

TAMÁSTSLIKT CULTURAL INSTITUTE



Alcatraz

"Alcatraz: Life on the Rock" to open at Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute

For immediate release - Pendleton, OR

Together with Alcatraz Cruises, Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute opens its newest exhibit, "Alcatraz: Life on the Rock" and "Alcatraz: The Last Day" on Saturday, June 27. The 3,000 square foot exhibit includes a photo collection by Life Magazine photographer Leigh Wiener as well as a section on the Native American occupation in 1969.

"Alcatraz: Life on the Rock" presented by CHI St. Anthony Hospital, Mahoney Group, and Wells Fargo, showcases Alcatraz Island's fascinating history and infamous inmates. Specific installations include "How Do You Know Alcatraz?" which offers a compelling introduction, complete with a model of the island and a look at The Rock's place in history and in movies. Additionally, there are four quadrants that feature "Military History"; "Life on the Inside" with an authentic replica of a prison cell; "Strength: The Native American Indian Occupation"; and "Preserving the Rock."

Upon the announcement of the Alcatraz Penitentiary closure in 1963, Life Magazine called upon California-based photographer Leigh Wiener to document the momentous occasion. While Wiener had a large lay-out in the 1963 issue of Life Magazine, many of Wiener's 300+ photographs that were captured on March 21, 1963 remained unpublished, filed away in his archive, until they were revealed 45 years later. In 2008, Devik Wiener would discover this treasure trove of images taken on the closing day of Alcatraz. Twenty five of these images are now on display in the complementary the exhibit "Alcatraz: The Last Day".

The Alcatraz exhibit has been expanded to include the Native American connection. By the late 1960s, Native Americans were relegated to the history books and out of the public consciousness. The United States government had instituted several policies since the late 1800s that were specifically designed to assimilate Native Americans and dissolve tribes. Many were disenfranchised, impoverished, and forgotten people living in urban inner-cities. In 1969, the group Indians of All Tribes claimed the island of Alcatraz in protest and in an effort to bring their plight onto a national stage. They held the island for 19 months. The occupation led more protests and the repeal of harsh federal assimilation policies. Tamástslíkt will enhance "Life on the Rock" with additional information and artifacts related to the occupation of Alcatraz and Native activism from the 1960s to the present.

Admission to the exhibit which runs through October 24, 2015 is FREE on opening day, June 27.

For more information, go to www.tamastslíkt.org.

About Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute

Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute is owned and operated by the [Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation](#). A Blue Star museum, Tamástslíkt is one of the many museums across the nation that offers free admission to families of active duty servicemen and women year-round.

In addition to the museum and interpretive center, Tamástslíkt operates a museum store, café, and offers meeting room rentals. Tamástslíkt is open six days a week, 10am-5pm, Monday-Saturday; closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Kinship Café is open from 11am to 2pm on the same days the museum is open.

Tamástslíkt is located at 47106 Wildhorse Boulevard at the far end of the main driveway of the Wildhorse Resort & Casino, 10 minutes east of Pendleton, Oregon. Tamástslíkt can be reached via Exit 216 off Interstate I-84 or by following the "Mission-LaGrande" sign south off Highway 11 onto Highway 331.

For more information, contact Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute at 541.429.7700 or visit www.tamastslíkt.org.

Media: for more information, photos, interviews, please contact Michelle Liberty at [Attitude Marketing](#), 509.540.0931 or email liberty@getattitude.net.