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Artist Randy Kemp to Receive the Leon Grant Spirit of the Community Award at Phoenix Indian Center's Silver & Turquoise Ball Presented by Navajo Arts & Crafts Enterprise

The silent auction for the sold-out event will open to the public on Friday, October 6

Phoenix, AZ — Renowned painter, printmaker, and award-nominated flute player Randy Kemp (Choctaw/Muscogee-Creek/Euchee) will be honored with the Leon Grant Spirit of the Community Award at the 40th Silver & Turquoise Ball, presented by Navajo Arts & Crafts Enterprise. The sold-out fundraising event will take place on October 20, 2023, at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel, with the theme “Celebrating Our Voices.”

The Leon Grant Spirit of the Community Award was established in 2013 to recognize an individual or organization for their service, commitment, and dedication to the greater good of the American Indian community. It is named for Leon Grant, Phoenix Indian Center's first executive director and one of its founding members.

“Through his multidisciplinary artistic endeavors, Randy has exemplified the concept of Celebrating Our Voices,” said Jolyana Begay-Kroupa, CEO of Phoenix Indian Center. “His artwork has been exhibited around the world; he has produced, lent his voice to, and directed significant events benefitting our Native youth; and has recorded award-nominated music. I can't think of a more worthy recipient of this award.”

Silver & Turquoise Ball will feature both silent and live auctions featuring American Indian art, jewelry, gifts, and services from local businesses. Chairman Robert Miguel of the Ak-Chin Indian Community and Dr. Christine Wiggs, Staff Vice President of Community & Health Advancement with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Arizona, will serve as event co-chairs. The auction is co-chaired by art consultant, Christy Vezolles, and artist Garrett Etsitty (Navajo). Guests will also enjoy live entertainment and an Indigenous-inspired dinner curated by featured chef Denella Belin (Navajo).

The Silver & Turquoise Ball silent auction will open to the public on Friday, October 6. Preview the available items and bid [here](#).

Randy Kemp

Randy Kemp is a member of the Choctaw, Euchee and Muscogee Creek tribal nations of Oklahoma. He is retired from Arizona State University, where he had more than 30 years of experience as an environmental graphic designer. He is an alumnus of the Katherine K. Herberger College of Arts at Arizona State University, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree specializing in painting and printmaking. Randy is a noted artist in the contemporary American Indian art world. He is a multidisciplinary artist whose body of work includes painting, printmaking, installation, music, and performance. His artwork has been exhibited in prestigious museums, galleries and private collections throughout the world.



He was selected to perform a Native American flute music prelude for President Barack Obama at Arizona State University's graduation ceremony commencement.

Kemp was a founding member of the Mayo Clinic Hospital "Sonata del Sol" music program, providing flute music for palliative care patients and families. As a member of Actor's Workout Inc., he created a one-man show of the incredible anti-war speech of Chief Joseph (Nez Perce). Kemp has traveled to Australia and New Zealand communities as a part of an Indigenous Cultural and Arts exchange program through Scottsdale Community College.

Other works include music performances and collaborations. Randy has produced an independent recording that was nominated for the Native American Music Award (NAMA) in the "Best Spoken Word" category. Works in film and visual arts include acting credits in the short film, "Chief" filmed on the Salt River Pima Indian Reservation. He has also produced and directed a short film entitled "Metropolitan Rezervation,"—short stories of Native American homeless and survivors, presented in partnership with the PBS television series American Experience/"We Shall Remain," a citizen storytelling film project.

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About Phoenix Indian Center

Phoenix Indian Center, established in 1947, is the oldest and first social service agency in the United States dedicated to improving the health and well-being of all, with services targeted to American Indian people. The Center serves over 10,000 customers annually with intensive job preparedness, prevention services, cultural enrichment, youth programming, and community engagement targeted toward adults and youth. Related outreach touches more than 20,000 urban American Indian men, women, and children every year. To learn more, visit www.phxindcenter.org.

About Navajo Arts & Crafts Enterprise

Navajo Arts & Crafts Enterprise, created in 1941, was established as a guild to foster the artistry of the Navajo people through silversmithing, rug weaving, painting, and other Navajo art. Through the decades, NACE expanded into an enterprise of the Navajo Nation to build and support the local economy.