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[a Dropbox link with images follows the news release]

22nd Annual American Indian Heritage Celebration



RALEIGH, N.C. – Come to the **22nd Annual American Indian Heritage Celebration** at the N.C. Museum of History for the state’s signature event for recognizing National American Indian Heritage Month. This festive and educational event for all ages will take place **Saturday, November 18, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** in downtown Raleigh. Members of all eight state-recognized tribes* will share their history and culture during this popular festival, named a “Top 20 Event” since 2014 by the Southeast Tourism Society. Admission is **free**.

Excitement builds throughout the day as drum groups, hundreds of dancers in colorful regalia, craftspeople, storytellers and other presenters fill the museum and Bicentennial Plaza, in front of the building. There will be plenty of hands-on activities for children, such as a game with corn cob darts and a scavenger hunt. Food vendors, including American Indian Taco and Sappony Salsa, will be on-site, as well, so enjoy lunch and stay a while. Opportunities will be available to purchase or take home souvenirs from select artists and vendors.

“Each year’s celebration brings something familiar and something new,” says Emily Grant, Youth and Family Programs Coordinator. “From demonstrations of centuries-old crafts to discussions of current issues and what it means to be American Indian in 2017, the event will be part family reunion, part pageantry and performance, and part celebration of the resiliency and energy of community.”

The museum is thrilled to announce that singer Jana Mashonee will be this year’s opening performer for the festival. Mashonee is a two-time Grammy nominee and nine-time Native American Music Award

winner. She will perform from 11 to 11:45 a.m. After her performance, she will be available to sign autographs and copies of her new book, *American Indian Story: The Adventures of Sha'kona*.

Following the opening performance, the beats of intertribal drum groups will fill Bicentennial Plaza. The Grand Entry at noon is a sight to behold. Dressed in brilliantly colored regalia, each tribe will proceed onto the plaza for the roll call of tribes and organizations. Watch traditional dances by the world-renowned Warriors of AniKituhwah (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians) and by the Sacred Cedar dancers (Haliwa-Saponi), as well as the Iroquois Smoke Dance by Meherrin tribe members. Miss Indian North Carolina Kayla Oxendine (Lumbee) will lead powwow dance demonstrations.

During the day, take advantage of firsthand opportunities to learn about the state's American Indians, past and present. Here's a sampling of what you can experience. For a full schedule of all performances and presentations, visit ncmuseumofhistory.org/events or call 919-807-7900.

-Watch craftspeople make pottery, beadwork, stone carvings, gourd rattles, hunting tools, jewelry and more. These individuals include Jamie Locklear (Waccamaw Siouan), who is known for his pine-needle baskets, and master potter Joel Queen (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians).

-Learn about weapon making from John Blackfeather Jeffries (Occaneechi-Saponi).

-Dive into hands-on activities such as imprinting a design onto pottery, writing words in Cherokee, shooting a bow and arrow, and sewing stitches with the Coharie Quilters.

-Hear Lumbee storytellers Gwen and Barbara Locklear and Cherokee storytellers Lloyd and Dawn Arneach share traditional and contemporary tales. Lloyd Arneach is a recipient of the Mountain Heritage Award from Western Carolina University.

-Hear Chef Lorrie Dial (Lumbee) highlight cuisine and lifeways of eastern North Carolina.

Take advantage of all that the 22nd annual American Indian Heritage Celebration will offer, and bring the entire family to this exciting festival. The event is sponsored, in part, by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina; the City of Raleigh, based on recommendations of the Raleigh Arts Commission; MOHA, the N.C. Museum of History Associates; the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs; Food Lion; IBM; United Arts Council; Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; Red Hat; Locklear Roofing; Arrowhead Graphics and the American Indian Women of Proud Nations.

*The eight state-recognized tribes are Coharie, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Haliwa-Saponi, Lumbee, Meherrin, Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, Saponi and Waccamaw Siouan. For further information about the tribes, go to <http://www.doa.state.nc.us/CIA/>.

[Access images here.](#)

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.

For information about the N.C. Museum of History, call 919-807-7900 or access ncmuseumofhistory.org or follow on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#).

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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