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Hannah Stewart, Marketing Specialist

hstewart@nationalcowboymuseum.org

405-839-7876

**Presidential Boots, Victorian-Era Trousseau, Grisly Arrowhead
Among Rarely Seen Items Featured in New Exhibition,
*Treasures from our Atherton Vault***

National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum unveils art and artifacts from the vault in unique new exhibition.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK – Opening February 16, 2024, *Treasures from our Atherton Vault* will provide a rare look at art and artifacts typically tucked away within the Museum’s vast collection. Drawing from more than a million archival documents, nearly 25,000 historic objects and numerous photographs, the Museum’s curators compiled a fascinating collection of unique and seldom-seen items. The exhibition explores themes such as how the Museum represents the West, expressions of diversity through art, how these items are preserved and the amazing stories behind the artifacts themselves.

“Several items in the Museum’s collection rarely leave the vault for various reasons,” said Chief Curatorial Officer David Davis. “Fragile paper items require controlled storage, larger items face limited gallery space, and some artifacts – not aligning with storytelling goals – serve primarily as research pieces. In fact, our 60,000 square feet of gallery space exhibits around 15% of the Museum’s collection at any one time. This exhibition gives us a chance to show off some of the quirkier, more fragile and just downright cool items that don’t often make their way out of the vault.”

The exhibition guides guests through diverse themes and showcases artifacts with intriguing stories, from boots designed for President Ronald Reagan, to Indigenous artwork, to an arrowhead that was embedded in a man for 16 years.

The exhibition also showcases the future of the Museum’s collection storage and the exciting expansion and improvements coming soon. As a part of \$40 million “Live the Code” capital campaign, plans are underway to double the size of the vault while adding new high-density metal storage systems that will allow for future collection growth. For more information on the campaign, visit livethecodecampaign.org.

Treasures from our Atherton Vault will be on exhibit through April 28, 2024. For media materials, contact Hannah Stewart at hstewart@nationalcowboymuseum.org.

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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. Memberships are available beginning at just \$50. For more information, visit nationalcowboymuseum.org.