



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Name: [Aurore Giguet](#)

Phone: 503-647-2418

Email: [aurore@ricenorthwestmuseum.org](mailto:aurore@ricenorthwestmuseum.org)

## The Rice Museum of Rocks & Minerals is pleased to announce our participation in Blue Star Museums

Hillsboro —The Rice Museum of Rocks & Minerals is announcing its participation in the Blue Star Museums program, a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 1,500 museums across America to offer free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families from Armed Forces Day—Saturday, May 15, 2021, and ends on Labor Day—Monday, September 6, 2021.

Leadership support has been provided by MetLife Foundation through Blue Star Families. The complete list of participating museums is available at [www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](http://www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums).

“This is both an opportunity to thank military families for their service and sacrifice, as well as a chance to create connections between museums and these families,” said Aurore Giguet, Executive Director of the Rice Museum.

### About Blue Star Museums

Blue Star Museums is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 1,500 museums across America. The program runs from Armed Forces Day—Saturday, May 15, 2021, and ends on Labor Day—Monday, September 6, 2021. The free admission program is available to active-duty military and their family members (military ID holder and up to five family members). Active duty military include Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and active duty National Guard and active duty Reserve members.

For questions on particular exhibits or museums, please contact the museum directly.

To find out which museums are participating, visit [www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](http://www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums). The site includes a list of participating museums and a map to help with visit planning.

### About Blue Star Families

Blue Star Families is a national, nonprofit network of military families from all ranks and services, including guard and reserve, with a mission to support, connect and empower military families. In addition to morale and empowerment programs, Blue Star Families raises awareness of the challenges and strengths of military family life and works to make military life more sustainable through programs and partnerships like Operation Honor Cards, MilKidz Club and Blue Star Museums. Membership includes military spouses, children and parents as well as service members, veterans and the civilians who strongly support them. To learn more about Blue Star Families, visit [www.bluestarfam.org](http://www.bluestarfam.org).

#### About the National Endowment for the Arts

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the Arts Endowment supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. Visit [arts.gov](http://arts.gov) to learn more.

#### About the Rice Museum

Housing a world-class collection of rocks and minerals, the Rice Museum is recognized as the finest in the Pacific Northwest and one of the best in the nation. Its educational programs include organized school field trips as well as ongoing educational outreach throughout the community at large. The Museum is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its unique architectural style and its use of natural stone and extraordinary native Oregon woodwork throughout the building.

The Rice Museum is a Smithsonian Affiliate, one of only three in Oregon. The Affiliation serves as an endorsement to the quality of a museum's facilities, the training and professionalism of its staff, and its mission to educate the public. More information about the Smithsonian Affiliations program and Affiliate activity is available at [www.affiliations.si.edu](http://www.affiliations.si.edu).

For more information about the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals, call (503) 647-2418 or visit [www.ricenorthwestmuseum.org](http://www.ricenorthwestmuseum.org).

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