

Museum and Cultural Advisory Board – Meeting Minutes

The Museum and Cultural Advisory Board met in a regular hybrid meeting via Zoom and at Mesa Arts Center's Conference Room on Thursday January 23, 2025.

Members Present:

Nick Willis
Katelyn Armbruster
Angela Buer
Claudia Bloom
Karen Rolston
Colleen Byron
Melvin Van Vorst
Brad Peterson
Todd Hanle
Greg DeSimone

Members Absent:

Annalisa Alvrus

Staff Present:

Illya Riske
Simon Tipene Adlam
Jarrad Bittner
Sarah Goedicke
Hannah Hockersmith

Nick Willis called the meeting to order at 4:01pm.

Items from citizens present: There were no citizens present.

Approval of minutes from the regular September 26, 2024 Meeting:

Melvin Van Vorst moved to approve the minutes as written and Todd Hanle seconded. Board members voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written and they will be posted on the city's website.

Approval of minutes from the regular November 21, 2024 Meeting:

Melvin Van Vorst moved to approve the minutes as written and Greg DeSimone seconded. Board members voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written and they will be posted on the city's website.

Hear a Presentation on Arizona Museum of Natural History's new Thrive Gallery and renaming of Sce:dagi Mu:val Va'aki – Simon Tipene Adlam:

Simon Tipene Adlam gave a brief recap of the renaming of Mesa Grande to Sce:dagi Mu:val Va'aki and the celebration held on November 4, 2024. He walked the Board through the pronunciation of the name, which was formed in partnership with local tribes. He then gave a short presentation on the upcoming THRIVE exhibit opening on January 24, 2025 **(Exhibit A)**.

Hear a Presentation on idea Museum's new logos – Hannah Hockersmith, Marketing & Communications Specialist II, idea Museum:

Hannah Hockersmith gave a presentation on the new logo and updated branding for idea Museum and shared examples of how the brand will be used on various media including signage, advertisements, and employee apparel **(Exhibit B)**.

Upcoming Events – Volunteer or Participation Opportunities:

Sarah Goedicke stated she would collect upcoming event opportunities from staff and send them to the Board. She also shared that Mesa Arts Center has three events coming up in March that could use volunteers: the 20th anniversary gala, an anniversary appreciation event, and the new ALT Festival.

Discuss projects or presenters of interest and report on events attended:

Board members commented on the opening of the Joy Ride exhibit at idea Museum and re-opening of the museum, calling the event wonderful. Board members who attended the opening ceremony for Sce:dagi Mu:val Va'aki stated it was fantastic and beautiful.

The next scheduled meeting date is March 27, 2025 and will be a hybrid meeting on zoom and at the idea Museum.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:39pm.

Respectfully submitted,

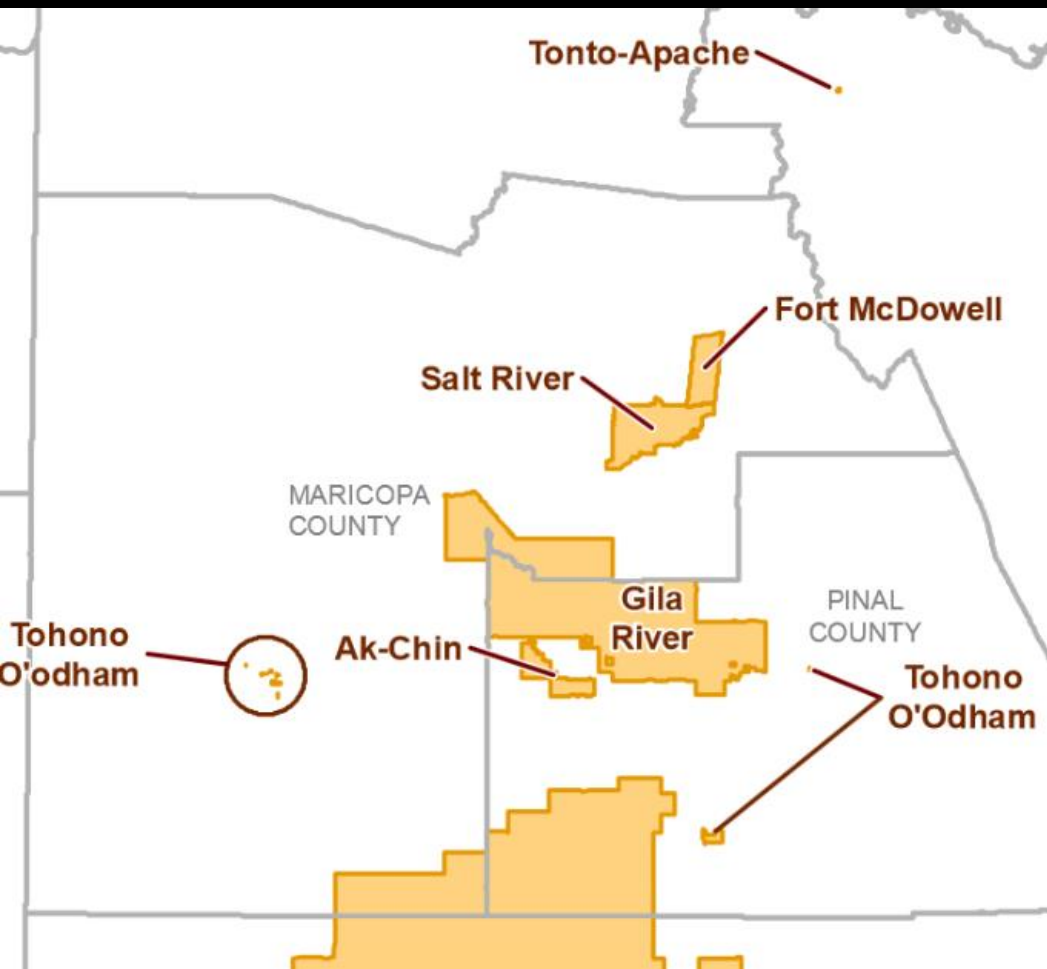
Illya Riske
Acting Director of Arts and Culture

EXHIBIT A



Arizona Museum of Natural History MCAB meeting presentation

A commitment of action – why the name change



- After listening to our First Nation neighbors, we worked closely with the Mayor on a ‘Commitment of Actions’.
- The previous name Mesa Grande, was a Spanish name given by early European settlers.
- Bi-monthly meetings with GRIC and SRPMIC to discuss museum business of interest
- Our commitment is to honor the sovereignty and heritage of our tribal community neighbors, such as -
 - Land Acknowledgement
 - General Plan historical narrative
 - New City Archaeologist position

The Process – listening, learning and collective action



- GRIC Elder Barnaby Lewis proposed the name Sce:dagi Mu:val Va'aki (Chuh-dag MOO-vahl VAH-Kee) and agreed by First Nations, and the City of Mesa
- Song stories about the Blue Fly on the Salt River
- Community members of SRPMIC and GRIC asked for ceremonies at the park



The Opening of Sce:dagi Mu:val Va'aki

- Nov 4th : Renaming ceremony (private event)
- Nov 9th : Opened to the public free of admission charge

In preparation for the opening ceremony



- The new facility building signage indicates anew direction for the ancestral site.
- AZMNH was awarded \$200,000 from GRIC to continue consultation with the tribes to reinterpret the park. The name change is just the first step
- This will be part of our museum mastering.



Salt River Pima – Maricopa Indian Community, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Shane Anton made a video to describe the pronunciation of the name and explain the meaning behind it



Catering by Alyssa's Kosin GRIC
Indigenous catering



Chi'Chino Spirit Dancers

Renaming and opening ceremony

Dignitaries from all stakeholder elected offices



It was the first time leaders
of all four Southern Tribes
had gathered at the site,
with our Mayor and
Governor



As well as speakers

included government leaders of Arizona, City of Mesa and all four Southern Tribes, GRIC, SRPMIC, Ak-Chin and Tohono O'odham



Governor Stephen Roe Lewis, GRIC

THRIVE: The First Peoples, Past Present, and Forever

**Temporary Gallery Exhibit
AZMNH**

Objectives



1. Introduce audiences to the idea of a cultural continuum between the first inhabitants of the Sonoran Desert, including the ancestral societies that built **Sce:dagī Mu:val Va'aki** and the extensive network of irrigation canals and that the modern Tribes are the generational continuum
2. Expand concepts about the deep-time human relationship such as the O'odham and Piipaash peoples and the Sonoran Desert.
3. Connect the AZMNH and Sce:dagī Mu:val Va'aki.
4. Serving as a safe platform to share traditional knowledge and tribal narratives.

Co-authorship



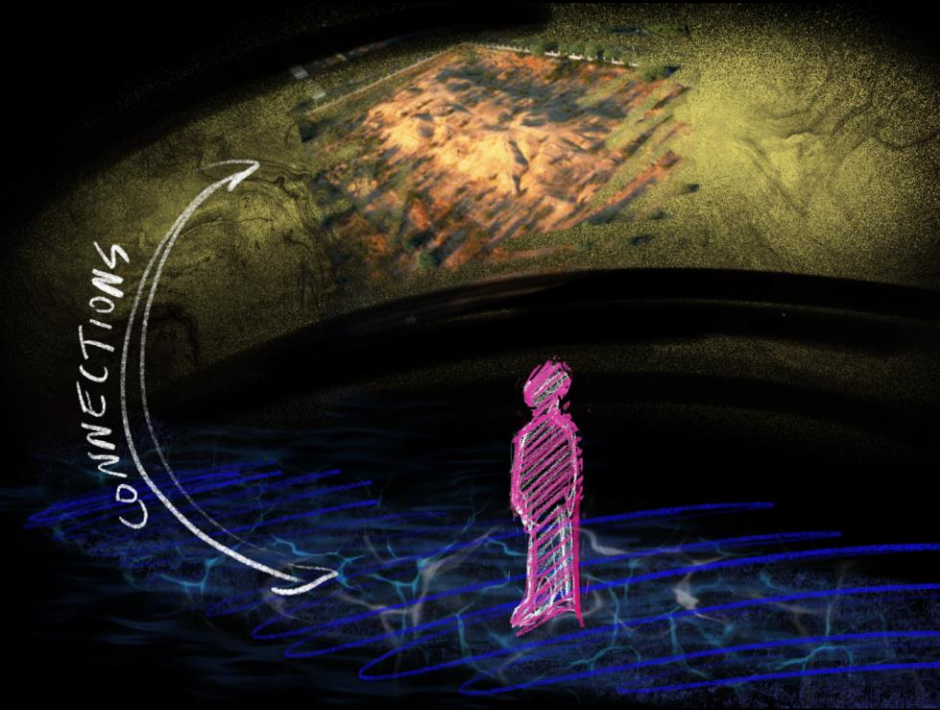
Our goal was to develop an exhibit respectfully working with SRPMIC and GRIC.

- 1. Consultations on content, archaeological artifacts and artworks**
- 2. Oral histories and ‘lived experiences’ with tribal members. When appropriate, we include text, sound, and/or video components of these conversations**
- 3. Through these collaborations, the AZMNH ensures that the exhibit not only illuminates the peoples and culture but also gives the Tribes a platform to share their heritage in their own words.**

Gallery changes



Experience concept



- We are creating a media-rich, multi-sensory experience within 2000 ft² of the exhibition hall previously known as the *Southwest Cultures Gallery*, blending archaeological artifact displays, sounds and smells of the Sonoran desert, interactive elements, and first-person interviews.
- Visitors will be immersed in the deep time connection between the Sonoran Desert, the ancestral Sonoran Desert dwellers, and O'odham communities.

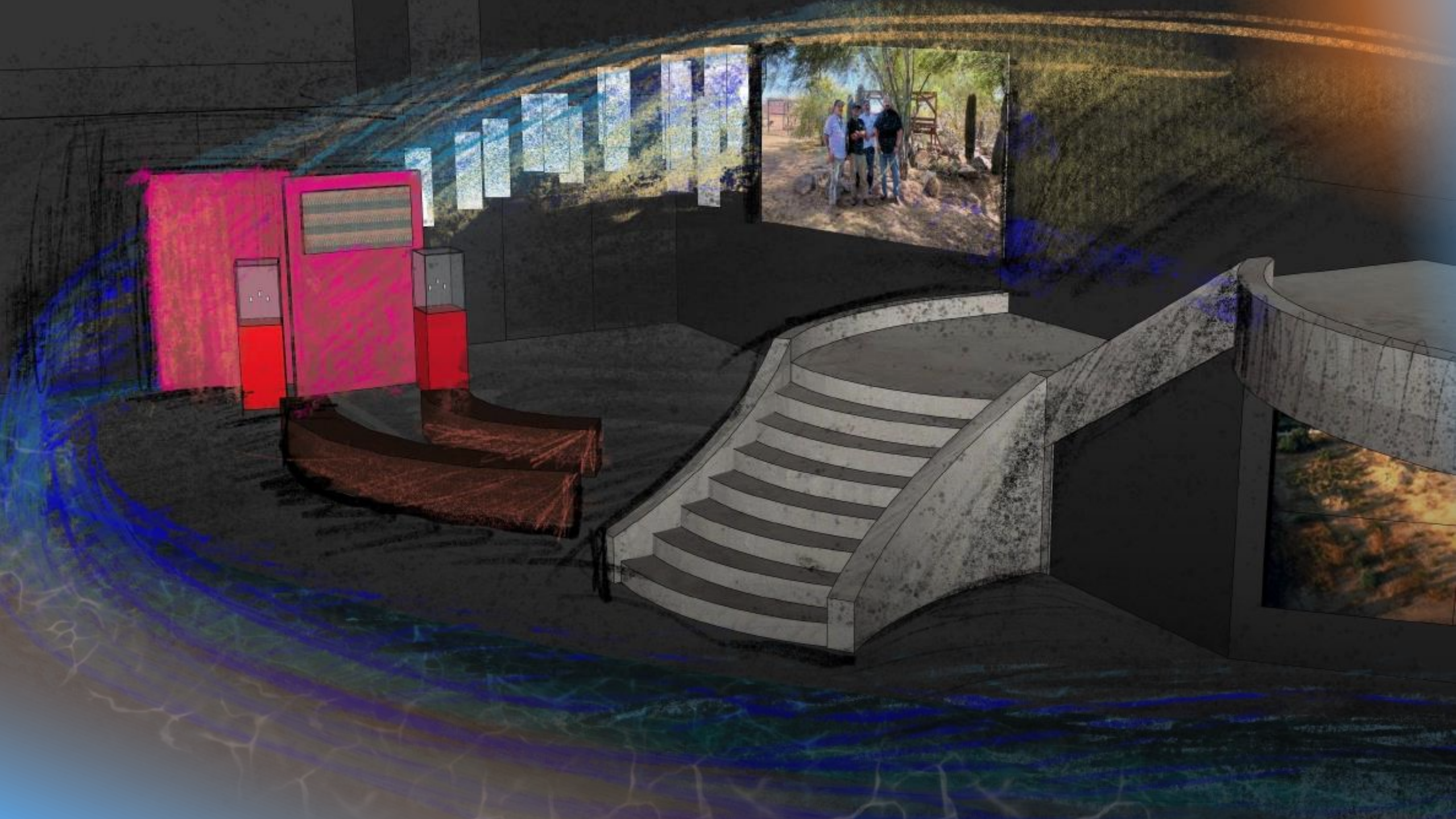
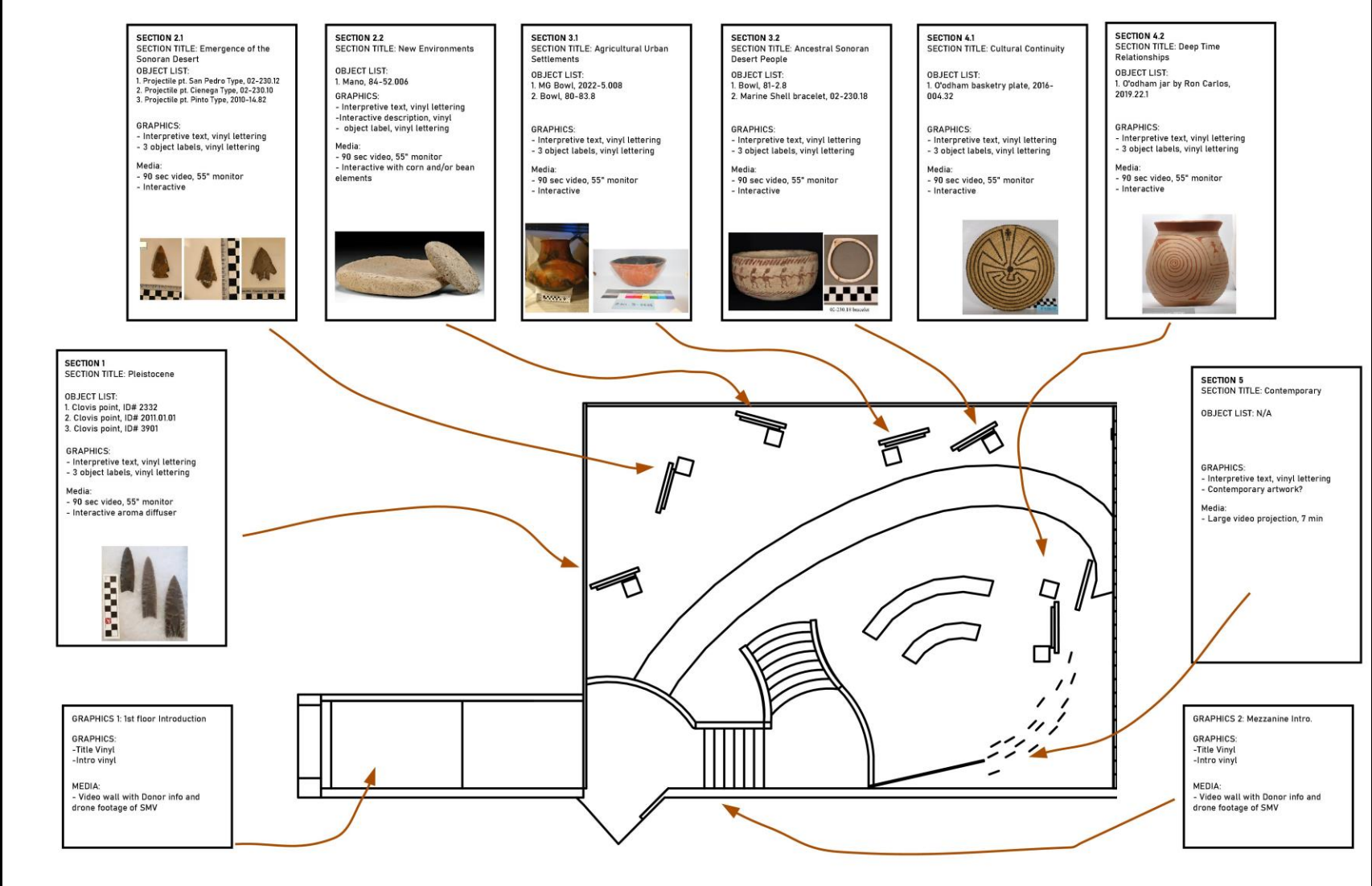


Exhibit layout





THRIVE celebration dates

Friday, January 24, 2025 –

Press Preview (morning)

Friday, January 24, 2025 –

VIP Event (evening – 5pm)

Saturday, January 25, 2025 –

Member Preview (9am – 10am)

Public opening (10am – 12pm)





Custodians of cultural heritage



- AZMNH started working with Bernstein & Associates
- AZMNH B&A Check-in meeting: October 21st
- NAGPRA@mesaaz.gov account
- Virtual NAGPRA training sessions with B&A for AZMNH staff: December 11th and 12th
- B&A in-person visit and Tribal meetings: Feb 11th – Feb 14th, 2025

THANK YOU



EXHIBIT B

APPROVED LOGO / BRAND COLORS



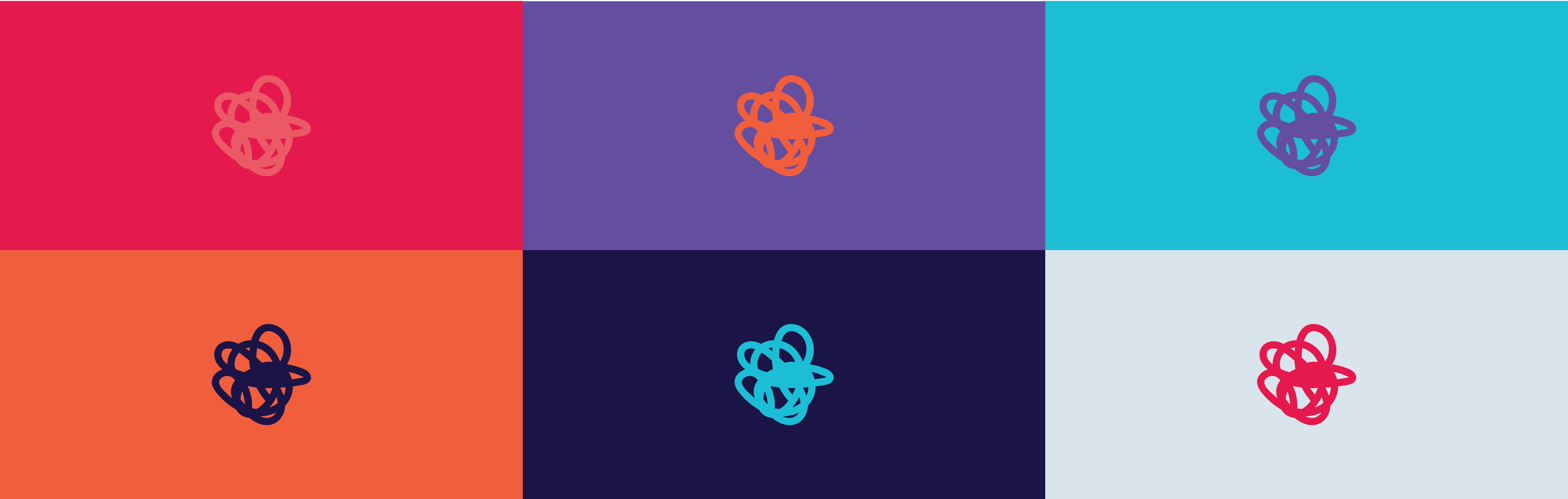
RESEARCH / INSIGHTS

- 10 One-on-one interviews
(Board Members, Mayor, Donors, Stakeholders)
- Online Survey (984 respondents)
- New Vision and Mission Statements
- Personal experiences at museum and working on museum

APPROVED LOGO / BRAND COLORS



APPROVED LOGO / BRAND COLORS



idea museum



HOURS
TUES - SAT
9:00 AM
to
4:00 PM
SUNDAY
Noon
to
4:00 PM
Closed Mondays
A.M. & U.S. Open
A.M. & U.S. Open
A.M. & U.S. Open

HOURS
TUES - SAT
9:00 AM
to
4:00 PM
SUNDAY
Noon
to
4:00 PM
Closed Mondays
A.M. & U.S. Open
A.M. & U.S. Open
A.M. & U.S. Open







Join our Team!
Guest Experience Associate (Temporary)



**Where children
thrive through
creativity,
curiosity and
connection!**



Join our Team!
Guest Experience Associate (Temporary)



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Guest Experience Associate (Temporary)



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Guest Experience Associate (Temporary)



T-SHIRT

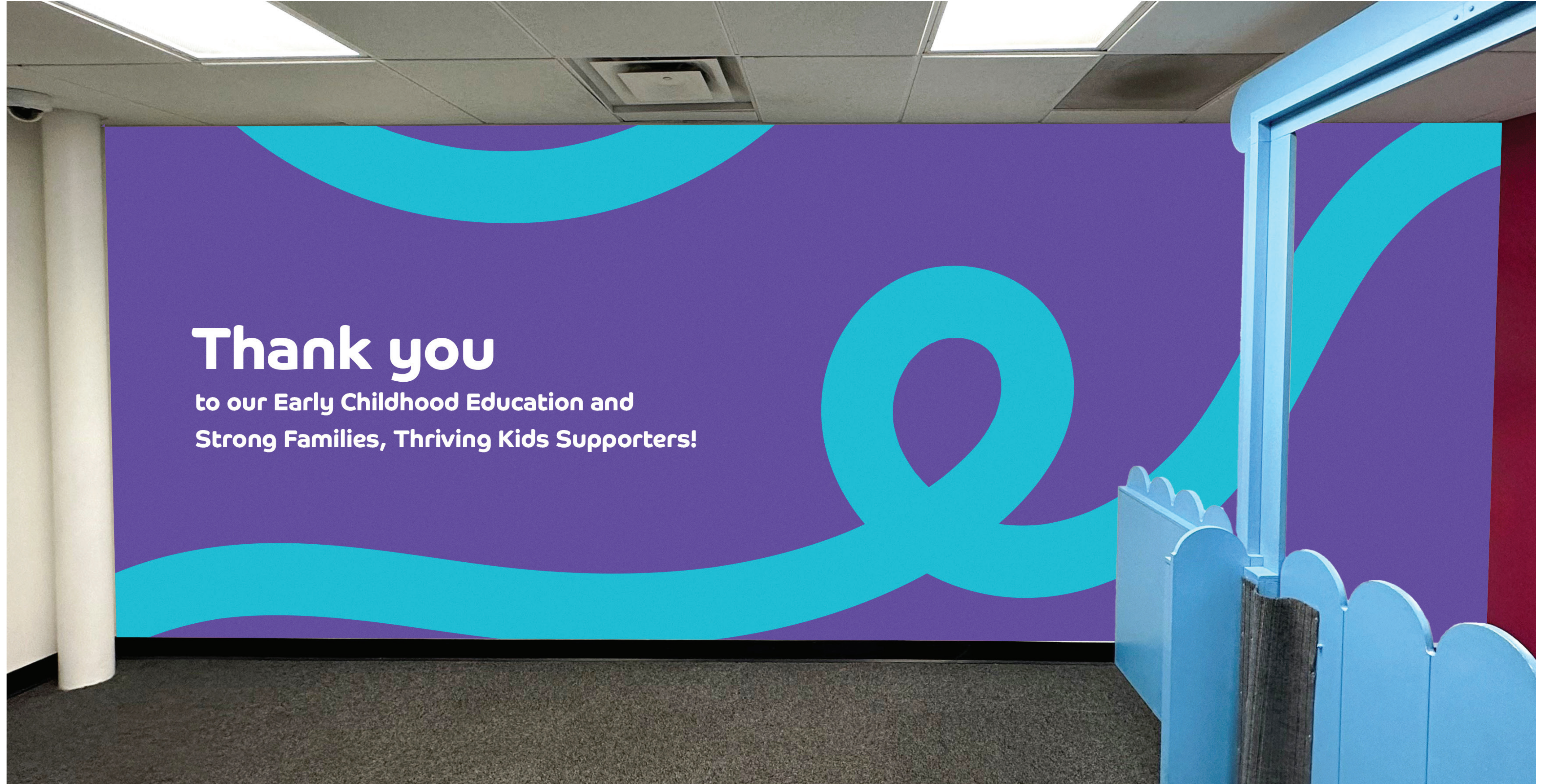


LANYARD



WAYFINDING





COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE. SAMPLE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM LOGOS.

