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**First Americans Museum Wins 2022 AASLH History in Progress Award and
Award of Excellence**

Nashville, TN – The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) has selected First Americans Museum (FAM) as a recipient of the History in Progress (HIP) Award and Award of Excellence for Winiko: Life of an Object.

The AASLH Leadership in History Awards is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history.

The HIP Award, given at the discretion of the AASLH Awards Committee, is an additional award for an Award of Excellence winner whose nomination is highly inspirational, exhibits exceptional scholarship, and/or is exceedingly entrepreneurial in terms of funding, partnerships, collaborations, creative problem solving, unusual project design, or inclusiveness. Only 5% or fewer of the total number of Award of Excellence winners can be given the HIP Award.

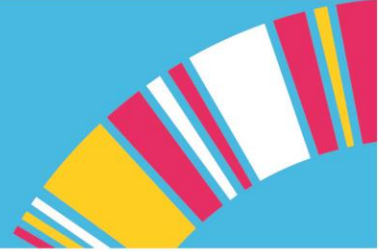
WINIKO: Life of an Object, Selections from the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian is in the Mezzanine Gallery on the second floor. WINIKO: Life of an Object examines

the things we create—how they reflect our values, possess spiritual significance and carry our ways into future generations. Selections include over 100 cultural materials collected from tribes in Oklahoma in the early 1900s. The NMAI objects left Oklahoma when non-Native institutions were rapidly acquiring materials from our so-called “vanishing” tribal cultures. It is poignant that, 100 years later, an all-Native curatorial team has led the process of returning these objects to our state. FAM chose to honor these objects’ homecoming by facilitating reunions between the historic objects and the descendants of their makers or owners.

“It is such an honor to receive this award for our work on WINIKO: Life of an Object. This exhibition is the result of a great deal of love by the curatorial team, including Welana Queton and Hallie Winter. We could not have done this without the active participation of the tribal nation partners,” said Curatorial Director, Heather Ahtone. “We believe our work on this gallery is a model for how museums can work with tribal nations. We appreciate the teams at Ralph Appelbaum Associates and Kubik Maltbie that brought our vision to fruition.”

This year, AASLH confers 53 national awards honoring people, projects, exhibits, and publications. The winners represent the best in the field and provide leadership for the future of state and local history.

The AASLH awards program was initiated in 1945 to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history throughout the United States. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards not only honor significant achievement in the



field of state and local history, but also bring public recognition of the opportunities for small and large organizations, institutions, and programs to make contributions in this arena. For more information about the Leadership in History Awards, contact AASLH at 615-320-3203, or go to www.aaslh.org.

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About First Americans Museum

The mission of FAM is to educate the broader public about the unique cultures, diversity, history, and contributions of the 39 Tribal Nations in Oklahoma today. The 175,000 square foot facility showcases state-of-the-art exhibitions in history, culture, and art; live public and education programs; a fullservice restaurant presenting unique Native inspired cuisine; and a museum store featuring one-of-a-kind hand-made items created by Oklahoma's premier Native American artists.

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The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), a national nonprofit association, provides leadership and resources to help the history community thrive and make the past more meaningful for all people. AASLH serves the tens of thousands of history organizations, professionals, and volunteers around the country who help people of all ages develop critical thinking skills and understand how learning history helps society make progress toward justice. Through research, advocacy, and our field-leading professional development program, AASLH advances public history practice and connects history practitioners to critical issues in the field and to one another. For more information about AASLH visit www.aaslh.org.