

STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
**Proclamation**

Whereas, Oklahoma is home to over 500 museums that are located in every region of the state that serve as educational institutions, preservation agencies, agencies of scientific research, and cultural centers; and

Whereas, Oklahoma museums represent a multitude of disciplines and learning experiences, including art museums, historical societies, historic sites, zoos, aquariums, science centers, botanical gardens, historic houses, natural history, children's museums, living history museums, tribal cultural centers and museums; and

Whereas, Oklahoma museums encourage curiosity and provide a source of enjoyment and education for every generation and every community across the state and enhance those provided by the public sector; and

Whereas, Oklahoma museums nourish minds and spirits by fostering contemplation, exploration, critical thinking, and dialogue to advance knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of history, science, the arts and the natural world; and

Whereas, Oklahoma museums forge relationships with community partners, such as schools, libraries, neighborhood and social service organizations, to foster civic understanding; and

Whereas, Oklahoma museums are vital to the preservation, interpretation, and presentation of Oklahoma's heritage;

Whereas, Oklahoma museums contribute significantly to the livability and economic viability of the state and its communities, create jobs, and attract tourists, local visitors and businesses; and

Whereas, the Oklahoma Museums Association has served to bring important recognition of this commemorative week and invites all museums, Oklahoma residents, and local governments to use this milestone to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Oklahoma museums as they serve communities, the nation, and the world; and

Now, therefore, I, Brad Henry, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim May 17-23, 2009 as

**Oklahoma Museums Week**

In the State of Oklahoma and urge Oklahoma residents to participate in and celebrate the contributions that museums make to the great State of Oklahoma.