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For Immediate Release

Seminole Museum Hosts 17th Annual American Indian Arts Celebration (AIAC) in Big Cypress November 7-8

Indigenous Cultural Explosion in the Everglades to Feature Native American Arts, Crafts, and Live Entertainment

Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation, Fla. (October 9, 2014) - The Seminole Tribe of Florida Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is pleased to announce the return of the highly anticipated annual American Indian Arts Celebration (AIAC) November 7th and 8th. Now in its 17th year, the AIAC is one of the top festivals in the Southeast.

The event will feature an exciting array of artisans, food vendors, children's craft activities, musical performances, dance demonstrations, a wildlife booth, and Native American camp life recreations. The Indian market will showcase some of the finest native craftsmen from around the country including prize-winning Seminole artisans. Daily performances will include an opening ceremony by Seminole Tribal elder Bobby Henry and his team of Stomp Dancers, Gordon Wareham with storytelling and flute playing, and Seminole musical acts including Paul "Cowbone" Buster, Ted Nelson, Sr., and Hybiskus. In addition, our daily roster includes Polynesian Proud Productions providing authentic Polynesian entertainment and Nakotah LaRance-- a 6 time World Hoop Dance Champion and Native American Actor. The Museum's very own Van Samuels will emcee the festivities. Saturday's line-up will additionally include special performances by the James Billie Band and the Osceola Brothers Band, and a skateboarding contest and skate parade to correspond with our current Smithsonian exhibit: Ramp it Up—Skateboard Culture in Native America.

The event will take place on the festival grounds across from the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation.

Admission is \$10 for adults; \$7.50 for seniors and students. Children four years and under and Museum members are free. Admission includes entrance to the event and the Museum. Parking is ample and free.

For more information on the 17th Annual AIAC please visit www.ahtahthiki.com or contact Carrie Dilley at 863-902-1113 extension 12211 or <u>carriedilley@semtribe.com</u>.

About the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is owned and operated by the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Situated in the Everglades on a 66-acre cypress dome on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation, the Museum offers more than 5,000 square feet of gallery space. Exhibits feature rare artifacts and lifelike dioramas that depict Seminole life at the turn of the century. In 2009, the Museum became the first tribally governed museum to be accredited by the American Association of Museums. Open seven days a week from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., the museum is located 18 miles north of Interstate 75 at Exit 49. For more information, visit www.ahtahthiki.com or call 877-902-1113.

AIAC SCHEDULE

The schedule of performances (subject to change without notice) is as follows:

Saturday, November 8 Skate Parade (starting at the skate park and ending at AIAC) 9:30-10:00am 9:50-10:00am Welcome and Announcements Opening Ceremony (Bobby Henry and Stompdancers) 10-10:30am 10:45-11:15am Gordon O. Wareham (Storytelling and flute) 11am-1:00pm Skateboarding Contest (in front of the Museum) 11:15-11:30am Rey Becerra's Wildlife Introduction 11:30am-12:00pm Paul "Cowbone" Buster Nakotah LaRance, Native American Hoop Dancer 12:15-12:45pm 1-2:00pm James E. Billie Band 2:15-2:45pm **Polynesian Proud Productions** 2:45-3:15pm Ted Nelson, Sr. 3:30-4:00pm Osceola Brothers Band 4:15-4:45pm Hybiskus