



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FAM awarded with \$225,000 Henry Luce Foundation grant for WINIKO:  
Reunion research.**

OKLAHOMA CITY (August 10, 2023) – First Americans Museum (FAM) has received a significant award from the Henry Luce Foundation. FAM’s Curatorial Affairs office has been granted \$225,000 to support efforts to reunite objects on loan from the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian with tribal communities and families on view in *WINIKO: Life of an Object, Selections from the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian*.

Following the successful opening of *WINIKO: Life of an Object*, the Curatorial Affairs department is revisiting research initiated during the preparatory phases that were interrupted by the pandemic. This important work seeks to create reunions between tribal community families and their related objects on loan from the national collection.

The Henry Luce Foundation grant provides the Curatorial Affairs department with the capacity to document the Reunion research through a publication and feature length film, sharing the stories of how FAM connected the historic items to the descendant families and communities. Additionally, gallery updates are funded by this grant that will improve the visitors’ experience by providing a dedicated viewing space for the Reunion film in the Mezzanine Gallery .

The Curatorial Affairs team began consultations with tribal communities across Oklahoma during the summer of 2023. This research will continue through 2024. Upon completion of the research, FAM will produce a book and feature length film to share the stories that emerge from this work.

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**About First Americans Museum**

FAM’s mission 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 full-service restaurant presenting unique Native-inspired cuisine; and a museum shop featuring one-of-a-kind hand-made items created by Oklahoma's premier Native American artists.