



Autry National Center
of the **American West**

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For Immediate Release

Celebrate the Caracol Tower and Contemporary Native American Cultures

July–September 2009 Events at the Southwest Museum of the American Indian

Los Angeles (July 1, 2009) —There is much to celebrate at the Southwest Museum this summer including the completion of repairs to the iconic Caracol Tower. Damage to the Caracol Tower was sustained during the 1994 Northridge Earthquake and over decades of deferred maintenance. Join us on Sunday, July 19 from 2:00–4:00 p.m. for guided tours of the Caracol Tower, see firsthand all the repairs we've made, and enjoy refreshments and music.

In August, we partner with the Southern California Indian Center for weekly films based on Native American contemporary issues. Our on-going lecture series, A View from the Braun continues highlighting music, folk art, and Native Americans in film and television while the NELAart Second Saturday Gallery Night also continues monthly highlighting local artists.

All of the activities at the Southwest Museum and parking are free.

StoryTime

Sunday, July 5, 1:30–2:30 p.m.

Bring your kids and gather round for storytelling and a cultural presentation by Southwest Museum docents. This month we feature *The Rainbow Bridge: A Chumash Legend*, adapted by Kerry Nechodom and illustrated by Tom Nechodom, and *The Legend of the Indian Paint Brush*, retold and illustrated by Tomie de Paola.

NELAart Second Saturday Gallery Night Opening

Saturday, July 11, 7:00–10:00 p.m.

Meet Native American artist Peggy Fontenot at this show and sale of her creative photography,



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and enjoy hot chocolate and *pan dulce*.

Let's Make History: Clay Pinch Pots

Sunday, July 12, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Some early Native American cultures lined their cooking baskets with mud that would harden and create a stronger surface in which to cook. From there developed the art of Native American pottery. The Indians of the Southwest are renowned for their skills in pottery making and design. Visit the Southwest Museum and make a clay pinch pot of your own design.

Christmas in July: Special Members' Sale

Saturday and Sunday, July 18 and 19, 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Autry Members take an extra 10% discount in both the Mt. Washington and Griffith Park Museum Stores and special markdowns on all holiday merchandise.

A View From the Braun Lectures Series

Ethnomusicology

Saturday, July 18, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Elisabeth Waldo Dentzel is a legendary musician and patroness of the arts who will review a history of her career and its influence on American culture in the 20th century. Dentzel is an amazing violinist (she was first chair for Leopold Stokowski) and recording artist, who has taken Indigenous and ethnic musical instruments and musicians to audiences across the country and the globe in a way that has artistically expanded and educated our understanding of music. Elisabeth and her late husband, Southwest Museum Director Carl Dentzel, made the museum a centerpiece for cultural exploration and personal interaction through her groups of ethnic musicians and a dedication to celebrating the past in the present.

Southwest Museum Behind-the-Scenes Tour / Members Only

Saturday, July 18, Noon–1:00 p.m.

Limited to two people per membership, with a maximum of ten people per tour. Reservations are required. RSVP to 323.667.2000, ext. 391.

Dig It! Family Style

Saturday, July 18, 1:30–2:30 p.m.

Who lived here before us? What did they leave behind? Discover the answers to these questions and more while on an “archaeology” dig. Back by popular demand!



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Caracol Tower Celebration

Sunday, July 19, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Visitors can join a tour of the famous Caracol Tower at the Southwest Museum, see firsthand all the repairs we've made, and enjoy refreshments and music.

Show and Sale

Fine Native American Jewelry From Waddell Trading Company

Saturday and Sunday, August 1 and 2, Noon–5:00 p.m.

Returning for its 10th year, Waddell Trading Company will have for sale an astounding collection of fine Navajo and Hopi jewelry. Pieces of this fine silver and stone jewelry have been made by many of the same artists who will be at the famed Santa Fe Indian Market later in August. Members will receive their 10% discount.

StoryTime

Sunday, August 2, 1:30–2:30 p.m.

Bring your kids and gather round for storytelling and a cultural presentation by Southwest Museum docents. This month we feature *Coyote Places the Stars* by Harriet Peck Taylor, and *Cactus Hotel*, written by Brenda Z. Guiberson and illustrated by Megan Lloyd.

SCIC Native American Film Festival

Standing Silent Nation (2007)

Wednesday, August 5, 6:30–9:30 p.m.

When the Oglala Sioux Tribe passed an ordinance separating industrial hemp from its illegal cousin, marijuana, Alex White Plume and his family glimpsed a brighter future. The hemp plant is like new buffalo for the Lakota: a resource whose many uses, from food to fuel to fiber, could enrich their sovereign nation. For three years, Alex White Plume and his family planted industrial hemp. But each year, their harvest was disrupted by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), which claims that hemp is marijuana despite its absence of marijuana's psychoactive properties.

NELAart Second Saturday Gallery Night Opening

Saturday, August 8, 7:00–10:00 p.m.

Meet and mingle with artist Margaret Garcia at this show and sale of her work, and enjoy hot chocolate and *pan dulce*.

Let's Make History: Corn Husk Dolls

Sunday, August 9, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Wherever corn was grown as a crop, Native American and pioneer families used corn husks to



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make dolls. Join us and learn how to make your own unique doll.

SCIC Native American Film Festival

March Point (2008)

Wednesday, August 12, 6:30–9:30 p.m.

Cody, Nick, and Travis, three teens from the Swinomish Indian Tribe, wanted to make a gangster movie or rap video. But instead they were asked to investigate the impact of two oil refineries on their tribal community. *March Point* follows this journey as they come to understand themselves, the environment, and the threat their people face. For centuries the Swinomish Indian Tribe has relied on the natural resources of the Skagit Valley, through clamming, crabbing, and fishing. Before white settlement, tribal people inhabited the valleys, rivers, and shorelines, living off the rich land. But in 1855 most of this land was taken away by the federal government in the Treaty of Point Elliott.

Dig It! Family Style

Saturday, August 15, 1:30–2:30 p.m.

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SCIC Native American Film Festival

Alcatraz Is Not an Island (2001)

Wednesday, August 19, 6:30–9:30 p.m.

In November 1969, a small group of Native American students and urban Indians began the occupation of Alcatraz Island in the San Francisco Bay. Eventually joined by thousands of Native Americans, they reclaimed “Indian land” for the first time since the 1800s, forever changing the way Native Americans viewed themselves, their culture, and their sovereign rights.

Private Behind-the-Scenes Southwest Museum Tour

Saturday, August 22, Noon–1:00 p.m.

Limited to two people per membership, with a maximum of ten people per tour. Reservations are required. RSVP to 323.667.2000, ext. 391.

A View From the Braun Lecture Series

The Origin of Beaded Crowns of the Caddo Tribe

Saturday, August 22, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Gina Worthington, a Ph.D. candidate at UCLA, is a scholar who has worked with the university and college community of Southern California for decades. A member of the Caddo tribe, she has a unique link to a traditional folk art of her tribe, the beaded crowns of their tribal princess. The



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meaning and value of folk art in the form of these beaded treasures is only one part of the story. Worthington will give the audience insight into the community, its history, and the continuance of culture as exemplified in the combining of European glass beads with Native design and value.

SCIC Native American Film Festival

Pow Wow Highway (1989)

Wednesday, August 26, 6:30–9:30 p.m.

Gary Farmer is the standout in a fine film by Jonathan Wacks about an oversized Cheyenne man-child (Farmer) who decides to go on a spiritual quest, while simultaneously giving a ride to his lifelong Indian activist friend (A. Martinez). Although their road trip takes them through some pretty desolate Indian communities, revealing the harsher aspects of life on some reservations, the primary emphasis is on Farmer's delightful performance. Among the cast are Graham Greene (*Dances with Wolves*) and Wes Studi (*The Last of the Mohicans*), neither of whom were well-known when this film was released.

StoryTime

Sunday, September 6, 1:30–2:30 p.m.

Gather round for storytelling and a cultural presentation by Southwest Museum docents. This month's stories are *Dream Wolf* by Paul Goble, and *Shota and the Star Quilt* by Margaret Bateson-Hill and Gloria Runs Close to Lodge.

NELAart Second Saturday Gallery Night

Saturday, September 12, 7:00–10:00 p.m.

Meet artist Raoul de la Sota, view his vibrantly colorful paintings and sculptures, and enjoy hot chocolate and *pan dulce*.

Let's Make History: Northwest Coast Mask

Sunday, September 13, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Masks are an important part of the Northwest Coast tribal culture. Masks played a significant role in the stories and legends that were passed down from generation to generation. Join us and make a Northwest Coast-style mask of your own.

Dig It! Family Style

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A View From the Braun Lecture Series

Imagery and Reality: The Role of American Indians in Film and Television

Saturday, September 26, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Paul Apodaca, Ph.D., Associate Professor at Chapman University and Southwest Museum Lecturer-in-Residence, has a keen interest in film and American Indians. He was part of the team that won the Academy Award in 1986 for the Best Feature Documentary, *Broken Rainbow*, which exposed a government plan to remove hundreds of Navajo and Hopi Indians from their homeland. How film has affected the imagery and reality of American Indians will be discussed along with examples of film and television depictions from 1914 to the present day.

Southwest Museum of the American Indian

The Southwest Museum holds one of the nation's most important museum, library, and archive collections related to the American Indian. In addition, it has extensive holdings of pre-Hispanic, Spanish Colonial, Latino, and Western American art and artifacts. For over 100 years it has supported research, publications, exhibitions, and other educational activities to advance the public's understanding and appreciation of the Americas, with particular emphasis on the western United States and Mesoamerica. The Southwest Museum is located at 234 Museum Drive in Mt. Washington and is easily accessible via the Metro Rail Gold Line, which stops directly across from the museum.

The Southwest Museum and the museum store are open Saturday and Sunday, noon. to 5 p.m. during restoration and conservation projects. Admission is free.

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