

Statehood Day and Museums on the Mall

Arizona turned ninety-six on February 14, 2008. To recognize the event, the State Library coordinated the annual Statehood Day Ceremony, held in the historic Senate Chambers in the Arizona State Capitol Museum. Betsy Bayless was the emcee. The Honorable Ruth V. McGregor, Arizona Chief Justice, led the audience in the pledge of allegiance. Governor Napolitano read the Statehood Day Proclamation. Representative Bob Robson, on behalf of Speaker of the House Jim Weiers, presented the **Polly Award** to The Honorable Brenda Burns who made remarks. Senate President Tim Bee read the names of the Polly Rosenbaum Writing Contest student winners for their essays on the topic of "How the Character of Arizona's Youth Affects Arizona's Future." The students stood to be recognized. Ms. Bayless concluded the program by inviting everyone to visit the Museums on the Mall exhibitors and program on the Senate Lawn.



Left to Right: The Honorable Ruth V. McGregor, Arizona Chief Justice, Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano, former Secretary of State Betsy Bayless, and Senate President Tim Bee. Photo by Taylor Arrazola.

As part of the event, two new exhibits featuring important pieces of Arizona opened on Statehood Day. The historic Carnegie Library turned 100 years old on Feb. 14. The Carnegie Library was the first permanent library building in Phoenix. To commemorate its influence on Phoenix and Arizona, an exhibit about its important history, *The Carnegie: Behind Every Library There Is a Story*, was unveiled on Statehood Day

Also, the Arizona Capitol Museum, in collaboration with The University of Arizona, opened the exhibit *Up from the Ashes: Phoenix Goes to Mars* immediately preceding the Statehood Day Ceremony at 12 pm. This exhibit highlights The University of Arizona's Phoenix Mars Mission, from project development, launch, touchdown and the resulting research. The display will be updated as data is analyzed and new information is made available from mission control in Tucson.

"Museums on the Mall," held annually in conjunction with Statehood Day, is an event to promote and advocate Arizona museums and cultural organizations.



This is its ninth year. Arizona's history was celebrated with museum exhibitors from around the state who showed artifacts and provided hands-on activities and demonstrations for children and families on the Senate Lawn.

Left to Right: Alice Duckworth (in period costume ca. 1912), Linda Reib, Electronic Records Archivist, Claire Null Meyers, President of the Arizona Capitol Museum Guild, and Julia Ayers, Arizona Capitol Museum volunteer. Photo by Taylor Arrazola

The "Museums on the Mall" celebration was coordinated by the Arizona Humanities Council (AHC); the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records (ASLAPR); the Central Arizona Museum Association; and the Museum Association of Arizona, and is sponsored by Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Arizona Museum of Natural History, Phoenix Airport Museum, Pueblo Grande Museum, and The Sharlot Hall Museum.

Over 630 people attended all the day's events.