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October 14, 2015
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Agua Caliente Exhibition Selected to Travel to the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian

Palm Springs, CA, October 14, 2015 - **Allison Hicks**, Co-Chair of the National Council of the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Washington, DC, attended the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum *Dinner in the Canyons* fundraiser in Palm Springs on October 10 to deliver a special message.

Hicks announced that the **Section 14 - The Other Palm Springs** exhibition curated by Agua Caliente Cultural Museum and currently on display at the Museum through January 10, 2016 has been selected to travel to the National Museum of the American Indian in 2018.

"We are so honored to be able to bring such an important exhibition about Agua Caliente to the National Museum of the American Indian," said Hicks, a member of the Prairie Band of Potawatomie Indians. "We feel that Native communities tell their own stories best, and we are thrilled to partner."

Kevin Gover, the Director of NMAI, visited Agua Caliente Cultural Museum while in Palm Springs in March. After seeing the exhibition, he sent a note to Executive Director **Michael Hammond** saying, "Michael, I love this exhibition. How do we get it at the Smithsonian?"

After a series of follow-up conversations, it was agreed the exhibition would be displayed at NMAI - a museum that represents all Indigenous people of the Americas. The exhibition will be viewed by more than 2 million NMAI visitors annually.



"We are the first tribal museum to ever be invited," said Hammond. "In my field, this is big news - truly a moment. *Section 14 - The Other Palm Springs* is about land struggle in the West. It is about the dominant culture trying to take land away from traditional inhabitants of the land. It is about racism. It is about a reporter winning a Pulitzer Prize for uncovering graft and corruption that was being used against Tribal members fighting for sovereignty and to preserve their ancestral lands."

About Agua Caliente Cultural Museum

In 1991, a modest museum of less than 1,600 square feet was founded to collect and preserve stories and artifacts of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and share them with local residents and visitors alike. Today, Museum programming provides a thriving resource for Native and non-Native people and a dynamic forum for permanent residents and visitors of all ages.

Museum offerings that serve over 28,000 adults and children each year include: quality exhibitions at the Museum, at off-site locations, and online; stimulating and enlightening lectures; classes and demonstrations that feature hands-on experiences with Native skills and crafts; a six-day Native film festival and other cultural special events; library and archives research opportunities; Museum tours; guided cultural hikes; and presentations for students in schools.

For teachers, students, artists, scholars, and collectors the Museum's holdings provide unique research and archival resources -- from recordings of a tribal *net* (ceremonial and political leader) to the documentation of ongoing challenges made to tribal land and water rights. Free online resources are available on the Museum Web site at www.accmuseum.org.

Agua Caliente Cultural Museum is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit institution. In keeping with its mission, the Museum inspires people to learn about the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and other Native cultures through exhibitions, collections, research, and educational programs.

In recognition of its role as a regional and national resource, Agua Caliente Cultural Museum was the first Native American museum to be part of the prestigious Smithsonian Institution Affiliations Program. The association with Smithsonian Institution provides opportunities for a mutual sharing of resources in collections, scholarship, programming, and technical expertise, and entitles the Museum to bring world-acclaimed Smithsonian exhibitions to the Coachella Valley.

Agua Caliente Cultural Museum is located at 219 South Palm Canyon Drive in downtown Palm Springs. The Museum is open September through May -- Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 am to 5:00 PM and June through August -- Friday through Sunday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Admission to the Museum is free.

Administration Offices of the Museum are located at 901 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Suite C-204, Palm Springs, CA 92262. Additional information is available at 760.778.1079 or visit www.accmuseum.org.

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