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Stories of Resilience Opens at the Arizona History Museum ***New exhibit shares three perspectives on resilience in Arizona communities***

TUCSON, AZ (April 11, 2019) — The Arizona Historical Society is proud to announce a new exhibit at the Arizona History Museum in Tucson titled *Stories of Resilience: Overcoming Adversity in Arizona History*. For this exhibit, the Arizona Historical Society presents several perspectives of human resilience - from Arizona's past to the present. These are the stories of ordinary people facing extraordinary situations, who found the will and a way to survive. Their individual and collective stories of resilience serve as a reminder that humans are innately resilient, with the ability to overcome nearly impossible obstacles. The exhibit is open at the museum through December 31, 2019.

Dr. James Burns, Executive Director of the Arizona Historical Society shared, "We are extremely proud to open *Stories of Resilience* at Tucson's Arizona History Museum. Resilience as a theme directly ties into our mission to connect people through the power of Arizona's history. By experiencing the stories of very different Arizonans from the past to present, we invite people to visit and explore their own stories of resilience with their families and friends."

Stories of Resilience presents three perspectives on resilience:

Community Resilience focuses on how the Tucson community came together to grieve, comfort and heal in the aftermath of the January 8, 2011, shooting. The January 8th space contains objects from three memorials that were created by the Tucson community in the hours, days, and weeks after the event. Candles, plates, signs, flowers, and more were brought to the different sites to show the love and support from the Tucson community. Visitors to the museum can watch interviews from Ron Barber and Jim Tucker talk about their experience on January 8 and the years after, and learn from Sociologist Monica Casper about how humans channel resilience. Special thank you to Tucson's January 8th Foundation and The Marshall Foundation for their support.

Faces of Resilience is a collection of artwork by local artist Kim Nicolini that joins art, archives and storytelling to shed light on untold stories of resilience. As Nicolini shared, "Resilience is not a standalone incident, time, culture, or population. It is the cumulative lessons and experiences of all of us contributing to each other. Opening our doors and our eyes, and inviting each other to really see and connect through past and present histories, we can become more resilient together."

Faces of Resilience combines Kim Nicolini's lifetime commitment to using creative arts, living people, and archival photos to sheds new light on what constitutes resilience by paying tribute to those rarely recognized for their role in the human, historical, and economic landscape. The stories included in the artwork are a human archive both of and for these previously marginalized people, situating them within the context of communities and landscapes where survival is never assured.

Resilient Arizonans looks at the lives of a diverse group of Arizonans, from the 1800s to the present, who overcame adversity. The challenges faced and overcome by these men and women are riveting and moving.

As part of *Resilient Arizonans*, Laurie McKenna's *The Undesirables* installation explores the story of the Bisbee Deportation of 1917. On July 12th, 1917 in Bisbee, AZ mining companies and the Sheriff armed approximately 2000 citizens and rounded up 1,196 striking miners and their supporters. The striking miners were marched to a baseball park, loaded into cattle cars, and banished to the desert in New Mexico. The strike was called by the Industrial Workers of the World and the workers were accused of being subversives, unpatriotic, and a threat to public safety.

McKenna developed a series of works on paper, souvenirs, video vignettes, and curated a series of informative pamphlets. The central work in the installation is comprised of 1,200 individual rubbings of a 1917 penny that commemorates each man, by name who were unlawfully taken and banished from their homes in Bisbee. Laurie considers the process of making the rubbings as an endurance piece, and the rubbings themselves the resulting monument, "A labor of love for the love of labor".

McKenna's *The Undesirables* was first presented on the 100th anniversary of the event in 2017 in Bisbee, Arizona.

Stories of Resilience will be on display at the Arizona History Museum through December 31, 2019. Please visit <https://arizonahistoricalociety.org/tucson> for programs and events.

The Arizona History Museum is located at 949 E. 2nd Street, Tucson, Arizona 85719. Free validated parking is available at the Main Gate Garage, located on Euclid Avenue and 2nd Street. Admission is Adults \$10, Seniors \$8, Student Adult \$5, Student Youth (7-17) \$4, Child (6 and under) free. Veterans and AHS members free. Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

For questions, please contact the Arizona History Museum at 520.628.5774 or <https://arizonahistoricalociety.org/tucson>.

The Arizona Historical Society would like to thank the generous sponsors of *Stories of Resilience*: Tucson's January 8th Foundation, The Marshall Foundation, and The Friends of Arizona History, Inc.

In addition, thank you to the additional support from: Arizona Daily Star, Jim Sell, AHS Library & Archives, Craig McEwan, Don Regole, Betty Cook, Crystal Kasnoff, Monica Casper, Ron Barber , Lydia Otero, Jim Tucker, Thomas Sheridan, Kim Nicolini, Dan Buckley, Laurie McKenna, Ralph Wong, Tony Robles, and all of the Focus Group Participants.

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About Arizona Historical Society

Mission: Connecting people through the power of Arizona's history.

Founded in 1864, the Arizona Historical Society (AHS) is the state's oldest and most prestigious historical organization, dedicated to collecting, preserving and sharing Arizona's rich history. The stories of the people, places and events that have shaped Arizona – are told through museum exhibits, programs, events and outreach. The Arizona Historical Society is proud to serve as the steward of Arizona's history. Our collections, housed in AHS museum facilities throughout the state, number in excess of three million objects. Our artifact and manuscript holdings offer opportunities for public programming, educational outreach, and exhibitions, as well as academic and community-based research. AHS is a proud sponsor of National History Day in Arizona, a year-long academic program focused on historical research, interpretation and creative expression for middle school and high school students.

For additional information, visit www.arizonahistoricalsociety.org