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News Release



NORTH CAROLINA
MUSEUM OF HISTORY

A Smithsonian Affiliate

24th Annual
American

SATURDAY
NOV. 23 2019
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

INDIAN

HERITAGE CELEBRATION

#AIHC2019

24th Annual American Indian Heritage Celebration
Celebrate National American Indian Heritage Month at the NC Museum of History

RALEIGH, N.C. – For the 24th year, people of all ages will attend the [American Indian Heritage Celebration](#) at the North Carolina Museum of History in downtown Raleigh. The state’s featured event for recognizing National American Indian Heritage Month will be held on Saturday, November 23, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Members of all eight state-recognized tribes will share their history and culture during this popular festival, named a “Top 20 Event” again in 2018 by the Southeast Tourism Society. **Admission is free.**

Over 100 presenters will fill the museum and Bicentennial Plaza throughout the day, including drum groups, dancers, craftspeople, storytellers, scholars, and artists. And, plenty of hands-on activities will be available for children, such as a bow-and-arrow shooting range—with blowguns and corn-cob darts, too—and pumpkin-seed jewelry making. In addition, foods and beverages from American Indian-owned businesses and organizations will be on-site, as well as opportunities to take home souvenirs from select artists and vendors.

“Each year’s celebration brings something familiar and something new,” says Emily Grant, Youth Programs Coordinator and festival organizer. “From demonstrations of centuries-old crafts to discussions of current issues and what it means to be American Indian in 2019, the event will be part family reunion, part pageantry and performance, and part celebration of the resiliency and energy of community.”

At noon, visitors can attend the Grand Entry and roll call of tribes and organizations, which will be accompanied by drum groups and hundreds of dancers dressed in colorful regalia. **During the day**, visitors will have numerous opportunities to learn about the [eight state-recognized tribes](#) in North Carolina. **Highlights of the festival include:**

- Participate in a simulated archaeology dig, imprint designs onto pottery, and learn about the state’s American Indian tribes in the Know Your Tribes game.
- Take part in discussions of current issues and community projects, including an update on water-and-health-related projects in indigenous communities.
- Participate in Tsalagi (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians) and Tutelo (Haliwa-Saponi) language lessons or discover the origins and meanings of symbols associated with tribes across the southeast.
- Learn about traditional herbal remedies and view demonstrations of centuries-old crafts such as pottery, beadwork, finger weaving, cordage, and dugout canoe burning while also seeing how the past and present meet, through contemporary painting, 3-D artifact modelling technology, and other contemporary topics.
- Hear about exhibits across the state, including *Art for a New Understanding* at the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University and *Portraits of Lumbee People* at the Museum of the Southeast Indian at UNC–Pembroke, and hear new project plans for the renovation of Town Creek Indian Mound and a proposed cultural corridor of Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian sites along the Little Tennessee River.
- And a lot more . . .

This year’s AIHC will also introduce some new accessibility options to visitors. These will include “reserved” parking spaces (for vehicles with a handicapped placard or license plate; as available, while they last) along Edenton Street that will have easy access to the museum’s main entrance ramp; a drop-off space on Jones Street that will have access to the museum’s Fletcher Garden entrance, which has elevator access to the lobby level; and a “cool-down room” in the museum’s main chronology exhibit (*The Story of North Carolina*). In addition, sign-language interpreters will translate some of the storyteller activities in the museum’s Demonstration Gallery from 12:40 to 2:25 p.m. Large-print programs, wheelchairs, and cool-down kits and/or headphones will also be available at information desks on the lobby level.

For an exciting and educational experience, bring the entire family to the 24th annual American Indian Heritage Celebration. For a [full schedule of all performances and presentations](#), visit ncmuseumofhistory.org/events or call 919-814-7900.

This event is sponsored, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes a great nation deserves great art—to find out more about how NEA grants impact individuals and communities, visit arts.gov; the City of Raleigh, based on recommendation of the Raleigh Arts Commission; the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County; Food Lion; Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina; WellCare Health Plans Inc.; Locklear Roofing; Red Hat Inc.; Friends of Town Creek Indian Mound Inc.; Triangle Native American Society; Lumbee Guaranty Bank; Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina; and MOHA, the Museum of History Associates.

Come to the festival and join the museum today to get your MOHA membership for half-price. For information, visit NCMOH-programs.com or call 919-814-7039.

The event's official hashtag is #AIHC2019.

[CLICK HERE](#) FOR IMAGES

For information about the NC Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate museum, call 919-814-7000 or access ncmuseumofhistory.org or follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [YouTube](#).

About the N.C. Museum of History, a Smithsonian affiliate

The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 400,000 people visit the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

About the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit www.ncdcr.gov.

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