



ARIZONA HERITAGE  
CENTER  
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PHOENIX  
**HABULOUS**  
EXPERIENCE™

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 10, 2017

**Contacts:**

Tawn Downs  
Central Division Director, AZ Heritage  
Center at Papago Park  
Telephone: 480.387.5638 (o) and 480.721.7249 (m)  
[tdowns@azhs.gov](mailto:tdowns@azhs.gov) and [www.azhs.gov](http://www.azhs.gov)

Carol Poore, Ph.D.  
President, Phoenix Phabulous Experience™  
Telephone: 602.451.6769  
[cpoore@PhoenixPhabulousExperience.com](mailto:cpoore@PhoenixPhabulousExperience.com)  
[www.PhoenixPhabulousExperience.com](http://www.PhoenixPhabulousExperience.com)

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**Arizona Heritage Center at Papago Park hosts  
Phoenix Phabulous History Mural collection and storytelling series**

***Public invited to opening reception on Thursday, April 27, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.***

Arizona Heritage Center at Papago Park announced year-long art and storytelling installation featuring the Phoenix Phabulous History Mural collection, an indoor mural series sharing the fascinating story of Phoenix in nine distinct time periods.

From the early Hohokam civilization to the imagined future, the display includes 16 large painted murals capturing iconic events representing Phoenix history. The mural collection is on display from now through February 1, 2018 and activated through a four-part storytelling series including hosted networking receptions for patrons and visitors.

The public is invited to an opening reception event at [Arizona Heritage Center at Papago Park](http://ArizonaHeritageCenteratPapagoPark) to be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 27 featuring “The History of Phoenix in Nine Time Periods: Surviving and Thriving in Phoenix.”

Admission to the reception and program will be hosted free of charge to those who RSVP at [azheritagecenter@azhs.gov](mailto:azheritagecenter@azhs.gov). The Center is located at 1300 North College Avenue in Tempe.

The opening program will feature keynote speaker Carol Poore, Ph.D., president and founder of the Phoenix Phabulous Mural collection, along with several Phoenix history experts and artists who will bring to life each Phoenix time period in a brief, engaging program beginning at 6 p.m. The reception includes refreshments and the opportunity to mingle with mural artists while viewing the installation.

“The Arizona Heritage Center at Papago Park is excited to welcome both patrons and new visitors to see the Phoenix Phabulous collection as part of the Center’s vast collection of photos and displays telling the story about our Valley’s people and their dreams,” said Tawn Downs, Director at AZ Heritage Center. “The local mural artists engaged with this collection are excited to meet the public during five hosted presentations.”

Local sponsors will help host programs featuring a diverse group of authors, local artists, historians, and Arizona celebrities. Hosted programs and opportunities to meet with presenters and artists will begin at 5:30 p.m. as follows.

- **Thursday, April 27:** Opening reception featuring The History of Phoenix in Nine Time Periods: Surviving and Thriving in Phoenix. (RSVP required at [azheritagecenter@azhs.gov](mailto:azheritagecenter@azhs.gov).)
- **Thursday, September 21:** The Valley's Thriving Cultures and Communities
- **Wednesday, November 1:** Placemaking Icons: Phoenix City Rising, City Preserved
- **Thursday, January 18, 2018** closing reception featuring Phoenix News Celebrities

The mural project was launched in 2013 by Poore, a native Phoenician and business leader, who selected Phoenix-based artist Hugo Medina as curator. The murals were envisioned and then painted by sixteen local artists, who depicted major time periods and related Phoenix events, landmarks, leaders, issues and urban legends. Since 2014, the murals have traveled to more than 12 Valley public gallery spaces.

“The collection reflects commitment by talented local artists to learn about, and then illustrate the unique and dramatic story of Phoenix,” noted Poore, president and producer of the Phoenix Phabulous Experience. “The murals create opportunities to show the fortitude it took to create a desert community, and our storytellers share fascinating personal stories about their connections to our city and aspirations for its future.”

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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 collection begins with the ancient Hohokam civilization and ends with a vision of the city's future.

One of the many unique pieces include a mural created by artist Darrin Armijo-Wardle, which depicts Phoenix pioneers during territorial and early statehood years. The mural provides a glimpse into the life of the city's founding pioneers, water stewardship, and perseverance to build a community while surviving hot weather and periods of drought and floods.

Other murals feature iconic eras of air conditioning and shift from agriculture to industry after World War II, Phoenix high-rise development and glimpses of the imagined future.

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](http://PhoenixPhabulousExperience.com).

**Contact:**

*Carol Poore, Ph.D.*

*President and Executive Producer, Phoenix Phabulous Experience™*

*Telephone: 602.451.6769*

*Email: [cpoore5@cox.net](mailto:cpoore5@cox.net)*

*Website: [www.PhoenixPhabulousExperience.com](http://www.PhoenixPhabulousExperience.com)*

**About Arizona Heritage Center at Papago Park**

**(<http://www.arizonahistoricalociety.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.arizonahistorical society.org/museums/tempe/>

**Contact:**

*Tawn Downs*

*Director, AZ Heritage Center*

*Telephone: 480.929-0929*

*Email: [t downs@azhs.gov](mailto:t downs@azhs.gov)*

*Website: [www.arizonahistorical society.org](http://www.arizonahistorical society.org)*

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**Photos of past installations for the Phoenix Phabulous History Mural Collection. Photos provided by Phoenix Phabulous Experience.**







