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## SECURING THE FUTURE

### **Private Donors Create Museum of Indian Arts and Culture Exhibition Endowment Fund to Ensure Long-Term Support for Exhibitions**

SANTA FE – In conjunction with a generous \$500,000 donation to the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture (MIAC) from JoAnn and Bob Balzer of Santa Fe, the Museum of New Mexico Foundation is pleased to announce the creation of the Friends of MIAC Exhibition Endowment Fund by Uschi and Bill Butler of Santa Fe.

The Butlers will contribute a total of \$25,000 a year to the museum over the next decade. Every year, \$15,000 will go into the Friends of MIAC Endowment Fund. The remaining \$10,000 will directly fund exhibitions in the new JoAnn and Bob Balzer Native Market and Contemporary Art Gallery.

“The genesis of this gift was principally to support the Balzers. They’re making that contemporary exhibition space a reality,” says Bill Butler. “We wanted to enhance what the Balzers were doing in a permanent way, to help support exhibitions that are so important to have in this new space.”

The Butlers’ support for Native art and artists began nearly four decades ago. “Uschi started coming to Indian Market in the mid-1980s. My first market was 1994,” Butler says. “One of the first things we did when we moved to Santa Fe was to join Friends of Indian Art.”

It was through the MIAC Friends group that they met the Balzers and began to understand the vital need for private support of museum exhibitions, which are not funded by the State of New Mexico. It made perfect sense to name the endowment after Friends of MIAC in the hopes that it will encourage others to add to the exhibition fund.

“Wouldn’t it be nice to have an even bigger endowment for exhibitions?” Butler asks. “I hope this is just the beginning of an endowment that could grow to a million dollars over a period of time. This is just a way to get going right away, so that the money is there to help the first exhibition in that (Balzer) gallery.”

Foundation President/CEO Jamie Clements says the new fund is the Foundation's 31<sup>st</sup> endowment, and will likely be valued at \$200,000 after a decade of interest. Currently, endowments to the Foundation total around \$26 million. Each year, in addition to private giving, approximately \$575,000 in endowment earnings fund museum exhibitions, education and acquisitions at MIAC, the New Mexico History Museum, New Mexico Museum of Art, Museum of International Folk Art, and eight statewide historic sites. A lesser portion of those earnings also helps support Foundation operations.

"We count on these monies to support the state museum system and the Foundation from individuals who have had the foresight to establish these endowments, either through bequests or contributions during their lifetime," Clements says. "They're really all about securing the future of New Mexico's cultural heritage."

#### **About the Museum of New Mexico Foundation**

The Museum of New Mexico Foundation supports the Museum of New Mexico system, focusing on fundraising for exhibitions and education programs, retail and licensing programs, financial management, advocacy and special initiatives. The Foundation was founded in 1962 by Thomas B. Catron III with the goal of providing private support for the four state museums in Santa Fe. The private, nonprofit Foundation has expanded to support eight historic sites statewide as well as the Office of Archaeological Studies and enjoys a robust private-public partnership with the State of New Mexico and the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs.

**For more information, go to [museumfoundation.org](http://museumfoundation.org).**