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Ginny Underwood
Marketing and Communications Manager
ginnyu@famok.org
405.229.7210

Leon Natker Joins the FAM Associate Director for Institutional Advancement

Point of contact for funders, donors and corporate partners

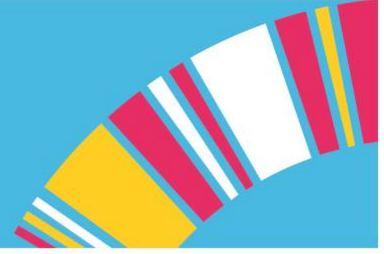
OKLAHOMA CITY (January 7, 2021) – First Americans Museum (FAM) announces Leon Natker as its Associate Director for Institutional Advancement effective January 11, 2021. Natker will join the FAM executive leadership team. He will be responsible for sustaining current FAM supporters and stakeholders, while cultivating broader private and public support for this national treasure.

“Leon brings more than 20 years of experience with a specific expertise managing and developing non-profit organizations,” said James Pepper Henry, First Americans Museum Director/CEO. “We are very excited to have Leon bring his knowledge and experience to FAM as we quickly move toward our grand opening September 18, 2021.”

Natker will oversee all of FAM’s fundraising strategies including membership, major gifts, annual and capital campaigns, planned giving and endowment, and special events.

“I am very excited and looking forward to beginning work on behalf of the First Americans Museum,” said Leon Natker who is currently serving as a grant manager consultant for The Hopi School and as executive director/chief curator for the New Mexico Holocaust Museum. “My immediate focus will be two-fold, completing the capital campaign in advance of our September opening and developing a robust membership campaign that can support the museum for years to come.”

In addition to his fundraising and development background, Natker is an artist, archaeologist/anthropologist and historian. He holds degrees in Museum Studies from the University of New Mexico and archaeology from Eastern New Mexico University. He has participated in archaeological digs at the Yangguzhai site in central China, Chaco Canyon and Gila Cliffs. Natker has worked on historic preservation projects at Montezuma Castle, Bandelier National Monument, the Kuau Pueblo in New Mexico and as Executive Director of the Mesa



Historic Museum. Other Museum positions have included collections management and co-curation of exhibits at the Maxwell Museum, Blackwater Draw, and the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe. He is a published author and lecturer in archaeology of the southwest.

Natker successfully led an \$8 million capital campaign for the renovation and purchase of the historic North Park Theatre in San Diego.

"Leon's historical expertise and experience working with diverse donors, tribes, and foundations will help position FAM to become the 'must-see' travel destination in the heartland of the United States," said Pepper Henry.

About First Americans Museum: To serve 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 in First Americans history, culture and art; 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 Americans artists.

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