



THE
ANNIE*OAKLEY
SOCIETY

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Artist Mary Whyte, Oklahoma Entrepreneur Bob Funk to be Honored at 12th Annual Annie Oakley Society Luncheon

Celebrate the 12th annual Annie Oakley Society Luncheon at The Cowboy to recognize trailblazing women and raise funds to support educational programming at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK — Mary Whyte, an internationally known American artist, will receive the Annie Oakley Society Award, and Robert A. Funk will receive the Frank Butler Award during the annual Annie Oakley Society luncheon held in the Annie Oakley Center on September 8, 2022, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The women of the Annie Oakley Society are dedicated to supporting education and to honoring the legacy of extraordinary women of the West who pave the way for other women in their career fields. Each year, the women of the Annie Oakley Society choose a woman who has made significant strides toward advancing women's position in society as well as members of the community who's deeds merit recognition. They also honor men who have gone above and beyond in supporting female leaders and members of the community with the Frank Butler award. In 2021, the Frank Butler award was posthumously given to Foster Friess.

Mary Whyte is an artist who is known internationally for her watercolors depicting contemporary people. She is also the author of seven books and the recipient of numerous awards. Whyte founded the Patriot Art Foundation to inspire and honor veterans through the arts.

Bob Funk Sr. has been in the staffing industry since 1965. He founded Express Employment Professionals in 1971. As Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Funk led the business into one of the nation's largest privately held staffing companies. Today, Express puts more than a half million people to work each year and records more than \$3 billion in annual sales. Funk has been named Most Admired CEO by the

Journal Record newspaper, Man of the Year by Impact OKC Magazine, and he's been inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, the International Franchise Association Hall of Fame and the Sales and Marketing Executives International Hall of Fame.

Past Annie Oakley Society Award Honorees include Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Reba McEntire, Admiral Michelle Howard, Donna Shirley, Nadia Comaneci, Kristin Chenoweth, Mo Anderson, Mary Higgins Clark and Sheila Johnson.

As an organization dedicated to supporting women and education, proceeds from the annual luncheon and donations to the Annie Oakley Society go towards benefiting educational programming for children and families at the Museum.

The luncheon will also honor members of the community who have made valuable contributions to Western culture and to supporting the community. Attendees will also have the opportunity to support local vendors at the "Little Sure Shot Marketplace" held in the Museum from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Membership to the Annie Oakley Society is open to women who are committed to excellence in their field, to furthering education and supporting the community. To learn more about Annie Oakley Society membership or to make a luncheon reservation, visit nationalcowboymuseum.org/annieoakley.

Events Sponsors include The Chickasaw Nation, Hobby Lobby, Express Employment International, Eventures, Billie and Ross McKnight, E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation, Mars Chocolate Companies and New Leaf.

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About the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City is America's premier institution of Western history, art and culture. Founded in 1955, the Museum collects, preserves and exhibits an internationally renowned collection of Western art and artifacts while sponsoring dynamic educational programs to stimulate interest in the enduring legacy of the American West. The Museum is located only six miles northeast of downtown Oklahoma City at 1700 Northeast 63rd Street. For more information, visit nationalcowboymuseum.org.

About the Annie Oakley Society

The Annie Oakley Society is made up of women leaders and philanthropists who, like Annie Oakley, play a significant role in shaping their communities while keeping the values and spirit of the West alive. Through their efforts, members are working with the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum to build and sustain world-class educational experiences to teach children and families the rich history of the American West.

The Annie Oakley Society's signature project, Liichokoshkomo', was a multi-million dollar hands-on, minds-on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) outdoor expansion at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum that opened Spring 2020. The 100,000 square foot, multi-tribal villages, western town and geological features promote learning through play-based environments, placing children on a path of discovery, lifelong learning, innovation, literacy and creativity.