

MEDIA CONTACT

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Exhibit Images: <https://app.box.com/s/kopz6mey3x0taaixgd1dhfdggqyg0f5y>

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Announcing *WE NEVER LEFT: Artists of Southeast Indian Tribes* at the Museum of Arts & Sciences, Daytona Beach, Florida

On Display January 12 – April 14, 2019

Featuring 30 contemporary artworks by 20 artists from 10 Southeast Indian tribes

The 1830s witnessed the U.S. government's forced removal of tens of thousands of American Indians from the Southeast to what was then referred to as "Indian Territory" west of the Mississippi (today's Oklahoma). History now refers to this calamitous event as "the trail of tears."

Removal, however, was far from complete. *WE NEVER LEFT* celebrates contemporary artists descended from those American Indians who, against all odds, remained in the Southeast as tribes who continue to live in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

The artwork in the exhibition is highly diverse, including painting, photography, ceramics, mixed media, sculpture, wood- and stone-carving, basketry, beadwork, textiles, collage, a letterpress book, and a hip-hop music video. Reflecting engagement with tradition-inspired techniques, cutting-edge technology, and pop culture, the exhibition's artwork addresses a variety of issues – cultural preservation, language revitalization, personal identity and expression, American history, community pride, and threats to homeland and the natural environment. There is also an opportunity to hear the revitalized Cherokee and Tunica languages spoken.

Participating artists include such internationally renowned artists as the late Shan Goshorn (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians), Jeffrey Gibson (Mississippi Choctaw), Sarah Sense (Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana), and Luzene Hill (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians). A complete roster of participating artists is attached.

An opening reception for *WENEVER LEFT* will be held on Friday, January 11 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Museum of Arts & Sciences. A cash bar and light hors d'oeuvres can be enjoyed as well as a talk by the exhibition's curator, Walter Meyer. This opening reception is free for museum members and is \$5.00 for the public. RSVPs are requested by January 7 by calling the Museum at 386-255-0285.

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About the Museum of Arts & Sciences - The Museum of Arts & Sciences (MOAS) is the primary **art, science and history museum in Central Florida**. The area's largest museum, MOAS is nationally accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate. Located on a 90-acre Florida nature preserve, the 100,000 square foot facility is host to over 30,000 objects including the Dow Gallery of American Art, one of the finest collections of American art in the Southeast, the Schulte Gallery of Chinese Art, the Bouchelle Collection and Gallery of Decorative Arts, the largest and most comprehensive collection in the South, the Gillespy Gallery of Sub-Saharan African artifacts, the Cuban Foundation Museum showcasing one of the most significant collections of Cuban paintings in the United States, the Prehistory of Florida gallery featuring Florida's Giant Ground Sloth skeleton and the Root Family Museum displaying restored railroad cars, antique automobiles and the largest collection of Coca-Cola® memorabilia in Florida. The Helene B. Roberson Visible Storage Building exhibits thousands of objects from many donors which are owned by the Museum, while the Linda and Williams Children's Museum presents an interactive experience for children. A new state-of-the-art planetarium and the Cici and Hyatt Brown Museum of Art showcasing the largest collection of Florida-based art in the world, rounds out areas to explore inside the Museum of Arts & Sciences.

Museum Hours are 10am-5pm (Monday-Saturday) and 11am-5pm (Sunday). Museum of Arts & Sciences admission is \$12.95 adults; \$6.95 children 6-17; \$10.95 seniors and students; members and children 5 and under are free. Daily Planetarium shows and weekly laser shows. Museum of Arts & Sciences admission includes one Planetarium show. Cici and Hyatt Brown Museum of Art admission is \$10.95 adults; \$4.95 children 6-17; \$8.95 seniors and students; members and children 5 and under are free. Combo ticket admission is \$18.95 adults; \$9.95 children 6-17; \$16.95 seniors and students; members and children 5 and under are free. Combo ticket admission includes one Planetarium show. Additional Planetarium shows are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children ages 17 and under. Parking is free. Admission is FREE for Volusia County residents the first Tuesday of each month (does not include Planetarium shows). MOAS is fully accessible to the handicapped. MOAS is located at 352 S. Nova Road, Daytona Beach, Florida 32114. For more information call 386.255.0285 or visit the website www.moas.org.

MOAS is a not-for-profit educational institution founded in 1955 and chartered by the State of Florida in 1962. The Museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. Programs sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the County of Volusia.

Exhibits and dates subject to change.