

Contact:

Kristen Rogers, Utah State History  
801/533-3542 or [krogers@utah.gov](mailto:krogers@utah.gov)

Claudia Nakano, Communications Director  
Utah Department of Community and Culture  
801/538-8805

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## American Indian Folk Art on Display

Exquisite folk art made by members of Utah's tribes will be on display at the Rio Grande Depot from August 13 until September 18, 2009. Each item was made by a contemporary Utah artist using traditional skills. The exhibit, *The Living Art of Utah's American Indian Tribes: We Shall Remain*, is curated from the State Folk Arts Collection and the Ken Williams Jr. Collection. It includes Ute Mountain Ute ceremonial baskets; Goshute utilitarian baskets; story baskets made by Navajos; Shoshone, Paiute, and Northern Ute beadwork; musical instruments and dancing regalia; baby carriers; jewelry and attire; and a display of miniature objects.

"All of these beautiful pieces are rooted in tradition," says Philip F. Notarianni, director of Utah State History. "These cultures once fashioned tools, clothing, containers, and dwellings using these techniques. Now, Utah's Native American artists are keeping these age-old skills alive."

Carol Edison, Folk Arts Program manager, notes that the artists have evolved and adapted their traditions. "Some of the pieces in the exhibit are more traditional, while others incorporate contemporary motifs," she says. "The artists use locally available materials—like willow, wood, and brain-tanned buckskin—but they also work with modern materials, like beads and commercial dyes."

The state of Utah has been purchasing art from Utah folk artists since the early 1980s as part of the 100-year-old State Art Collection. The majority of the folk arts collection is on permanent display at the Chase Home Museum of Utah Folk Arts in Salt Lake City's Liberty Park. Co-contributor Ken Williams Jr., an accomplished beadworker of Arapahoe and Seneca descent, has been collecting art from Utah's native artists since the early 1990s.

State History is hosting *The Living Art of Utah's American Indian Tribes* in conjunction with its annual conference, to be held September 17-19, and in cooperation with the KUED *We Shall Remain* project. Exhibit partners include the Utah Division of Arts and Museums and its Folk Arts Program, the Division of Indian Affairs, and KUED. For more information, see <http://history.utah.gov>, or call Lynette Lloyd at 801/533-3553.

# # #