

Contact:

Jennifer Howell

Public Relations

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian

(847)475-1030

jhowell@mitchellmuseum.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mitchell Museum hosts “Recognizing the Invisible: Bringing Greater Awareness to Native Peoples” *On the Table* Discussion May 10

Wednesday, May 4, 2016—On Tuesday, May 10, the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian is joining organizations throughout the Chicago region as a host for The Chicago Community Trust’s *On the Table* event. A brown-bag lunch discussion on “Recognizing the Invisible: Bringing greater awareness to Native Peoples,” will take place from noon-1pm in the museum’s library. The conversation will address how we can bring greater focus and recognition to issues surrounding Native peoples at the museum and beyond, including celebrating Indigenous Peoples’ Day this October 10.

Celebrated on the second Monday of October, Indigenous Peoples’ Day acknowledges the many tribes who lived across the country long before Christopher Columbus came to America, and recognizes the contributions of Indigenous people throughout the world from astronaut John Bennett Herrington, Chickasaw, to the Iroquois Confederacy of Nations for its influence on developing the U.S. Constitution. Progressive cities, universities and cultural institutions around the world are joining the movement to adopt Indigenous Peoples Day.

“The leadership at the Mitchell Museum suggested we use the term Indigenous Peoples’ Day. I believe it is the right thing to do and thank them for their work on this issue,” said Evanston Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl.

At the museum’s *On the Table* event, community members can add their voices to the discussion by sharing thoughts and ideas. The discussion is free to join. Please RSVP by May 6 to the museum at 847-475-1030 or visitor.services@mitchellmuseum.org.

Central to the Mitchell Museum’s mission to promote and share a deeper understanding and respect of Native American peoples is sharing the voice and perspective of American Indian and

First Nations peoples. On Indigenous Peoples' Day, the museum will be open and offering free admission all day long in honor of the day. Visitors can learn more about the accomplishments of important Native Americans like engineer and inventor Dr. Stanley Atcitty, Navajo, and baseball pitcher Allie Reynolds, Creek, featured in the popular "Did you Know They're Native" exhibit and agronomics expert Jane Mt. Pleasant, Tuscarora, who is one of 12 Native women highlighted in the museum's new "Contemporary Native Women Opening Doors to Change" exhibit opening June 18th. The museum will also host a discussion panel in the afternoon focusing on the many contributions of Native Americans throughout history. In the evening, a concert featuring nationally renowned Native musicians including Scatter Their Own will celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day. Tickets and more details will be available soon.

For the past two years, *On the Table* has provided a forum for Chicago-area residents to come together over a mealtime discussion, and become more civically involved in the community. More than 40,000 Chicagoland residents have participated in this Chicago Community Trust event designed to elevate civic conversation, foster new relationships and create a unifying experience across the Chicago area. For more information, go to www.onthetable.com.

The Chicago Community Trust is the region's largest community foundation. For the past century, the Trust has connected the generosity of donors with community needs by making grants to nonprofit organizations working to improve metropolitan Chicago. The Mitchell Museum of the American Indian is proudly supported by the Trust.

The Mitchell Museum is one of only a handful of museums in the country that focuses exclusively on the art, history and culture of American Indian and First Nation peoples throughout the United States and Canada. In 2012, the Mitchell Museum was named "Best Museum of The North Shore: Up and Comer" by *Make it Better* magazine, won the Superior award by the Illinois Association of Museums and was named a national finalist by the American Association of State and Local History award program. The *Chicago Tribune* named the Mitchell Museum one of its top 10 museums for 2015.

For more information about The Mitchell Museum of The American Indian, visit www.mitchellmuseum.org, call 847-475-1030 or see our verified Facebook page. The museum is located in Evanston, Illinois at 3001 Central Street. It is open Tuesday-Wednesday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday- Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, students and children and Free for Mitchell Museum members and Tribal members.

###