Dear Friends,

When William Shirley Fulton passed away in 1964, his legacy was intact. In the years since founding the Amerind in 1937, Fulton and director Charles Di Peso had established Amerind as one of the premier archaeological research centers in the Southwest. As we celebrate our 75th Anniversary this year, the Amerind continues to pursue Fulton’s vision, even as our mission evolves and expands.

We no longer conduct archaeological excavations in the Southwest Borderlands. Today the Amerind provides crucial support for the latest anthropological research, sponsoring one of the best professional seminar programs in the country and publishing a nationally recognized series of scholarly books. We also deliver that new knowledge to the public through lectures, forums, exhibits, and other publications. Amerind’s mission has grown to encompass research on the human condition across six continents.

In addition to supporting cutting edge research, we have recently:

♦ Completely renovated our collection storage facility, adding modern climate control and storage systems that will help preserve Amerind’s irreplaceable collection for future generations
♦ Doubled the size of our fine art gallery and made the gallery handicapped accessible
♦ Increased staffing by 30 percent, expanded our operating budget by 50 percent, and doubled the size of Amerind’s Board of Directors
♦ Recruited nearly 700 Amerind members and 81 volunteers
♦ Launched a 10-year, $8 million capital campaign to rehabilitate Amerind’s historic buildings and endow critical programs
♦ Digitized our collection catalog and initiated a project to computerize over 25,000 library holdings

This 2012 annual report of the foundation highlights some of our recent accomplishments and recognizes those who have helped us along the way.

Thank you for your support of Amerind’s important mission. Your contributions are an investment in a future that values our past.

Sincerely,

John A. Ware, PhD
Executive Director

Michael W. Hard
Chairman
Amerind Mission & Values

Established in 1937, the Amerind Foundation and Museum seeks to foster and promote knowledge and understanding of the Native Peoples of the Americas through research, education, and conservation.

Throughout its 75 year history the Amerind has pursued archaeological and historical research that contributes to our understanding of the cultures of the Southwest and beyond. The Amerind’s focus on indigenous cultures goes well beyond narrow antiquarian interests. The goal of Amerind scholars is to understand the living present by revealing its origins in the past. Our focus on indigenous people acknowledges that we are all descended, in comparatively recent times, from people who lived in small, human-scaled societies. Knowledge of the human family’s “deep history” is essential to understanding our lives today. Anthropology, with its traditional focus on human cultural and biological variability, history and language, is a prime integrator of humankind’s rich story. The Amerind embraces these broader goals and disseminates scholarly research to the general public through publications, exhibitions, and education programs.

75th Anniversary: Key Accomplishments

Amerind’s Historic Facilities

This was a hallmark year for capital upgrades to Amerind’s historic facilities. In January we completed installation of a wheelchair ramp to replace the steps leading to the main museum entrance. Over the summer we completed the renovation of Amerind’s main 5,000 square foot collection repository. The repository building was completely gutted, windows were replaced, insulation was added to every surface, a modern climate control system was added that maintains temperature and humidity within ideal conservation ranges, and Spacesaver® shelving was installed that will increase the amount of useable storage space by nearly 50 percent.

This long overdue renovation project was made possible by many individual donations as well as generous grants from the Southwestern Foundation and the Brown Foundation of Tucson. These improvements also allow us to move our most fragile objects, like textiles, clothing, and baskets, out of temporary storage on the first floor of the art gallery back into museum building’s storage facility. This will free up nearly 2,500 square feet of public gallery space, nearly doubling the square footage of the Fulton-Hayden Memorial Art Gallery. By the end of this year, we will have completed a wheelchair ramp to the first floor of the art gallery and a vertical wheelchair lift that will make the second floor of the gallery handicapped accessible for the first time in the building’s history.

Education and Exhibitions

In Amerind’s 75th year, we mounted five new exhibitions and renovated two existing exhibitions in the museum and art gallery, installed two multimedia exhibits, launched a new website, redesigned and renamed our member newsletter, and began the long process of re-designing the first floor of the Fulton-Hayden Memorial Art Gallery.

Highlights on the 2012 exhibition calendar included
Border Children,” the contemporary art of Diné (Navajo) artist Glory Tacheenie-Campoy, a reinstallation of textiles in our ongoing “Interwoven Traditions” exhibition, a photographic exhibition entitled “Walls, Windows, and Doors” by Tucson photographer Joe Kozlowski, an exhibition of Native American dolls from the 19th and early 20th centuries, and an exhibit of contemporary weavings by young Diné (Navajo) artists entitled “Gifts from Spider Woman’s Grandchildren.”

Amerind Chief Curator Eric Kaldahl is working with a committee from the Friends of Western Art in Tucson to select paintings that will grace the walls of Amerind’s soon to be reopened ground floor art gallery space, which can now be restored to its original function following the move of organic collections to the newly renovated collections repository. Once the galleries are restored, walls painted, and paintings hung, we hope to have a public opening of the space in March 2013.

Research and Publications

The Amerind sponsored two advanced seminars in 2012, launched a new advanced seminar and publication series in collaboration with Arizona State University, and published two books.

In February ten scholars from North America, Western Europe, and the Middle East assembled at the Amerind to discuss recent research on Neolithic (agricultural revolution) food storage technologies. The symposium was organized and chaired by Dr. Ian Kuijt of the University of Notre Dame and jointly sponsored by the Wenner-Gren Foundation, Notre Dame University, and the Amerind Foundation.

Our second advanced seminar revisited the Joint Casas Grandes Project and brought recent research in northern Chihuahua to bear on several unresolved research issues: How unique was Casas Grandes? What was the nature of its political and ritual organization? What influences did Casas have on other communities of the northern Southwest? Why did Casas collapse and its population disperse in the fifteenth century? Dr. Paul Minnis of the University of Oklahoma, who has worked in northern Chihuahua for over 20 years, organized and chaired the symposium.

The Amerind published two books in 2012, a new title in Amerind’s Studies in Anthropology series entitled Crow-Omaha: New Light on a Classic Problem of Kinship Analysis, and a color catalog of Amerind’s Native American and fine art collections designed as a tribute to Amerind’s 75th Anniversary.
In 2012 the Amerind began a formal collaboration with the School of Sustainability at Arizona State University in Tempe—among the nation’s leading centers of sustainability research—to launch a series of advanced seminars on global sustainability. The proceedings of the seminars will be published by Cambridge University Press in a new series entitled New Directions in Sustainability and Society, edited by Drs. Norman Yoffee of the University of Michigan and the Amerind and Christopher Boone of Arizona State University.

Collections

The Amerind is home to a world-class collection of Native American art and artifacts. Other Southwestern museums hold extensive collections from the region, but Amerind’s collections are hemispheric in scope, with art and artifacts from Alaska to Argentina. The collection includes whimsical carvings of wood and ivory from the Arctic and some of the finest baskets ever made by people from the Northwest Coast and California. From the Native Peoples of the Great Lakes and Great Plains we have outstanding examples of quillwork and beadwork, and from Central and South America there are exquisite examples of pre-Columbian ceramics and textiles. In addition to the works of Native American artists, the Amerind exhibits the works of some of the finest artists of the American West, including W. R. Leigh and Frederick Remington, as well as the works of American masters such as George Inness and Roy Mason.

Our most important accomplishment in 2012 was to completely renovate Amerind’s collection storage repository. In the early months of the year curatorial staff emptied the repository of 21,000 objects and placed them in secure temporary storage buildings so that construction could begin in late spring. By August the renovation was completed, windows were sealed, walls, floors, and ceilings were insulated, and a state of the art climate control system was installed. In September and early October Space Saver© track shelving was installed in the repository and by the end of October collections were moved back into the renovated space. The Amerind Museum can now boast a collection storage facility second to none, with room to grow well into the 2100s.

Amerind’s collections are now stored in an environment that will help preserve and protect them for decades to come, and as a result of the collections move we have gained over 2500 square feet of art gallery space that has served as temporary storage of fragile organic collections since the mid-1980s. The “new” first floor art gallery rooms will be renovated over the winter in time for a grand re-opening in the spring of 2013.
Audited Financial Statement: 2011*

Audited Sources of Funds
December 31, 2011

[Pie chart showing distribution of sources of funds]

Audited Functional Expenses
December 31, 2011

[Pie chart showing distribution of expenses]

Endowment Investment Portfolio Summary
December 31, 2011

*These financials are audited end-of-year 2011 figures. End-of-year 2012 financials (unaudited) will be added to the online version of this annual report by January 10, 2013.

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