

International Museum Day
**AGUA CALIENTE
CULTURAL MUSEUM**
Thursday May 18

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**Agua Caliente Cultural Museum Announces
International Museum Day
May 18, 2017
6:00 - 8:00 PM**

PALM SPRINGS, CA, April 19, 2017 - As the first Native American Museum to be part of the Smithsonian Institution's Affiliate Program, the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum is excited to continue its legacy by announcing inclusion in **International Museum Day on May 18th, 2017** with a special open house from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. Executive Director, Julia Bussinger announced, "Agua Caliente Cultural Museum will join the museum community around the globe to become a hub for promoting peaceful relationships among people, encouraging them to engage in a continuing dialogue about challenge, culture, and identity. International Council of Museums (ICOM) established International Museum Day in 1977 to increase public awareness of the role of museums in the development of our society."

This evening of free cultural heritage, with native singers, dancers and musicians performing both within the museum and outside on the Village Green, will be held in conjunction with VillageFest.

The evening will include an exclusive viewing of a Native work basket before it is sealed away in secure storage. "This basket has returned home to the Coachella Valley just in time for International Museum Day," said Julia Bussinger. "After a four month conservation project in conjunction with the Getty Center in Los Angeles, the Museum is truly excited to present a unique display of this precious artifact, along with a rare opportunity to meet and talk to its conservator, Marci Jefcoat Burton," Bussinger added. We hope that this free live celebration, rooted in cultural heritage, is slated to become an annual event here in Palm Springs, as well as a lasting part of the global platform for building bridges through the sharing and understanding of a broader cultural heritage.



About Agua Caliente Cultural Museum - Agua Caliente Cultural Museum (ACCM) was founded in 1991 by six esteemed leaders of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians who saw the need to preserve their Tribal heritage, including its collections of archival material and cultural items. Today that facility serves over 20,000 visitors a year in downtown Palm Springs along with satellite cultural events, a research library and educational outreach programs, all while helping to conserve the historic treasures of the Coachella Valley.

ACCM is now governed by an independent Board of Directors who play a hands-on role in the Museum's regular activities. In 2003, ACCM became the *first* Native American museum to be accepted as part of Smithsonian Institution's Affiliate Program. Now a Federally recognized 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization, ACCM is supported through a combination of independent donations, charitable grants and fundraising endeavors. These funds annually sustain its mission - "To inspire people to learn about the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and other Native cultures. We keep the spirit alive through exhibitions, collections, research and educational programs."

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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 on Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and June through August on 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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Agua Caliente Cultural Museum, 901 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Suite C-204, Palm Springs, CA 92262

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