



For Immediate Release:
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Contact: Cynthia Milledge, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts
cmilledge@mmfa.org; (334) 240-4369

Sharon Delmar, Poarch Band of Creek Indians
sdelmar@pci-nsn.gov; (251) 368-9136

MMFA to Partner with Poarch Band of Creek Indians to Share, Celebrate Alabama's Native American Heritage

MONTGOMERY - On **Saturday, April 11, 2015** from **1 until 4pm**, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians is partnering once again with the [Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts](#) to help celebrate and share the Tribe's rich history in Alabama. Admission to the Native American Family Day at MMFA (*One Museum Drive, Montgomery*) is FREE. It is a rain or shine event.

Media is invited to attend the Native American Day Family Day and coverage is welcome. Photo, video, and interview opportunities will be available.

"Based on the popularity of last year's Native American Family Day, we are pleased to join efforts again to share our Creek culture and heritage at such a prestigious museum as MMFA," noted **Robert McGhee, Government Relations Advisor for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians**. "The educational value that will be made available about Poarch makes this a great opportunity for everyone to visit."

On April 11, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians will share aspects of their heritage through an afternoon of storytelling by Robert Thrower, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer; drumming by Medicine Tail; and dancing performed by the Tribe's popular Pow Wow Club. Poarch Creek artisans will also be on-hand to showcase their art and attendees will be able to try their hand at medallion making, weaving and clay work in the Creek tradition. In addition, a new photography exhibition *POARCH: HISTORY IN MOTION* by Karen Odyniec will make its debut. Portraits of today's tribal members offer insight into the indigenous culture that has evolved to the present. Spanning generations, these images reflect a people fiercely putting back together the lost pieces of their culture; keeping it alive while evolving with contemporary life.

"Our Native American Family Day is a wonderful opportunity for any one in the River Region to experience what it is like to be an Alabama Native," said **Mark M. Johnson, MMFA Museum Director**. We are excited to present a free and interactive afternoon of crafts, story telling, performances, stick ball demonstrations, and more."

When:
Saturday, April 11, 2015
1 – 4:00 p.m.

Where:
Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park
One Museum Drive
Montgomery, Alabama 36117

About the Poarch Band of Creek Indians

The Poarch Creek Indians are descendants of a segment of the original Creek Nation, which once covered almost all of Alabama and Georgia. Unlike many eastern Indian tribes, the Poarch Creeks were not removed from their tribal lands and have lived together for almost 200 years in and around the reservation in Poarch, Alabama. The reservation is located eight miles northwest of Atmore, Alabama, in rural Escambia County, and 57 miles east of Mobile.

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians is the only federally recognized Indian Tribe in the state of Alabama, operating as a sovereign nation with its own system of government and bylaws. The Tribe operates a variety of economic enterprises, which employ hundreds of area residents. Poarch Creek Indian Gaming manages three gaming facilities in Alabama, including: Wind Creek Casino & Hotel in Atmore; Wind Creek Wetumpka in Wetumpka; and, Creek Casino Montgomery in Montgomery. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians is an active partner in the state of Alabama, contributing to economic, educational, social and cultural projects benefiting both tribal members and residents of these local communities and neighboring towns.

To learn more, please visit Poarch Neighbors website: www.poarchneighbors.com

About MMFA

The mission of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts is to collect, preserve, exhibit, and interpret art of the highest quality for the enrichment, enlightenment, and enjoyment of its public.

The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, a department of the city of Montgomery, is supported by funds from the City of Montgomery and the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Association. Programs are made possible, in part, by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts. Exhibition Programs are supported by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

Admission is free.

Museum Hours

Tuesday through Saturday: 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Thursday: 10 A.M. to 9 P.M.

Sunday: Noon to 5 P.M.

Closed Mondays, New Year's Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day

E-mail: museuminfo@mmfa.org | Web Site: www.mmfa.org

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