



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE [1/15//2026]

Vernon Filley Art Museum Awarded \$7000 Grant from the Peoples Heartland Foundation

Pratt, KS—The Vernon Filley Art Museum is thrilled to announce it has received a \$7,000 grant from The Peoples Heartland Foundation. The grant funds will support two major initiatives that will strengthen the preservation of the museum's exhibitions and growing collection—1) the

acquisition of new archival grade cases and pedestals and 2) the implementation of *PastPerfect*, a comprehensive online collection management system widely used by museums and cultural institutions. "This generous funding allows us to take meaningful steps in safeguarding our collection while expanding opportunities for community engagement," said Emilie Steffen-Smith, grants coordinator for the Filley. "We are deeply grateful to The Peoples Heartland Foundation for helping us improve our ability to care for these artworks and present them in a secure, accessible way for all ages and audiences as we continue to grow our collection and programming."



The new cases and pedestals were purchased in December 2025 and will be put to use in the

Museum's upcoming exhibition, *Committed to Memory: Interpretations of Culture in Southwestern Native American Art*. "The right display cases are vital for protecting the longevity and integrity of each piece, ensuring that we can continue connecting our community with truly unique artistic voices," said Brittany Novotny, Executive Director. Curated by Sara Keith and



VERNON FILLEY ART MUSEUM

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Tyler Dallis, the exhibit features artworks from the museum's permanent collection and the Loomis Family Private Collection including pieces from working Hopi, Navajo, Apache, Acoma & Zuni artists. The exhibit opens January 24th, 2026, and features many beautiful and intricate artworks including Kachina dolls, weavings, basketry, and contemporary pottery. The new display cases and pedestals will be a significant upgrade, providing enhanced protection from environmental and accidental damage, while also improving the aesthetic presentation. This acquisition will directly support the museum's commitment to providing a safe and engaging environment for both its collection and its visitors for many years to come.

The Filley welcomes over 8,000 visitors annually and hosts a variety of year-round programming, including classes and events for approximately 1,000 local youth each year. "These improvements will have an immediate impact on our education programming for the school groups who visit each year, said Sara Keith, Collections and Education Manager. "We are excited for students to be able to engage with exhibits more closely."

To learn more about upcoming classes and events at The Filley, please visit vernonfilleyartmuseum.org. To learn more about The Peoples Heartland Foundation, please visit tphfks.org

For more information about this grant award, please contact:
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