



THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC
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**THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC, PHOENIX THEATRE
AND PHOENIX PHABULOUS EXPERIENCE PRESENT**

“ARIZONA STORYTELLERS: STORIES OF OUR PHOENIX FAMILIES”

Phoenix, AZ (August 7, 2014) — The stories of Phoenix are as diverse as the generations of people who live here. On Wednesday evening, September 10, local storytellers will bring their urban memories to life through storytelling and art at the Hormel Black Box Theatre stage at Phoenix Theatre, presented by *The Arizona Republic's* Arizona Storytellers Project.

On this night, storytellers will celebrate stories of the families they were born into and those they created for themselves. The audience will hear stories about some of the families that have defined the Valley over the years, and stories of how the Valley has come to define some of its families.

This night is hosted in partnership with The Arizona Republic, Phoenix Theatre and Phoenix Phabulous Experience. Attendees will preview the Phoenix Phabulous History Mural on display at Phoenix Theatre's lounge.

Storytellers include Michael Barnard, Phoenix Theatre's Producing Artistic Director, Liz Warren, Director of the Storytelling Institute at South Mountain Community College and six other storytellers, including artists who helped create the colorful and storied mural collection.

A no-host cocktail reception starts at 6 p.m. in the lounge. Stories begin at 7 p.m. in the Hormel Black Box at Phoenix Theatre. Tickets may be purchased on the Arizona Storytellers Project

website through this link: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/arizona-storytellers-stories-of-our-phoenix-families-tickets-10019272915?aff=eorg>. Tickets are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Proceeds from this event will be used to support *The Arizona Republic* journalism training and education programs.

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, which will grow to 15 murals by end of 2014, portrays nine distinct Phoenix time periods representing important phases of community life. The murals depict ancient Hohokam civilization and display the imagination of 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.

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 installation schedule.

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

Phoenix Phabulous Experience™ is a spectacular, community place making experience in Downtown Phoenix founded by local executive Carol Poore, Ph.D., showcasing Phoenix to the world with the ultimate goal of combining civic engagement, storytelling, and family-friendly entertainment. In inviting residents and visitors to enjoy and explore downtown, Phoenix Phabulous Experience™ forges community-based collaboration through its production.

About Phoenix Theatre

<http://www.phoenixtheatre.com/>

The largest producing regional theatre company in the Valley, Phoenix Theatre offers more programs and experiences than any other. With over 400 performances on multiple stages and thriving education and outreach programs, they inspire more than 100,000 citizens every year. Inextricably woven into the fabric of Your City, Phoenix Theatre is Your Theatre.

Located in the heart of the Central Arts District, Phoenix Theatre is the oldest arts organizations in Arizona and remains one of the oldest operating arts organizations in the country. Last year on October 26, 2013, they revealed one of the most significant expansions of a performing arts facility in the Southwest. This addition includes a soaring glass atrium lobby, additional rehearsal and entertainment spaces, and the state-of-the-art Hormel Black Box Theatre. This additional stage allowed Phoenix Theatre to expand their artistic programming and welcome more patrons into the space than ever before! To learn more, visit [phoenixtheatre.com](http://www.phoenixtheatre.com).

About the Arizona Storytellers Project

(<http://www.azcentral.com/topic/59efec7e-16dd-4237-9515-d1e54118b084/arizona-storytellers/>)

The Arizona Republic in June 2011, launched a series of monthly nights of live storytelling called the Arizona Storytellers Project. On these nights, community members share true, first-person stories on a theme, addressing it literally or metaphorically for about five to eight minutes.

We have heard stories at some of the Valley's signature public spaces, including the Desert Botanical Garden, Salt River Fields and the Arizona Biltmore. And we've listened over dinners at some of the Valley's favorite restaurants, including La Boca Urban Pizzeria, Beckett's Table and Postino Winecafe East.

We've heard from Arizona notables, including Olympic gold medalist Amanda Borden, Food Network star and Elements chef Beau MacMillan and Arizona Diamondbacks superstar Luis Gonzalez. And we've heard from Arizona originals, including Dream Act activist Erika Andiola, playwright Tania Katan and community organizer Kimber Lanning.

We've also heard from you. We've heard from moms and dads, husbands and wives, teachers, hikers, Olympians, cancer survivors, entrepreneurs, ranchers and retirees.

For how to become a teller, first read all the info on Get Involved. Then e-mail organizer Megan Finnerty at megan.finnerty@arizonarepublic.com with a 10-sentence outline of your story with a beginning, a middle and an end.

Photos provided by Phoenix Phabulous Experience

The Phoenix Phabulous History Mural displayed at Burton Barr Central Library in summer of 2014.



The Phoenix Phabulous History Mural on display in April and May at the Arizona Multihousing Association office in Downtown Phoenix. The murals were featured during two First Fridays, where storytellers brought Phoenix history to life.





(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.)