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IMLS Awards \$220,000 Leadership Grant to Tucson Museum of Art

Tucson, AZ - Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block (TMA) has been awarded a \$220,000 National Leadership Grant for Museums by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for *Expanding Narratives*, an interdisciplinary project that will support the development of culturally responsive approaches to gallery-based instruction, curatorial practices, and programming. The three-year project will begin on November 1, 2019.

The National Leadership Grant for Museums program supports projects that address critical needs of the museum field and have the potential to advance practice in the profession, improving services for the American public. The grants address evolving needs and trends for museums, contributing best practices, tested tools, and innovative partnership models for the entire sector.

“As centers of learning and catalysts of community change, libraries and museums connect people with programs, services, collections, information, and new ideas in the arts, sciences, and humanities. They serve as vital spaces where people can connect with each other,” said IMLS Director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew. “IMLS is proud to support their work through our grant making as they inform and inspire all in their communities.”

The primary objectives of *Expanding Narratives* are:

- Cultivate collaborations with local communities and engage in critical conversations to explore the intersections between works of art in TMA’s permanent collection and the cultures from which those works originate and represent.
- Examine how TMA cares for and interprets the collection and how the museum reflects the diverse demographics and culture of the region.
- Critically investigate and review how the museum presents information and knowledge and who constructs these narratives.

“This is one of the largest national grants awarded in the museum’s history and enables TMA to champion inclusion and equity by fostering a responsive, collaborative, and multivocal institution,” said TMA CEO Jeremy Mikolajczak. “The award validates the exemplary work of curators, Dr. Marianna Pegno and Christine Brindza. Most importantly, it comes at a critical time in TMA’s history as we examine our collecting practices and develop our vision for an impactful community-driven future.”

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America’s museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Our vision is a nation where museums and libraries





work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

About the Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block

The Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block's mission is Connecting Art to Life. The museum was founded in 1924 and is located in the El Presidio Historic District of downtown Tucson. It is Southern Arizona's premier presenter of fine art and art education programs.

The museum features permanent and traveling exhibitions of Modern and Contemporary, Native American, American West, Latin American, pre-Columbian, European and Asian art. The 74,000-square-foot museum offers guided tours and education programs. The museum's historic block of 19th and 20th-century adobe and Mission Revival-style buildings, encompassing a four-acre city block, includes the highly acclaimed museum restaurant Café a la C'Art, the Museum Store and additional exhibition spaces.

TMA is a private 501(c)(3) charitable arts and education organization. For additional information visit TucsonMuseumofArt.org or call (520) 624-2333.

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