

## **PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM TURNS 70 YEARS OLD**

January 4, 2008 – The Palm Springs Art Museum proudly announced today that 2008 is a milestone year for the organization as it will have been in existence for 70 years in October, 2008. Through those years, the institution has seen many changes, including changing its location several times as it grew, shifting its focus from natural history to fine art and changing its name. Through the many changes, the mission for the organization has always remained the same – to bring quality exhibitions and educational programming to the residents and visitors of the Coachella Valley.

The organization began as the Palm Springs Desert Museum, dedicated to preserving and displaying Native American artifacts and teaching attendees about the natural sciences, specializing in the environment of the surrounding Coachella Valley.

From a one-room facility in 1938 to today's 125,000 square-foot facility, the Museum has greatly expanded its collections and programs. Accredited by the American Association of Museums, Palm Springs Art Museum has 28 galleries, two sculpture gardens, four classrooms/resource centers, an artists' center, five storage vaults, a 90-seat lecture hall, a 433-seat theater, a 1,000 square-foot store, and a locally popular café.

The Museum now houses a collection of approximately 55,000 objects including extensive collection of fine art (including paintings, sculptures and glass pieces), photographs, Native American art and architecture archives. The Art Museum has eight active councils that support Museum efforts: Architecture and Design Council, Artists Council, Contemporary Art Council, Docent Council, Museum Associates Council, Museum Service Council, Performing Arts Council, and Western Art Council.

"This is a tremendous year for the Art Museum," said Steve Nash, executive director of the Palm Springs Art Museum. "The Museum will celebrate this milestone in several ways, including offering free admission to youths 17 and under, offering several free Community Days throughout the year and showcasing our history of accomplishments at the upcoming Platinum Ball. The extensive renovation program we began last year will continue this summer and the Art Museum will present several exciting exhibitions throughout year. We are proud to continue to serve as an innovative community cultural center by expanding our exhibitions, programs, and services in the visual and performing

arts. We look forward to reaching more exciting milestones in the bright future of the Palm Springs Art Museum.”

Situated 120 miles east of Los Angeles, the Palm Springs Art Museum serves the greater Inland Empire, which covers Riverside and San Bernardino counties with a population of approximately 2.4 million residents. It is located in the Coachella Valley, which includes nine cities totaling a permanent population of over 300,000 within its 450-square-mile area, expanding to over 600,000 during the winter months. Museum membership, numbers more than 4,000.

Exhibitions, education programs and performing arts productions at the Museum are made possible in part by admission fees, private funds, donations, memberships and grants.

Located downtown in an architecturally-significant E. Stewart Williams-designed building, the Palm Springs Art Museum features exciting exhibitions of contemporary, Native American, Western and Pre-Columbian art in spacious galleries. It features two sculpture gardens, stimulating lectures and educational programs for all ages, and offers diverse performances at its Annenberg Theater. The Art Museum is open six days a week; Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is free to members; \$12.50 for adults; \$10.50 for seniors 62 and over; \$5 for students and active-duty military with I.D. and free for youths 17 and under. For more information, call 760.332.4800 or visit [www.psmuseum.org](http://www.psmuseum.org).