



Eiteljorg



Photo by Hadley Fruits, 2018

# **A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY**

## Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art

### **OUR COMMITMENT**

The Eiteljorg Museum is committed to presenting the art and heritage of the American West and the Native peoples of North America as a diverse story of human accomplishment, adversity and perseverance with respect and sensitivity to all cultures. In order to fulfill this commitment, the Eiteljorg must keep diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion at the forefront of everything that we do.

### **RESPECT FOR NATIVE LANDS AND PEOPLES**

Our museum sits upon the land of the Miami and Lenape peoples and the wider Indiana region encompasses the homelands of the Kickapoo, Shawnee, Peoria and Potawatomi peoples. Therefore, the Eiteljorg Museum has a distinct responsibility to educate the public about these living cultures of our local area and the Great Lakes region. The Eiteljorg is dedicated to fulfilling this responsibility and carrying out its broader mission to present the arts, histories and cultures of the Native peoples of North America through exhibitions and programs that demonstrate sensitivity and respect toward Native peoples and their cultures. We are also committed to inclusivity by incorporating Native peoples' perspectives and their direct participation into our work.

### **REPRESENTING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES**

In our presentations of the art and history of the American West, the Eiteljorg is committed to an inclusive approach that challenges past practices of museums and the Western art world that often omitted the experiences of all those who shaped the West and its art. The art we collect will include works by and about these underrepresented peoples, and the exhibitions, interpretation, programs and publications we create will bring to light this diversity.

### **CREATING A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT**

The communities we welcome and serve at the Eiteljorg include, but are not limited to, people of all ages, races, ethnicities, sexes, gender identities and gender presentations, sexual orientations, cultures, national origins, languages, abilities, educational backgrounds, socioeconomic statuses, physical appearances, veteran statuses, personalities, religious or spiritual beliefs and political views. We also recognize and celebrate the diversity of our downtown Indianapolis neighborhood and are committed to serving the needs of our local community. The Eiteljorg Museum strives to be accessible to everyone and seeks to break down barriers that might prevent people from visiting. Our advertising, marketing and promotional activities must also consider our diverse audiences, and are the first, critical step in welcoming everyone to participate.

### **DIVERSITY OF VOICES IN THE ROOM**

To be a successful museum about diverse peoples, it is essential that the people who work, volunteer and provide consulting and contract services for the museum reflect the diversity of our mission and the communities we serve. Our human resources practices must also be inclusive and equitable regarding leadership, governance, planning and policymaking.

### **FULFILLING OUR COMMITMENT**

The Eiteljorg aspires to become a museum where all people feel that they are heard, represented and respected. By working to fulfill the principles outlined in this statement, the Eiteljorg Museum is committed to building a more accessible, inclusive and equitable future for the diverse communities we serve.