



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Phoenix Elementary School District #1 taps  
Phoenix Phabulous History Murals to help celebrate 150 years of  
educating Phoenix students and serving families**

**Murals provide colorful backdrop for school district anniversary, student projects,  
community storytelling events at historic District Office Governing Board Room**

(Phoenix, AZ – April 4, 2019) From the early Hohokam civilization to the imagined future, colorful indoor murals sharing the story of Phoenix will provide a backdrop for celebrating 150 years of Phoenix Elementary School District #1 providing public elementary education.

Created by local artists, the collection of 16 Phoenix Phabulous History Murals will be displayed at the Phoenix Elementary School District #1 Governing Board Room from April 8 through June 1, 2021.

In 2021, the oldest school district in Arizona – Phoenix Elementary School District #1 – will celebrate its 150-year anniversary dating back to its inaugural class of students who first attended school on November 27, 1871.

“The board, faculty and staff are delighted that the Phoenix Phabulous mural collection will connect our city’s major time periods to the District’s rich history,” said Larry Weeks, CEO/Superintendent of Phoenix Elementary School District #1. “Today, we celebrate thirteen K-8 schools and an early childhood learning center for preschoolers, each delivering strong academics and a legacy of teachers who have made an incredible impact on Phoenix children.”

During the two-year mural installation, students will have opportunities to create history, art and storytelling projects. The District will offer a series of community, neighborhood and alumni programs celebrating the anniversary.

The first of many anniversary events to be planned will be hosted on Tuesday, April 9 featuring a preview of the Phoenix Phabulous murals for staff, retired staff and alumni, to be held from 5

p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Phoenix District #1 Governing Board Room. To receive information about this and all events, register at [PhoenixOneFoundation.com/150](https://PhoenixOneFoundation.com/150).

The Phoenix Phabulous mural project was launched in 2013 by Carol Poore, Ph.D., a native Phoenician, business leader and graduate of Heard Elementary School, one of the District's 14 schools. Poore selected a Phoenix curator and sixteen local artists who were assigned to paint a portrayal of one of nine Phoenix time periods and the related events, landmarks, leaders, issues, and urban legends.

Since inception, the murals have traveled to more than 20 public gallery spaces across the Valley.

"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 vibrant desert community, now among the top-five largest metropolitan regions in the United States."

Programs will include the History of Phoenix and Phoenix Elementary School District in Nine Time Periods, Heroes of Young Phoenix, The Imagined Future: A Project for 8<sup>th</sup> graders, History of the Coronado and Garfield Neighborhoods, Phoenix District #1 – a Multicultural Story of Students, Valley Newcomers and Change.

"Heroes of Young Phoenix," is researched and written by a former district board member, Ruth Ann Marston, Ph.D. Marston was President of Board of the Central Arizona Chapter of the Arizona Historical Society for two terms and served 16 years (11 as President) on the Governing Board of Phoenix Elementary School District #1.

Programs open to the general public will be posted on both the [Phoenix District #1](https://PhoenixDistrict1.org) and [Phoenix Phabulous Experience](https://PhoenixPhabulousExperience.org) websites.

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### **About Phoenix Elementary School District #1**

<https://phxschools.org/>

At Phoenix Elementary School District #1, we are Inspiring Every Child to Achieve. Our 14 schools are in the heart of Phoenix. We are right in your neighborhood and accessible by Phoenix Light Rail. We are free. We are public education! We deliver strong academics while integrating the arts, physical education, athletics and club sports. We provide all the support services for our students including free breakfast and lunch, a top-rated before and after school program for children of working parents, as well as nurses, social workers and psychologists to ensure all needs are met. For more information, visit [phxschools.org](https://phxschools.org) or call 602-523-5757.

### **About Phoenix Phabulous Experience™**

[\(http://phoenixphabulousexperience.com/\)](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, large indoor murals 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 Phoenix 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, Aileen Frick, Anthony Galto, Damian Jim, Lauren Lee, Jim McCarty, Seth Payson, Michael Pruitt, Justin Queal, Katharine Leigh Simpson, Lucretia Torva, Marisa Hall Valdez, and Darrin Armijo-Wardle.

For more information about the Phoenix Phabulous History Mural and storytelling program, visit [PhoenixPhabulousExperience.com](http://PhoenixPhabulousExperience.com).

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



















