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For Immediate Release

## **OSAGE NATION FOUNDATION APPROVES 2013 ARTS MATCHING GRANT FOR OSAGE BALLET**

The Osage Nation Foundation has awarded a 2013 Matching Arts Grant to Arts and Humanities Council of Tulsa for Wahzhazhe, Osage Ballet. The Osage Ballet has been invited to perform at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C with shows running from March 20<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of 2013. Wahzhazhe was awarded a 2012 Arts Matching Grant and had surpassed their goal for the ballet after the first performance. According to Randy Smith, Wahzhazhe Director, “after the first performance, we began receiving phone calls for future performances from locations such as Kansas City to Washington, DC”.

The performances of August 2012 sparked positive reactions and conversations from attendees. Smith emphasized the reception of the ballet:

“People from other tribes would approach us with tears in their eyes as they shared how different parts of the story had touched them. They remembered hearing about boarding school from a grandfather or grandmother, and about how their people had to handle the changes that came with Colonialism. Osage young adults were especially supportive of the ballet because they are doing their best to learn our traditions and culture in which the ballet seemed to help them. The directors at NMAI have heard positive stories from Osages and local non-Osages and are excited for us to perform at their museum.”

The Osage Ballet will be performed the week of the Cherry Blossom Festival and Spring Break in which the museum saw 60,000 visitors last year during the same time frame. Since the National Museum of the American Indian is a non-profit, the Arts and Humanities Council of Tulsa are required to raise funds for all expenses. On March 5, 2013 they will be hosting an art auction in Tulsa. They have extended their original goal and would also like to pursue a tour across the Osage homeland (Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas and Oklahoma) in the fall of 2013.

“The Foundation Board is very focused on arts projects that will help us recreate and preserve authentic Osage culture,” said Alex Tallchief Skibine, Osage Foundation chairman. “This project certainly falls into that category and we are excited to be able to support it again with this \$25,000 grant. We were thrilled to hear the success of the 2012 performances and that the Foundation’s contribution helped the ballet go above and beyond their goal. We are proud to support the Osage Ballet to inspire and educate on a national level”.

For more information on the ballet, visit [www.osageballet.com](http://www.osageballet.com)

## **APPLICATION INFORMATION**

Applicants must be individuals, foundations, museums, businesses or organizations with a connection to an arts discipline, including but not limited to, visual arts, dance, writing, publishing, photography and arts education. Individuals are not eligible to apply for Osage Nation Foundation's Arts Program Grants. Applications and support materials must be complete and received by the due date. Funds acquired from the Osage Nation Government, its entities or its wholly owned businesses may not be used as matching funds for this arts grant. Organizations are limited to one application per calendar year. While in certain instances more than one related exhibition or performance may be included in the proposal to establish an overall audience strategy, an organizations entire season of programs cannot be funded.

Application forms may be downloaded from the Osage Nation Foundation's website at [www.osagefoundation.org](http://www.osagefoundation.org). All projects must take place between August 1, 2012 through July 31, 2014.

All applications must be received by the Osage Nation Foundation by no later than September 1, 2013. Applications must be faxed to (817) 796-1816, emailed to [bwebb@osagefoundation.org](mailto:bwebb@osagefoundation.org) or a hard copy mailed to Osage Nation Foundation, P.O. Box 92777 Southlake, TX 76092.

## **ABOUT THE OSAGE NATION FOUNDATION**

The Osage Nation Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, was established in 2005 by the Osage Nation for the charitable purpose of lessening the burdens of the Tribal Government by providing charitable services to the Nation and its members. The mission of the Foundation is to promote and enhance the general welfare of the people of the Osage Nation by supporting cultural, educational, health, historical, community, and other appropriate activities and programs. The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors which is responsible for executing the mission and objectives of the Foundation.

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