

NEWS MEDIA ADVISORY PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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**The Utah Museum of Natural History and Zions Bank
Open New *Traveling Treasures* Exhibit
At Downtown Branch**

Objects from a comprehensive Native American collection discovered at a yard sale will travel the state.

For over 50 years, Utah resident Dorothy Haslam explored the Four Corners region while traveling with her husband Kenneth through the territories of Navajo, Ute, Apache, Hopi, Zuni, and other tribal areas. Like many who visit this area, she became enamored with Native American art. Soon she was collecting in earnest. By the end of her life, she had amassed a sizeable collection—over 600 art objects that includes stunning jewelry, marvelous rugs, incredible beadwork, and lively Katsinas.

The unique thing about this collection is how it was discovered. University of Utah Geology Professor Marjorie Chan, an avid collector also, stumbled upon the collection a few years ago while at a yard sale held by the Haslam family. After further questioning by Chan, the family took her down into their basement where she couldn't believe her eyes and learned that the collection was one of the largest of its kind. Impressed with their variety and beauty, Chan told the Utah Museum of Natural History about the items and the Collectors Council, a group of community members who are interested in helping the Museum grow certain aspects of the collections, took it from there to raise the necessary funds.

“I knew these items were too important for me or another private collector to keep,” said Chan. “The collection needed to stay together and belonged at the Utah Museum of Natural History, where it could be accessible to all.”

Building on to a \$100,000 donation from Zions Bank, the Collectors Council raised the additional \$80,000 to secure this immense collection that now resides at the Museum and will be shared with Utah residents around the state. In honor of the Zions donation, the collection will now be formally called *The Zions Bank Four Corners Collection*.

“The Museum is very grateful to Zions Bank for its on-going support of the Museum in many

areas,” said Sarah George, executive director. “Making this beautiful collection available to the public never would have happened had it not been for Zions’ involvement, and we thank them graciously,” said George.

As Mrs. Haslam regularly shared her treasured objects and the stories that surrounded them with members of her Salt Lake community, it was the wish of her family that the Museum continues with this tradition. Being the state’s natural history museum, this request fit perfectly with its mandate and through its established Traveling Treasures program, in partnership with Zions Bank, selected collection objects will now travel the next two years to various parts of the state in the exhibit *Connecting Cultures: The Zions Bank Four Corners Collection*. Many of the objects will also be displayed in the new Museum building, slated to open in 2010.

“As Utah’s oldest local bank, Zions is honored to be associated with such a quality collection that showcases our region’s Native American artistic tradition,” said Zions Bank CEO Scott Anderson. “And we are delighted that the Museum chose to make it the theme of this year’s Traveling Treasures exhibit. Now, residents around the state can enjoy such a beautiful collection,” said Anderson.

The media will have two opportunities to view this new exhibit. The first will be Wednesday, Jan 23rd at 10:30 am, when Museum staff will be setting up the exhibit at Zions Bank’s downtown branch location, One South Main.

The second opportunity will be that evening for the official kick-off event at 5:15 pm, when the collection will formally be announced as *The Zions Bank Four Corners Collection*. Scheduled to make comments are Zions Bank’s CEO Scott Anderson and the Museum’s Executive Director Sarah George. Also at the evening event, there will be several tables full of additional objects from the Four Corners Collection and staff from the Museum’s anthropology department will be on hand to answer questions. A Salt Lake Girl Scout troop will join the celebration in unveiling the new exhibit, as well as participate in hands-on activities.

The Utah Museum of Natural History, an active research institution located at the University of Utah, is the state’s natural history museum and cares for over 1.5 million objects. In addition to providing unique natural history experiences to Utah residents through exhibits, special events, and programs on site, the museum offers a variety of outreach programs to communities and schools, reaching every district in the state during the year. Planning is underway for the new Utah Museum of Natural History, set to open in 2010, just south of Red Butte Garden in the Foothill Cultural District.