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MEDIA ALERT

February 14, 2014

**OSAGE NATION CULTURAL ADVISOR TO BLESS
“IMAGINING THE FOUNDING OF ST. LOUIS” EXHIBIT THIS SATURDAY**

- Event:** Osage Blessing of “Imagining the Founding of St. Louis” exhibit by Eddy Red Eagle, Jr., Cultural Advisor for the Osage Nation
- When:** Saturday, February 15 at 1:45
- Where:** Bellwether Gallery of St. Louis Artists, Sheldon Art Galleries
- Admission:** Free and open to the public. Galleries will be open for extended hours, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon Art Galleries will welcome Eddy Red Eagle, Jr., Cultural Advisor for the Osage Nation, for a blessing of the exhibition, “Imagining the Founding of St. Louis,” on Saturday, February 15 at 1:45 p.m. The exhibition opened Friday, February 7 and runs through August 23. The public is invited to attend. Admission free.

Eddy Red Eagle, Jr. says, “When we bring these artifacts out for display in an exhibit, it opens the door back into history. These artifacts are tied back to the Osage people. How we used these artifacts throughout the ages connects to our lifestyle today, and to our understanding of the natural realm of creation. We consider these artifacts to be a conduit to the consciousness of God. We hold these artifacts in high regard because we consider them to be sacred.” Red Eagle will conduct the blessing to express thankfulness in the Osage language, as many of the items in the exhibit were created by their relatives.

Organized as part of the city-wide commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of St. Louis, the exhibition includes paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture by Oscar E. Berninghaus, Karl Bodmer, Charles Bird King, Louis-Leopold Boilly, Charles Ferdinand Wimar and others, and pays tribute to the Native Missourians who lived in the region with an array of Mississippian, Osage, Missouri and Illinois regalia, art and artifacts.

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The exhibition is made possible in part by Mary Pillsbury Fine Jewelry Company, Ameren, Bellefontaine Cemetery and Arboretum, Eleanor J. Moore, the Ed and H. Pillsbury Foundation, the Bannister Family and Barbara and Arthur McDonnell.