

AQ

WINTER 2018

AH-TAH-THI-KI QUARTERLY



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
AH-TAH-THI-KI
M U S E U M
A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.



The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Annual Report 2017

CELEBRATE, PRESERVE AND INTERPRET SEMINOLE HISTORY AND CULTURE

Our deepest thanks to the Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Council for their support and guidance during 2017:

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr.
Vice Chairman Mitchell Cypress
Councilman Manuel Tiger, Big Cypress
Councilman Andrew J. Bowers, Jr., Brighton
Councilman Christopher Osceola, Hollywood

Chartered by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Council,
January 1989

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All of the photographs in this AQ were taken by the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum staff (Paul Backhouse, Tara Backhouse, Ellen Batchelor, Robin Croskery Howard, Carrie Dilley, Rebecca Fell, Kate Macuen, Siobhan Millar, Rebecca Petrie) unless otherwise noted.

On the cover: Beaded necklace made by Tina Osceola. A 2017 acquisition, this necklace puts a modern spin on a more traditional style. ATTK Catalog No. 201740.1

— WINTER 2018 — AQ AH-TAH-THI-KI QUARTERLY

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Director's Note

Museums are important places of cultural preservation and community action. I am pleased to report that the focus of our work during 2017 was directed towards these important dual goals. Early in September the strongest recorded storm in the recorded history of the Atlantic basin brutally struck our Tribal Communities. We were well prepared for the landfall and took crucial steps, outlined in our emergency management plan, to safeguard the Tribe's precious cultural heritage from potential devastation. The Museum stood up to the storm admirably but the Big Cypress Community, where we are located, was not so lucky. Downed trees, power lines, flooding and damaged property wreaked-havoc on the community. Loss of power was perhaps the biggest blow and affected us for weeks following the storm. The community suffered with very limited access to the reservation and an almost complete loss of services. Museum staff helped in the community in every way we could. For instance, just getting the Museum Store open provided some much needed generator fueled air conditioning for community Members. After more than a month of hardship the American Indian Arts Celebration came at perhaps the ideal time. Indeed the event, held under beautiful blue skies, was exactly the tonic that everyone needed to come together and celebrate togetherness and unity. Record numbers of Tribal vendors, performers and visitors underscored just how important true community is. As you will read in the following pages, we are proud to be a community museum and invite you to join our community in 2018. **AQ**

PK

Paul N. Backhouse, Ph.D.
Museum Director



Staff Carrie Dilley and Tara Backhouse complete a first response damage assessment on the Boardwalk just days after Category 3 Hurricane Irma hit South Florida on September 10th.

By The Numbers

13
VOLUNTEERS AND
INTERNS

7
EXHIBITIONS

3,135
K-12 KIDS
SERVED

186,887
OBJECTS IN THE
COLLECTIONS

688,542
SOCIAL MEDIA
REACHES

334
INFORMATION
REQUESTS
FULFILLED

10
INCOMING
LOANS

5
PANTHER KITTEN
SIGHTINGS

15,991
MUSEUM
VISITORS

Winter sunglow through the cypress dome

AQ WINTER 2018
Editor
Kate Macuen

Contributors
Paul Backhouse, Tara Backhouse, Carrie Dilley,
Rebecca Fell, Rebecca Petrie
Editor's Correction: In the article The Big Cypress Tribal Oak printed in the Fall 2017 Issue, Ms. Claudia Doctor's clan was misprinted. She is from the Big Town clan.

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Collections Division: Stronger Together

By Tara Backhouse

Boxes of documents fill many of the new shelves, but thankfully not all of them!

2017 was an exciting and challenging year for us, as we completed an unprecedented archival collection re-installation, with an associated vault renovation. Continuing a project made possible by an IMLS Museums for America Grant Program award in the fall of 2016, we completed the initial inventory and packing of over 140,000 items in January. In February, the archival collection was moved to museum-quality offsite storage while the renovations were underway. By August, we had a brand new set of movable shelving installed in our vault. But our work was not done! After shipping the collection back to the Museum, we had to re-inventory and re-install the collection. By December 1st, this process was finished. We are very pleased to see that so many of the shelves are still empty. This will give us the room to preserve more pieces of Seminole history. After all, that was the main reason for this project.

The inventory completed by our Collections Assistant allowed us to create the most accurate count of objects in the Museum Collections that we've ever had. It's safe to say we have over 180,000 historic objects, documents, photographs, oral histories, works of art, and library books in the Museum's important collection. However, over 2/3 of the objects are yet to be cataloged. Only once they are all cataloged will we have a truly accurate count. It's hard to overcome a cataloging backlog like this, but our dedicated team made a dent in it in 2017. We added 5,374 records to our collection management database, and the corresponding objects are housed safely in our vaults. We added many newspapers and documents to the collection. Now our collection of the Tribe's newspaper, the Seminole Tribune and its predecessors Alligator Times and Seminole Indian News, is more accessible than ever. Issues going back to 1961 can be



Registrar Natasha Cuervo, Collections Assistant Misty Snyder and Research Coordinator Mary Beth Rosebrough work together on many projects to serve the Seminole Community.



Village Crafter Donna Frank transports a branch of a saw palmetto tree so that she can demonstrate how to harvest the fiber used to make traditional Seminole dolls.



The archival vault renovation project and the Seminole Tribune cataloging project were made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services [MA-30-16-0122-16 and MN-00-17-0035-17].

digitally searched by Library staff members to help fulfill community needs. We also cataloged many more clippings from Okeechobee area newspapers from the mid twentieth century. These pieces showcase activities near the Brighton Reservation, and they highlight the social struggles that Seminole people faced at the time. We also cataloged photographs and documents that belonged to Buffalo Tiger, the first Chairman of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida. The history of the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes is deeply interwoven, and we are honored to be able to preserve this history.

There were certainly a variety of things added to the collection in 2017 with the majority of objects being photographs. Dating from the 1940s to the early 2000s, these photographs show how the Seminole experience has evolved over recent times. Photographs taken by the Seminole Tribune newspaper reporters make up the largest part of our photograph collection. They are extremely valuable, as they chronicle the people, events, and government of the Tribe during a groundbreaking period of history. We have a lot of need to share our photographs with the community, therefore the more we can catalog, the better we can serve the Tribe. Thankfully at the end of the year we were able to ramp up our cataloging efforts. Another IMLS grant was awarded in October. This one was from the Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Grant Program and it allowed us to add a staff member who's only responsibility will be to catalog Tribune photographs. In 2018 we plan to make great strides in cataloging, increasing our numbers threefold.

Also added to our collections were many new oral histories. Our Oral History Coordinator worked with the community to record interviews and events for the Tribe. Sometimes people want to tell us about their lives and other times they want to share their talents or their knowledge of history and culture. Whatever it is, it's valuable to preserve. Many of these stories support the Museum's exhibits and other programs.

One way we make the collection accessible after it is cataloged is by fulfilling the various requests we get. All kinds of information and images are requested from within and outside our community. Our Research Coordinator helps other museums and cultural institutions, faculty at academic centers, students of all ages, authors, artists and interested amateurs with a vast variety of subjects. For the Seminole government and community, we provide support for programs and events with our knowledge and resources of Tribal history and our ability to furnish copies of historic photographs. Sometimes the information and image requests from our fellow departments turn into rewarding long-term collaborations. For instance, early in the year the Native Learning Center (a Seminole Tribe of Florida ongoing educational program that operates from Hollywood FL) asked us to provide a list of books that would be relevant in their on-site library. We happily did that, and since then we let them know when we discover new books they'd be interested in. We've also transferred extra copies of materials we have in our library so that together we can reach more of the community. Other requests are more personal in nature. In 2017 we were able to provide photographs to several members of the Seminole community, including books of photographs for two family reunions. In addition we re-built a family photo album for someone from Brighton. We also provided copies of over 300 postcards to a family on the Tamiami Trail who wanted to show them to other Trail residents. These are just a few examples of the rewarding work we do with requests in the Library.

Our division does a variety of work in collection management, conservation, oral history and demonstrations. None of which we could do without the help we get from volunteers. We worked with a total of 15 generous people from various backgrounds during 2017. From undergraduate and graduate students at local universities, to high school students from the Tribal community, we worked with everyone who came our way. While we benefit greatly from their help, we are also able to help them reach their academic or personal goals. Some of our temporary help comes through Tribal programs aimed at providing work experience for young community members. We design special projects for these folks based on their



Conservator Robin Croskery Howard cleans a large Noah Billie painting that will be on display through April 2018 in the Selections from the Collections gallery.

interests. Last summer we helped a sophomore in high school—an aspiring journalist—write an article about Seminole history and get it published in three different publications. It is only because we have specially trained staff with widespread expertise that we are able to work with the community in this way.

Our experts do a lot of different work in the service of the Tribe. In the Village, talented artisans share their wares with visitors from all over the world as well as our own backyard. This year, two talented artists joined that team. One makes beautiful beadwork and patchwork; her designs are popular and innovative. The other makes stunning baskets and demonstrates a variety of cultural activities. Through their activities they promote and preserve Seminole traditions, helping to spread the Seminole story far and wide. However, most of the division's activities are less easily seen by Museum visitors. For example, our Conservator cares for our collection objects by tracking their condition, performing treatments, and creating custom housing. This year she worked with our basket and firearm collections to make sure all objects were stable, properly housed, and correctly labeled. She cleaned artwork so that it could be put on exhibit in the Museum. She also works with other STOF departments to help care for the some of the art that isn't under our domain. She even started an outreach program in order to share her specialized knowledge with the community.

Our Registrar helps to spread the Seminole story by facilitating exhibitions with pieces from our collection at other museums. This year we loaned a pair of moccasins and a peace medal to the National Constitution Center for their exhibition titled The Story of We the People. Many people will see that exhibit and hopefully have more appreciation for Native American history. When we borrow fantastic objects from other museums or individuals to display in our museum, we have a different kind of effect. This year we borrowed pieces from four Seminole artists, as well as work from many young artists from the two Tribal schools, to display in temporary exhibits. This promotes Seminole artistry to the world and fosters local artists. Other loans are arranged for the purpose of acquiring objects for the collection. This gives us a chance to examine and research the objects prior to making a decision. Our 2017 collections loans involved 79 objects.

Our experience in 2017 showed us how much we are capable of accomplishing, and we look towards 2018 with one thought: We are stronger when we work together with each other, the community, and the world. There are many ways to be part of our team. If you would like to work with us, please let us know! **AQ**

Tara Backhouse is the Collections Manager for the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Retail Division: A Year of Celebrations!

By Rebecca Petrie



New and exclusive merchandise lined the Museum Store shelves in 2017!



2017 was a year of celebrations and a year of anniversaries. Even before January 1st the Retail Division had begun preparing for the Museum's 20th anniversary as well as the Seminole Tribe of Florida's 60th anniversary. Working with the Visitor's Services and Development Division, several new items were designed to promote both of these momentous events: a Tervis mug (which sold out before the end of the year), lapel pin and a magnet all featured the anniversary logo commemorating the Museum's 20th year of operation. Retail staff were also tasked with developing merchandise to honor the Tribe's 60th or diamond anniversary of federal recognition, What better than a diamond topped ball point pen?

Throughout the busy winter months we continued to look ahead. We had parties to plan for, merchandise to be purchased and events to plan! The design for the new custom holiday ornament, a Seminole Boy Doll, was finalized and we were told that the level of detail would include real feathers in his turban and a fabric neckerchief.

As the winter progressed into spring our staff attended events on various reservations from the Cattle Drive in Big Cypress to Tribal Fair in Hollywood promoting the Museum and the Museum Store. Meetings and conferences were attended, and staff geared up for summer. Summer is usually a time to regroup, but with the events planned to honor both the Tribe's and the Museum's anniversaries, there was little down time. August 19th

saw the picnic area behind the Museum transformed for the 20th Anniversary Celebration with chandeliers dipping from the tree branches, music, wonderful food and guests reminiscing about the Museum's beginnings. The Museum Store saw quite a bit of activity as our guests received gift bags with among other significant items, the diamond pen. They were able wander the Museum Store and purchased books, jewelry and the beautiful Council Oak silk scarf-- just one more exclusive item that was created to commemorate the work that went into the Tribe gaining federal recognition.

August 21, the Museum's actual anniversary date, coincided with the much anticipated solar eclipse. Although southern Florida was not in the path of totality, we did have a dramatic viewing of the darkening of the sun. To add to the festivities the Museum Store hosted a viewing party in the Museum's ceremonial grounds. We served Moon Pies, Sun Chips, sun tea, Sunkist soda and all manner of astral goodies.

Our guests shared eclipse viewing glasses and delighted in using pin-prick viewers as the sky gradually grew dark and the sun began to hide. Fortunately Seminole warrior Jake Osceola was on hand to shoot the moon with his "flaming" arrow, thus scaring it away from the darkened sun. Thank you to Jake for saving the world!

On September 10th, just short of three weeks after the solar eclipse event, Hurricane Irma paid a visit. The Museum was well



The store prepares for Irma.

prepared and because landfall was well to the west the damage the Museum sustained was primarily to the grounds. The Store was closed for over a week as we worked to put everything back in place. Retail staff worked alongside our co-workers to clear the boardwalk and parking lots as well as getting the Store back into shape.

We couldn't spend much time dwelling on Irma as the 20th American Indian Arts Celebration was coming up fast in November. Retail is responsible for arranging arts, crafts, and food vendors--and this year we had forty-two vendors. As well as managing the vendors for this event, Retail also staffed the parking lot admission gate with the help of both Museum and THPO staff. It was another very successful event as Retail sales increase by 40% from the 2016 celebration and was the most profitable in over six years.

November also welcomed our new Assistant Retail Manager Linda Bianchini. Linda moved to Naples from Pennsylvania to take this position after years in the retail food industry. Her knowledge of customer service will be a welcome addition.

We ended the year with a BANG! In mid-December the weather turned cool- for Southern Florida- putting everyone in a holiday mood. Our very successful mouth-blown, hand painted and glittered Seminole Girl Doll ornaments were joined by new Boy Doll ornament. Our gentlemen are dressed in a traditional big shirt and sports real feathers in their turban and a fabric neckerchief. We received our first shipment from Poland in November, just in time for the American Indian Arts Celebration.

Sales were brisk for both the Boy and Girl Doll ornaments and included wholesale sales to many Tribal departments. In addition to the Doll ornaments, the 2017 Patchwork inspired ornament, an annual tradition for seven years, was influenced by the Tribe's diamond anniversary. The pattern was adapted from a big shirt worn by Tiger Tail which featured yellow diamonds on a blue background.

As customers came into the Store to purchase their ornaments they also picked up some of our unique and interesting products, like our colorful socks, handcrafted Native American jewelry, and many of our exclusive products.

Yes, 2017 was a year of celebrations and we enjoyed stocking the store with new and exciting merchandise and reveled in our visitor's appreciation! *AQ*

Rebecca Petrie is the Retail Manager at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.



Jake Osceola shared the eclipse legend with visitors and shot at the moon with a "flaming" arrow.



This 1920s big shirt from the collection inspired the 2017 patchwork ornament. ATTK Catalog No. 2000.46.1.

Facilities Division: Keeping the Wheels Turning

By Kate Macuen



A sea of green! A chickee in the Ceremonial Ground gets rethatched.



Maintenance Staff Fermin Carranza takes a ride on the lift to make repairs to the front of the Museum.

THE BEHIND THE SCENES OF ANY MUSEUM IS A BUSY AND ACTIVE PLACE. IT TAKES A LOT OF HARDWORKING STAFF TO MAKE THE AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM RUN AS SMOOTHLY AS POSSIBLE. PROJECTS ARE ALWAYS IN THE WORKS, TAKING A TEAM EFFORT TO COORDINATE AND COMPLETE. OUR FACILITIES DIVISION IS ONE OF THE POWERHOUSES BEHIND MANY OF THESE PROJECTS AND HELPS KEEP OUR WHEELS TURNING ON A DAILY BASIS. AS YOU'LL READ THROUGHOUT THIS ANNUAL REPORT, 2017 WAS A BIG YEAR FOR THE MUSEUM AND FACILITIES WAS THERE EVERY STEP OF THE WAY, ENSURING OUR CAMPUS AND VISITOR SAFETY AND PROVIDING ESSENTIAL SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO EVERYTHING FROM SCHOOL TOUR GROUPS TO ROUTINE MAINTENANCE TASKS.



Maintenance Staff Maria De Santiago works hard to remove debris after Hurricane Irma



Our Security team: Charles Dunkley, Ellen Batchelor and Kenneth Bowers



The Archives Vault got a major facelift, showcasing new mobile shelving.



A mother panther and her two kittens cross the road behind the Museum.

The Museum had several facelifts throughout the year. The Museum lobby and outdoor entrance area received a new coat of paint, bringing life back into the 20 year old floor. Maintenance oversaw the replacement of a large section of the Boardwalk and several of the 21 chickees on campus were rethatched. Another big project was the switch of all fluorescent lightbulbs in the Museum and Curatorial buildings to LED bulbs, which is one of many steps the Museum is taking in an effort to be more environmentally conscious.

Safety on campus continued to be a top priority for our Security team who are dedicated to the protection of the Tribe's collections and wellbeing of visitors and staff. Head of Security, Ellen Batchelor, oversaw staff training on multiple subjects including the Incident Command System, which is a standardized approach to the coordination and response of an emergency situation. These trainings are rolled out to all staff so that everyone is prepared to quickly respond to hazards and emergencies. And on top of their busy daily routines, Security also kept a watchful eye on the ever changing weather in Big Cypress, making sure that anyone on campus were promptly notified of dangerous weather conditions.

Hurricane Irma was one weather event that we were able plan for in advance. Preparations began six days before the category three hurricane made landfall and Facilities staff were there to not only secure all Museum buildings and the grounds, but to assist the other Divisions as they secured collections, retail merchandise, and exhibitions. After the hurricane passed, there was much to do in order for the Museum to reopen its doors. Facilities headed up the cleanup efforts and worked tirelessly to remove debris, downed trees, and fix minor building damage. Maintenance staff repaired extensive damage to the Boardwalk and on October 4th, just shy of one month after the hurricane, the Boardwalk was reopened to the public and looking good as new!

During the summer, Facilities helped create a brand new space for the Archives. Working closely together with the Collections Division, Facilities coordinated several vendors and contractors to gut the archives vault, put in new LED lighting, pour a new concrete floor, paint the walls and floor, and oversee the installation of new mobile shelving. The project was a true team effort and besides a few very minor bumps, was finished on time—a feat for any construction project! The new space is bright and functional and will allow for years of growth. For more information on this project, make sure to check out the last two AQ issues.

The Museum sits on 76 acres of land and with 23,850 square feet of campus buildings and just over a mile of boardwalk to look after our Security and Maintenance staff are always on the go! Early morning campus checks are the perfect opportunity to catch a glimpse of Florida's amazing wildlife. Black bears and bobcats were spotted several times throughout the year by staff and we were even fortunate to have a mother panther and her kittens hang around the cypress dome for several days. Throughout the year, our Security team continued to monitor wildlife activity and made sure both our human and animal guests stayed safe.

On top of all these projects and achievements, we watched as three campus construction projects took off. Facilities staff worked closely with the Tribe's Construction Management Department and building contractors as a new maintenance building went up adjacent to the parking lot and new visitor restrooms went up next to Museum walkway. Construction should finish up in early 2018 and we look forward to Phase II of these construction projects—beautification and landscaping of our current maintenance yard with native plant species and sculpture garden.

The third construction project that began was a new administration building and archaeological laboratory. It was an exciting day as they broke ground and a dream of 10 years coming true for staff to finally replace the double wide trailer that houses the Tribal Historic Preservation Office and several Museum staff. We look forward to seeing this building take shape in 2018 as well as all of the new projects to come!

Kate Macuen is the Assistant Director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

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Exhibits Division: In the Community and for the Community

By Rebecca Fell



Alan Jumper, With Cowboy Hat, from the exhibit Elgin Jumper: Portraits and Landscapes.



Portrait Three by Jessica Osceola. This portrait was part of the exhibit Thirty-one: A Series of Bas-Relief Ceramic Portraits and Figures.

THE PRIMARY GOAL OF THE EXHIBIT DEPARTMENT IS TO SHARE THE SEMINOLE STORY WITH AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE. AS A RESULT, EXHIBITS NOT ONLY TAKES CARE OF THE PERMANENT EXHIBITS IN THE MUSEUM, IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TEMPORARY EXHIBITS, CERTAIN DISPLAYS ON THE BOARDWALK AND CAMPUS, TRAVELING EXHIBITS, AND MOBILE EXHIBITS FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS.



On exhibit until April 15th, *Depicting Wisdom: Seminole Elders in Art*.

PERMANENT GALLERIES

Each year, routine maintenance is scheduled and conducted in all the galleries. Everything from cleaning the rafters to keeping the mannequins free of dust and cobwebs is part of the schedule. Sometimes unique situations occur like when a sign needs to be replaced or a display is reset and spruced up.

Once a year, the Exhibit Fabricator, Nora, checks the mannequins for changes and discoloration. While these figures, which are life-casts of tribal members, are cared for in the best possible conditions some changes are inevitable over time. As a result our Exhibits Fabricator Nora will order a replacement hand or head to ensure the person represented looks their best. The company, Dorfman Figures, has retained the casts for all of the figures from over 20 years ago. This allows the team to minimize the amount of time a figure may be off display for change outs. This year Nora needed to replace only one pair of hands on one of the young hunters.

TEMPORARY GALLERIES

Along with the permanent galleries there are three galleries that change throughout the year. The smallest gallery, known as the Mosaic Community Art Wall, focuses on Seminole students and artists. 2017 started with an exhibit featuring modern art

interpretations by the art students from Ahfachkee School on Big Cypress. This exhibit was followed up by a Traditional Arts exhibit with students from Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School in Brighton, which featured beadwork and sewing projects.

The third exhibit in 2017 featured Jessica Osceola, ceramic artist and professor at Florida Gulf Coast University. Jessica shared 4 pieces from her master's thesis exhibit titled Thirty-One. These beautiful bas-relief ceramic portraits are a study in identity as well as an exploration of traditional portraiture.

In the Selections from the Collection's gallery, near the theater, two more exhibits focused on the breadth and depth of Seminole artists. In March, painter Elgin Jumper's exhibit, Portraits and Landscapes, shared an array of new works in both oils and acrylics. The images focused on Seminole warriors, Big Cypress landscapes, and his dad.

In October, the Museum shared paintings and drawings from the collection as well as photos from Broden Osceola. The exhibit is called *Depicting Wisdom: Seminole Elders in Art*. The images span nearly 4 decades and feature a total of five artists who shared a common theme: a respect for and illustration of the Seminole elders. The following artist's works were from the Museum's collection: Noah Billie, Henahayo, Jimmy John Osceola, and Mary Gay Osceola.

Hurricane Irma had quite an impact on the Big Cypress community. While the community and the Museum have recovered, it did result in a few schedule changes in the exhibit schedule. The most notable is the extension of our current exhibit in the West Gallery: *Rekindled: Contemporary Southeastern Beadwork*. This exhibit has been very popular and well-received, so we have extended it to May 28th, 2018. It features Seminole artists Carol Cypress and Brian Zepeda. Additionally, works from Southeastern bead artists Roger Amerman (Choctaw), Martha Berry (Cherokee), Karen Berry (Cherokee), Jerry Ingram (Choctaw/Cherokee), and Jay McGirt (Creek/Seminole) are exhibited. Their combined works represent a rebirth of traditional Southeastern beadwork and technique, which had nearly died out at the end of the 20th century.

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

The Exhibit department coordinates its displays with many departments both within the Museum and the Tribe. When it comes to improvements to the boardwalk and Museum campus, the Facilities team is a vital part of the process. For instance, any outdoor campus improvements require their expertise in implementation and acquiring permits.

Like the permanent galleries, signage on the boardwalk occasionally requires replacements or new additions. This year,



Enjoy breathtaking beadwork in our exhibit *Rekindled*. Bandolier bag created by artist Brian Zepeda.

several wayfinding signs were added. Known as the Pointing Men, these colorful figures stand on the boardwalk and help show the way for visitors to key boardwalk destinations. They were so well-received that Billie Swamp Safari asked to collaborate on a pointing man that stands on the corner of the Museum property showing the way to both the Museum and Billie Swamp Safari.

The pointing man figure, in his colorful applied traditional long shirt, is not only a memorable road marker of years past but represents the important role the Seminoles have played in Florida's tourism over the past century. To learn more about the first pointing man check out Exhibit Coordinator Siobhan Millar's article in the 2017 AQ Winter issue.

TRAVELING EXHIBITS AND MOBILE EXHIBITS

While the Exhibits team enjoys the beautiful drive out to the Big Cypress reservation five days a week, it is recognized that not all who want to know more about the Seminoles can make the scenic Everglades drive. So, traveling exhibitions about the Tribe's culture and history are rented out to other museums, libraries, and history centers. This year, three organizations (Cape Coral Historical Society, Collier County Museums, and Pompano Beach Historical Society) rented out our two most popular traveling exhibits: The Seminole Wars and Postcards and Perception: Culture as Tourism.

In addition to developing and renting traveling exhibits to other museums and non-profit organization, the exhibit team also creates mobile displays for the Tribal community. With six reservations and several communities that span from Tampa to Hollywood, the Museum has the pleasure of going to the community because the community cannot always make it to Big Cypress.

This year the Exhibits team presented its newest addition to mobile displays, the mobile Cattle Cart, at Brighton Field Days in February. This fold out display features interpretative panels, artifacts, a timeline, and oral histories from Tribal members on the role of cattle in Seminole history and culture. Its development was inspired by the Tribal community. Many Tribal members told the staff how much they loved a past temporary exhibit from 2009 called Cattlekeepers. Since the Museum currently does not have a way to permanently share the Seminole cattle story, it was best to create a display that can be shared wherever the community wants it. The mobile Cattle Cart has been taken to multiple events this year and is available for use, free of charge, by other Tribal departments and the Tribal community.

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Rebecca Fell is the Curator of Exhibits at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

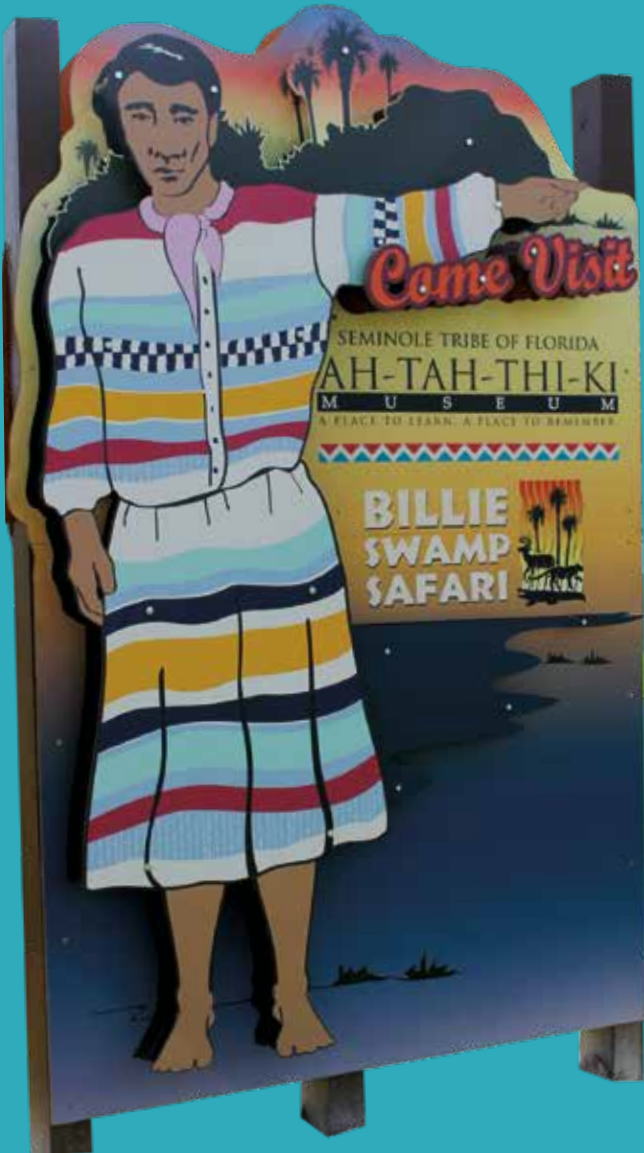


Our mobile Cattle Cart takes the story of Seminole cattle on the road.

“

The pointing man figure, in his colorful applied traditional long shirt, is not only a memorable road marker of years past but represents the important role the Seminoles have played in Florida's tourism over the past century.

”



New Pointing Man sign shows the way!



An Egret dance. Photo by Ellen Batchelor.



Museum staff Pedro Zepeda and Daniel Tommie demonstrate wood carving at our annual AIAC event.

Visitor Services and Development Division: A Year to Remember

By Carrie Dilley

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EVEN BEFORE JANUARY 1ST ROLLED AROUND, WE KNEW THAT 2017 WAS GOING TO BE A BIG YEAR FOR US. WHILE EVERY YEAR HOLDS NEW OPPORTUNITIES AS WELL AS NEW CHALLENGES FOR THE VISITOR SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, 2017 SEEMS ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED IN THE VARIETY OF UNDERTAKINGS WE ENCOUNTERED. WITHOUT A DOUBT WE CHARTERED SOME NEW TERRITORY, YET WE REMAINED FOCUSED ON OUR CORE GOALS. 2017 WAS A BUSY YEAR AT THE AH-TAH-THI-KI AND HERE'S A GLIMPSE OF WHAT WE ACHIEVED!

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SPECIAL EVENTS

2017 was a critical year for not only the Museum but for the Seminole Tribe as a whole. We began promoting the "Year of the Anniversaries" in January and highlighted important dates throughout the year including the Museum's 20th anniversary and the Tribe's 60th anniversary of federal recognition, both on August 21st. We revived our original logo to honor the anniversary and used the logo as branding throughout the year.

In January, we partnered with Seminole Media Productions (SMP) to plan an anniversary celebration to be held at the Museum. Though our direction changed a few times, in the end we decided to keep our focus on the Museum's 20th while the Tribe held a separate event to honor their 60 years since federal recognition. Our goal was to host an evening of fellowship for the Tribal communities, Museum members, partner organizations, staff, friends, and family. From the invitations to the food and décor, we wanted a unique, memorable event that would do justice to all we have accomplished in the past two decades.

On August 19th, we celebrated the Museum's 20th Anniversary with an evening event unlike anything we have done before. We rolled out the red carpet—quite literally! We added details that made a big impact and hosted nearly 300 guests for the event. On August 21st, the actual anniversary, we offered free admission

to the Museum in conjunction with the Solar Eclipse viewing party hosted by the Retail Division.

For our 20th Annual American Indian Arts Celebration, we saw near record breaking crowds as we featured the dance, art, music and culture that our audience has come to expect. This year, however, we added a demonstration area where visitors could see Seminole artisans creating amazing work right before their eyes.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This year we provided many different programs specifically for the Tribal community. We created Museum and THPO career-related displays at the Tribe's Education Expo in Hollywood and developed activities for Hollywood's "Take Your Child to Work Day." We partnered with the Big Cypress preschool to organize a visit to our facility and later in the year to theirs. We also provided coloring pages to the Big Cypress Senior Center and participated in planning for activities for SWAMP program—Seminole Without Addiction Make Progress.

We continued our bi-weekly Museum Hour in conjunction



Visitors try their hand at finger weaving during one of our Discovery Day Programs

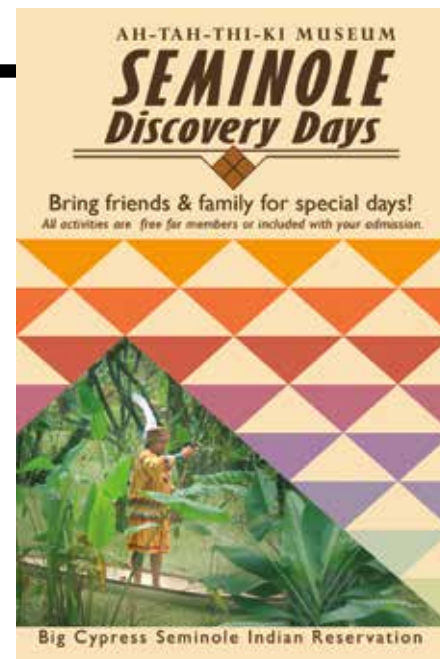
with the Big Cypress Boys and Girls Club. This year, we included activities that connected to our current exhibits, including a bandolier bag activity for Rekindled. We coordinated with several divisions of the Museum and THPO for additional activities on the topics of archaeology, conservation, and even gardening!

Throughout the year we focused on maintaining the strong relationship we have developed with Ahfachkee School over the past several years. Through facilitating the internship program, we hosted five different students in various divisions of the Museum and THPO. During the spring semester and during summer break, we continued the popular “Lego Project.” The spring version of the project had students constructing some of the schools modular classrooms from Legos while learning math principals. During the abbreviated version of the program in the summer, we established a “Summer Register of Important Places,” modeled after the THPO’s Tribal Register of Historic Places. Through this program, we emphasized the values of historic preservation while having the students think about the places that matter to them and why. Each participant constructed his/her own special place, real or imagined, out of Legos.

PROGRAMS

Expanding on our “Discovery Days” series that we created last year, we provided several public programs in 2017 including Everglades Exploration Day in February, Art Day and Archaeology Day (in collaboration with the THPO Tribal Archaeology Section) in March, Water Warriors in April, Rodeo Day in June, and Everglades Day in July. Additionally, staff provided programs in Spanish in June, July and August.

For our Water Warriors event on April 22nd, Samuel Tommie gave a talk about environmental issues, Jay Osceola explained how to prepare garfish and provided samples for attendees, Daniel Tommie spoke about canoes and gave a canoe demonstration in the pond, Dennis McDaniel demonstrated the rare art of cast net making, and the Environmental Resource



Management Department set up a booth to share how the Tribe manages its water resources. This program had the highest turnout of the series and helped bring Tribal environmental issues to the forefront for Earth Day.

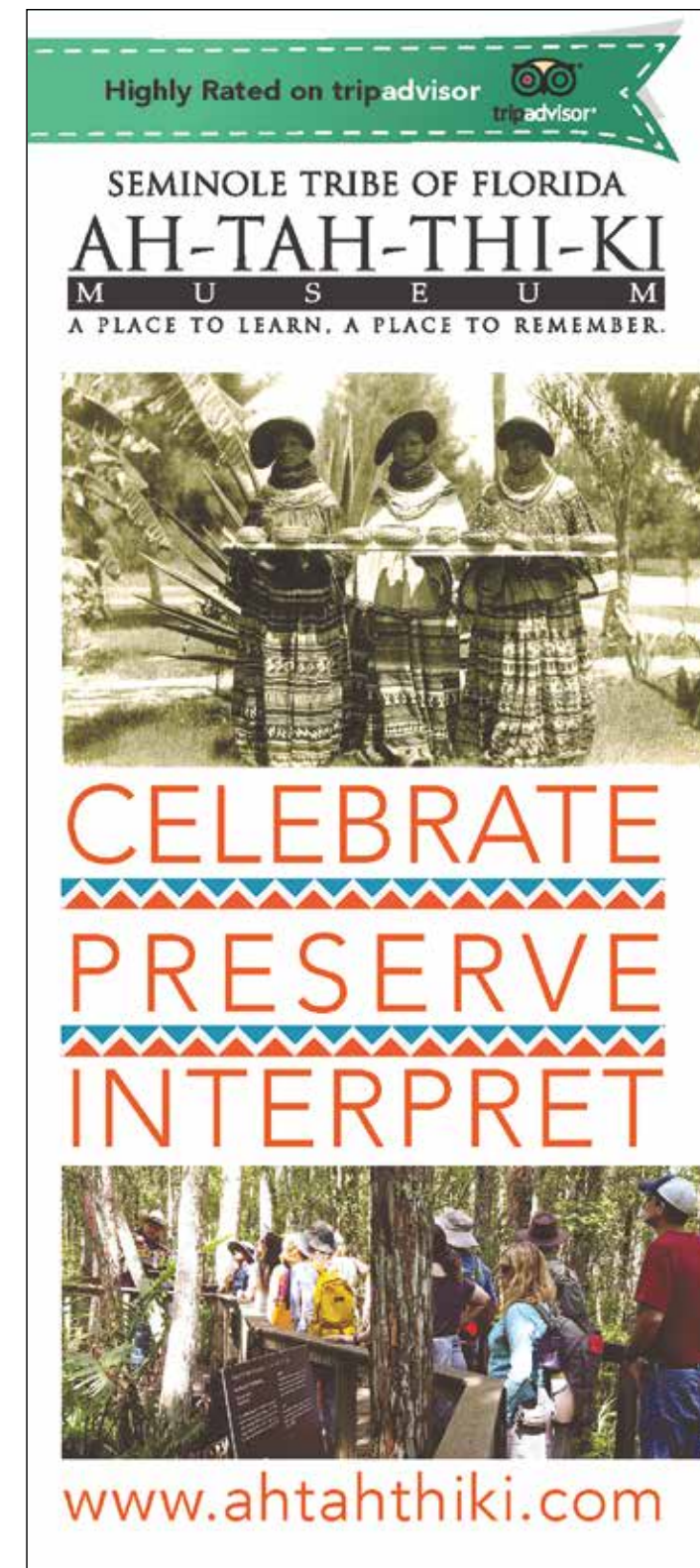
DEVELOPMENT

As plans continue to take shape for our permanent exhibit redesign project, we began to focus on putting together a fundraising campaign to make this project a reality. Starting in January, we developed an internal fundraising committee and met monthly for the first half of the year. Due to the large scale nature of this project, we re-classed two unfilled positions to devote to development. We spent the second half of the year developing our fundraising plan and researching potential donors. We established the “Telling Our Stories” campaign to raise \$8 million for the project which will span the course of several years. Through the generous support of the Seminole Tribe, we are now able to allocate all revenue, including admissions, store sales, membership dollars, cell tower project review money generated by the THPO, and all donations, toward the campaign. By the year’s end we had a great start on the campaign and received our first corporate sponsorship from Lewis, Longman, and Walker P.A. We are excited to focus on the campaign even more in 2018!

VISITOR SERVICES

We continued to stand strong in the visitor services arena for 2017. We were awarded the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence for the 3rd year in a row! Our commitment to providing a quality experience shined through in our quarterly mystery shopper evaluations, as well as our reviews on Yelp, Google, and Facebook. Several of our staff obtained certification from the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) this year, strengthening techniques that are used to communicate with others.

The Ah-Tah-thi-Ki Museum wants to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to learn about the Seminole story. We were very excited to offer our new Culture Access Program for 2017. This program provides discounted rates to Title 1 Schools or non-profit organizations serving low income, disadvantaged, or



at risk persons. Through this program, our normal fee for a tour of the Museum galleries and boardwalk is waived. Additionally, 1 chaperone for every 10 students is free. This program was implemented mid-year, and we have already had numerous schools and summer camps take advantage of this offer!

We continued to see strong visitation from our international

audience, serving visitors from 55 different countries throughout the year. By working with Retail, we were able to offer our Museum Guide translated to three additional languages, including Swedish, Finnish, and Danish—bringing our total to six translations! According to our guest registry, international visitors make up approximately 18% of our annual visitation. Florida residents are our largest sector, comprising 45% of our total visitation. Domestic, non-Floridian visitors make up 37% of our audience.

Our brochure received a complete overhaul this year, to more closely align with our website. The new brochure features one less panel, but maintains all the critical information along with more dynamic, larger photos.

Hurricane Irma impacted much of Florida and we are relieved to report that our damage was isolated to our grounds and boardwalk. Unfortunately, we did remain closed to visitors for weeks due to lack of power on the reservation. Even after our museum reopened, the boardwalk remained closed for a short time while repairs were completed. Throughout this trying time, we remained connected to our potential visitors, partners, and friends through our website and social media, providing updates on a regular basis.

SOCIAL MEDIA

According to our guest registry, the Internet remained the most popular way that visitors hear about us for 2017. Building upon the developments we have made in social media and our online presence over the past few years, we reached additional targets for the year. We began the year with 3,730 followers on Twitter and currently have 5,593 followers, surpassing our goal of 5,000 followers. This loyal following was built in large part how active we are; we posted over 500 times to Twitter alone in 2017! Social media has proven to be a critical way we communicate with our audience.

OUTREACH

Although we lost our Community Outreach Specialist position in January, we were able to provide limited off-site presentations throughout the year. Change in staffing has allowed us to reimagine the way we share the Seminole story with audiences away from our campus. We provided our first virtual fieldtrip program in March which centered on Betty Mae Jumper and continued to work with Streamable Learning in November for a presentation called Seminole History and Culture 101. Thanks to these livestream fieldtrips, a larger number of students can broaden their understanding of Seminole history and culture.

LOOKING AHEAD

Through milestone anniversaries, engaging programs, and innovative new projects, 2017 will be a year to remember. We are excited to see what 2018 and beyond hold for the Visitor Services and Development Division as we continue to build our team. *AQ*

Carrie Dilley is the Visitor Services and Development Manager at the Museum

2017 Acquisitions

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum acquired 156 objects in 2017. The Library Collection increased by 60 books and periodicals, the Archival Collection increased by 39 photographs and 26 documents and the Permanent Artifact Collection increased by seven pieces of clothing, 14 pieces of artwork, six dolls and four pieces of Tribal Memorabilia. A special thank you to our gracious donors:



- Catholic Rural Life
- Dr. Jerald Milanich
- Friends of Paynes Prairie
- History Miami Museum
- The Lewis Family
- Mr. Austin Bell
- The Family of Lowell and Marjorie Fair
- Mr. Elam Stoltzfus and Mr. Nic Stoltzfus
- Mr. Patrick Swan
- Mr. Paul Simmons
- Mr. Sigfried R. Second-Jumper
- Mr. Thomas Allen Wilson
- Ms. Dorothy Downs
- Henry and Louise Peete and Family
- Ms. Juanita L. Pressley
- Ms. Phyllis A. Carpenter
- Ruth J. Greening
- Ms. Shana Driver
- Ms. Sylvia P. Warren
- John D. Wertheimer Family
- Peabody Essex Museum
- EcoTarium Museum of Science and Nature
- Spokane Tribe Preservation Program

This rare wooden doll is in great condition for its age, which is approximately 100 years. It reveals the history of Seminole dolls in the tourist trade, showing the carved masterpieces that preceded the palmetto fiber dolls that people are more familiar with. The doll wears handmade clothes that match late 19th/early 20th century Seminole clothing styles. ATTK Catalog No. 2017.171



A 1920s boys big shirt. This is a stunning example of early patchwork clothing. The bright colors are well preserved and the craftsmanship is excellent. Child's garments of this age are rare, and this piece has already warranted temporary display in our galleries. ATTK Catalog No. 2017.20.1

HAPPENINGS AT THE MUSEUM

Become a member and experience these events for free!

2018 Calendar

Now thru April 15:

Depicting Wisdom: Seminole Elders in Art

Now thru April 22:

Ahfachkee School: K-12th Grade Art Exhibit

Now thru May 27:

Rekindled: Contemporary Southeastern Beadwork

March 10:

Discovery Days Series—Archaeology Day

April 21:

Discovery Days Series—Earth Day

April 23-Oct 7:

Featuring: Museum Village Crafters

April 27- Aug 12:

Pemyatv Emahakv Charter School: Traditional Arts Exhibit

May 5:

Broward Reads THE CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE-LEVEL READING Event

Opens June 11:

We Are Here: Hands & Voices Making Community Happen

June 16:

Discovery Days Series—Art Day

July 21:

Broward Reads THE CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE-LEVEL READING Event

July 28:

Discovery Days Series—Seminole Wars

Opens August 20:

GIS Storymapping: Youth Mapping Their Stories

August 21:

Museum’s 21st Anniversary and STOF 61st Anniversary

September 15:

Discovery Days Series—We Are Here

September 28:

National Indian Day

Coming in October:

Recent Acquisitions: Siggie Jumper Collection

November 2-3:

Join us for our Annual American Indian Arts Celebration (AIAC)

Exhibit Family Program Other



Check out our website www.ahthahthiki.com for up to date event and program information.

For more information about any of these events, please contact Visitor Services and Development Manager Carrie Dilley at 863-902-1113 x12211 or e-mail carriedilley@semtribe.com.

Staff Directory 2017

We sincerely thank all of our staff, interns, and volunteers for their hard work, inspired projects, and community driven achievements during 2017!

Staff

Cynthia Arnold, Former Development Associate
Paul Backhouse, Ph.D., Museum Director
Tara Backhouse, Collections Manager
Ann Barrett, Former Assistant Retail Manager
Ellen Batchelor, Head of Security
Reinaldo Becerra, Former Outreach Specialist
Linda Beletso, Village Crafter
Linda Bianchini, Assistant Retail Manager
Patsy Billie, Village Crafter
Richard Billie, Tour Guide
Luke Blomberg, Former Tour Guide
Alyssa Boge, Education Coordinator
Kenneth Bowers III, Security Officer
Wilse Bruisedhead, Former Tour Guide
Fermin Carranza, Maintenance Staff
Oscar Carrasquillo Rivera, Maintenance Supervisor
Rebecca Crum, Office Manager
Robin Croskery Howard, Conservator
Natasha Cuervo, Registrar
Kevin Cunniff, Cataloging Assistant
Helena Cypress, Former Village Crafter
Lorraine Cypress, Former Village Crafter
Martina Dawson, Tour Guide
Maria De Santiago, Maintenance Staff
Nicolas De Santiago, Maintenance Staff
Carrie Dilley, Visitor Services and Development Manager
Charles Dunkley, Security Officer
Rebecca Fell, Curator of Exhibits
Donna Frank, Village Crafter
Linda Frank, Village Crafter
Iris Garcia, Sales Clerk
Eric Griffis, Former Oral History Coordinator
Jeremiah Hall, Village Crafter
David Higgins, Former Facilities Manager
Judy Jim, Village Crafter
Melanie Lopez, Former Tour Guide
Kate Macuen, Assistant Director

Jennie Martinez, Village Crafter, Retired
Siobhan Millar, Exhibits Coordinator
Earlene Osceola, Village Crafter
Rebecca Petrie, Retail Manager
Nora Pinell-Hernandez, Exhibits Fabricator
Mary Beth Rosebrough, Research Coordinator
Misty Snyder, Collections Assistant
Daniel Tommie, Traditional Interpretation Coordinator
Lisa Walker, Former Development Assistant
Virginia Yarce, Former Development Assistant
Pedro Zepeda, Village Crafter

WEP and CBH Programs

Lisa Billie
Jalen Cypress

Interns and Volunteers

Amber Backhouse, Volunteer
Elisah Billie, Intern, Ahfachkee
Eyanna Billie, Intern, Ahfachkee
GraySun Billie, Intern, Ahfachkee
Kevin Cunniff, Volunteer
Savanah Durkin, Volunteer
Romeo Garcia, Intern, Ahfachkee
Nashoba Gonzalez, Intern, Ahfachkee
Lisa Lago, Intern, Florida Atlantic University
Haley Levy, Intern, Florida Atlantic University
Randean Osceola, Intern, Ahfachkee
Haley Trujo, Volunteer
Benjamin Walter-Range, Volunteer

In loving memory of our dear friend and colleague Tennile Jackson, whose gentle manner, contagious smile, and hard work made an unforgettable impact on the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Office.



Memberships

Thank you to the following individuals who have joined or renewed their Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki membership. Your support of the Museum is greatly appreciated!

New

PATRON MEMBERSHIPS

Cypress Circle

Patricia Newell-Johnson

BASIC MEMBERSHIPS

Family Clan

Dorothy Downs
Christine Iuliano

Individual

Paula Chatary
Fort King National Historic Landmark
Lisa Koltun
Debra Weiss

Tribal Member

Kailani Osceola
Randee Osceola

Rowdey Osceola
Cecilia Tigertail

Renewal

PATRON MEMBERSHIPS

Bandolier Circle

Mary Giddens
Cypress Circle
Kattya Graham
I.S.K. Reeves

BASIC MEMBERSHIPS

Family Clan

Gary Hamby
Susan Johnson
Ron O'Dell
William Rowe
Richard Tombrink, Jr.

Individual

Tara Backhouse
Ewa Bandura
Austin Bell
David Craig
Aaron Ellrich
Deborah Jones
Jacki Lyden
Jesse Malory, Jr.
Dr. Charles Mandell
Donna McCracken
Ricky Pires
Father Les Singleton
Samuel Smith
Patsy West

Tribal Member

Tammy Lee Billie
Tara Robbins

Your membership helps preserve vital Seminole history and culture while providing entertainment and learning for the whole family.

Interested in becoming a Member? Want to learn more about our Membership Program? Contact our Visitor Services and Development Manager at 863-902-1113 or e-mail CarrieDilley@semtribe.com

ATTK Catalog No. 2003.15.073

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
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MUSEUM
A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

Rekindled
Contemporary Southeastern Beadwork

ROGER ELLIS AMERMAN
KAREN BERRY MARTHA BERRY
CAROL CYPRESS
JERRY INGRAM JAY MCGIRT
BRIAN ZEPEDA

EXHIBIT EXTENDED
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