

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 8, 2024

## **The Autry Museum's Annual American Indian Arts Festival Returns to Griffith Park in June 2024**

*On June 8 and 9, the American Indian Arts Festival will bring together Native artists from across the Nation to sell and celebrate their art with the Los Angeles community.*



*The American Indian Arts Festival invites Native and non-Native people to share knowledge and celebrate Native American culture at a multi-tribal event. (Photo Courtesy of the Autry Museum of the American West)*

**(May 8, 2024 - Los Angeles, CA)**—The Autry Museum of the American West hosts its 33<sup>rd</sup> annual [\*\*American Indian Arts Festival \(AIAF\)\*\*](#) to showcase some of the best contemporary and traditional Native artwork, including jewelry, Pueblo pottery, sculpture, basketry and beadwork.

On June 8-9, 2024, festival attendees are invited to immerse themselves in a vibrant celebration of art and culture while engaging in a deeper dialogue about the importance of preserving and honoring our shared cultural heritage.

At the heart of the festival's mission lies a commitment to spotlighting the contributions of California's Native communities, whose voices have too often been overlooked in the broader art world.

The Autry is changing this narrative by using the festival as a platform to highlight the enduring spirit and continued contributions of artists like **Leah Mata-Fragua** (Northern Chumash). Her artwork graces the Autry exhibitions [Human Nature](#) and [Reclaiming El Camino: Native Resistance in the Missions and Beyond](#).



*The Autry encourages guests to buy art in a space where purchasing Native art is an opportunity for collectors to directly support Native American artists. (Photo Courtesy of the Autry Museum of the American West)*

**River Tikwi Garza** (Tongva), whose work is also part of several Autry exhibitions, will be creating a new artwork live during the festival. Participants have an opportunity to engage in linoleum block printing using River's designs influenced by Tongva iconography, basket patterns, and elements of his own artistic style.

Admission to the museum is included with the ticket price, where you will find works on display that explore the diversity and excellence of Native American artwork from artists like **Cara Romero** (Chemehuevi), **Harry Fonseca** (Nisenan Maidu) and many more.

For more information, please visit [TheAutry.org/AIAF](https://TheAutry.org/AIAF).

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Linoleum Block Printing Workshop & Live Paint with River Garza

Ethnobotanical Garden

Saturday and Sunday, 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Discover the art of linoleum block printing, using designs created by artist River Tikwi Garza (Tongva), who was inspired by Tongva iconography, basket patterns and elements of his own artistic practice.

River will be live painting a new art piece on site throughout the festival, and you can also see some of his completed work in our exhibitions, *California Continued: Human Nature* and *Reclaiming El Camino: Native Resistance in the Missions and Beyond*.

Waging Words: Poetry by Indigenous Women

Sprague Gallery | *Reclaiming El Camino: Native Resistance in the Missions and Beyond*

Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

In-gallery poetry readings by established and emerging Native poets, exploring their lived-experience as Indigenous women living in Los Angeles and responding to the themes and ideas in the exhibition *Reclaiming El Camino*. Curated by Pamela J. Peters (Navajo)

Sundance Institute Short Film Screenings

Autry Theatre

Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

The 2024 Sundance Institute Indigenous Short Film Tour is a 75-minute theatrical program featuring short films from the 2024 Sundance Film Festival and from alumni of Sundance Institute's Indigenous Program. Introduction by Adam Piron (Kiowa/Mohawk) Director, Sundance Institute's Indigenous Program.

## PERFORMANCES

Heritage Court (inside the museum)

12:30 p.m. Tongva Flute Music

Tongva culture-bearer and artist, Lazaro Arvizu, plays the flute and sings traditional songs to open the afternoon performances on our Festival Stage.

1 p.m. Wildhorse Singers and Dancers

Since 1989, Wildhorse Native American Association has been assisting urban Native American children and adolescents with cultural preservation. Gather around the drum with these talented youth as they demonstrate traditional powwow dance styles and traditional songs.

## 2 p.m. Hoop Dance Workshop

The art of hoop dance honors cultural traditions from multiple Indigenous communities that first employed hoop dance as a healing ceremony. Today, hoop dance is shared as an artistic expression to celebrate, share and honor Indigenous traditions. Try your skills in a workshop with world champion hoop dancer, Terry L. Goedel (Yakama/Tulalip).

## 3 p.m. Wildhorse Singers and Dancers

## 4 p.m. Hoop Dancing with Terry L Goedel (Yakama/Tulalip) and n8tivehoop

See an extraordinary display of artistry, athleticism and tradition in a multigenerational performance by renowned hoop dancers from the Goedel Family. Each dancer presents their own variation of the intertribal hoop dance, weaving in aspects of tradition and culture.

### **American Indian Arts Festival is sponsored by:**

David W. Cartwright · Snowdy Dodson · Leslie and Aaron Kern · The Plummer Family · Lora and Robert Sandroni · Davey Williams



### **About the Autry Museum of the American West**

The Autry is a museum dedicated to exploring and sharing the stories, experiences, and perceptions of the diverse peoples of the American West, connecting the past to the present to inspire our shared future. The museum presents a wide range of exhibitions and public programs—including lectures, film, theatre, festivals, family events, and music—and performs scholarship, research, and educational outreach. The Autry’s collection of more than 600,000 pieces of art and cultural objects includes one of the largest and most significant of Native American materials in the United States. For more information, please visit [TheAutry.org](https://www.theautry.org).

The Autry Museum of the American West acknowledges the [Gabrielino/Tongva](#) peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (the Los Angeles basin and So. Channel Islands). We recognize that the Autry Museum and its campuses are located on the traditional lands of Gabrielino/Tongva peoples and we pay our respects to the Honuukvetam (Ancestors), ‘Ahihirom (Elders) and ‘Eyoohiinkem (our relatives/relations) past, present and emerging.



**Autry Museum of the American West | Griffith Park**

4700 Western Heritage Way

Los Angeles, CA 90027-1462

[Website](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [TikTok](#)

**Museum and Store Hours**

Tuesday–Friday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

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