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First Americans Museum to receive \$40,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

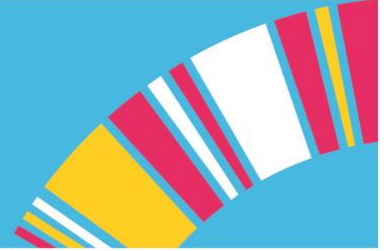
OKLAHOMA CITY (February 4, 2021) – First Americans Museum (FAM) has been awarded \$40,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts. The award will support the publication of the inaugural exhibition catalogues for *OKLA HOMMA* and *WINIKO: Life of an Object*. FAM is scheduled to open September 18, 2021.

The two FAM catalogues are among 1,073 projects across America totaling nearly \$25 million that were selected during this first round of fiscal year 2021 funding in the Grants for Arts Projects funding category.

“The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support this project from the First Americans Museum,” said Arts Endowment Acting Chairman Ann Eilers. “The museum is among the arts organizations across the country that have demonstrated creativity, excellence, and resilience during this very challenging year.”

“We are grateful for the support from the National Endowment for the Arts,” said heather ahtone*, a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation and FAM Senior Curator. “We are preparing a world class experience for our visitors in the galleries. The exhibition catalogues will complement the experience through the voices of our contributing community members”

FAM will use the funding to publish catalogues based on the two inaugural exhibitions. The larger exhibition, *OKLA HOMMA*, will speak to the collective history of the 39 Tribal Nations in Oklahoma today. Only a few of those tribes were original inhabitants. Most were removed from their ancestral homelands to what is now the State of Oklahoma. The state and the title of the exhibition come from two Choctaw words Okla and Homma which means “red people,” the place we now call home. The Mezzanine exhibition, *WINIKO: Life of an Object*, features approximately 140 objects on a long-term loan from the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian. Many of these objects were collected in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century from tribes in Oklahoma. This will be the first time the objects have returned to Oklahoma to be in relationships to the tribe of origin.



The First Americans Museum is committed to serving as a dynamic center promoting awareness and educating the broader public of the unique cultures, diversity, history, contributions, and resilience of the First American Nations in Oklahoma today.

The 175,000-square-foot museum, located at 659 First Americans Boulevard in Oklahoma City, will showcase state-of-the-art exhibitions of First Americans history, culture and art; offer public and educational programs; a family discovery center; a full-service restaurant; and a museum store featuring authentic, one-of-a-kind handmade items by premier First American artists.

For more information on projects included in the Arts Endowment grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news). Visit www.famok.org for FAM updates.

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* ahtone prefers her name in lowercase as an objection to colonialist language hierarchy.