabulous History Mural 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.

The mural collection is traveling to a variety of Phoenix public locations from now through permanent installation in mid-2015. Visit www.PhoenixPhabulousExperience.com for the schedule of installations.

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

Phoenix Phabulous Experience is a community-building and placemaking organization whose mission is to bring people together to celebrate the past, present and imagined future of Phoenix – showcasing the sixth-largest city in the United States through innovative community storytelling connected to arts, culture and technology. Phoenix Phabulous Experience™ encourages civic engagement and family-friendly fun while forging community-based collaboration through its productions, projects, and community dialogues.

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