



## Press Release

**For Immediate Release – April 14, 2020**

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**GATHERING OF NATIONS  
TO FEATURE  
VIRTUAL POWWOW EXPERIENCE  
[www.gatheringofnations.com](http://www.gatheringofnations.com)**

**For Immediate Release April 14, 2020**

For the past thirty-seven years, the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow has been the most prominent, popular and legendary annual Native American event in North America. The Gathering of Nations Pow Wow annually hosts thousands of people including over 750 tribes from throughout the United States, Canada, and around the world. For the first time in 37 years, the Gathering of Nations Pow wow scheduled for April 24 & 25 was postponed/cancelled four weeks ago by the Governor of New Mexico. Her directive was that all New Mexico State facilities were shutting down due to the Global Health Pandemic (Emergency) of COVID-19. Governor Lujan-Grisham's directive to postpone the Powwow meant the Gathering of Nations was immediately shut-down as well, as it is held on the NM State Fairgrounds. While this decision was immediate and devastating, it was prudent to protect lives.

The Gathering of Nations has been a signature event in Albuquerque every Spring. The event is the largest Native American Festival in North America, attracting over 75,000 people both Native and Non-Native American; to celebrate, share and educate the public about the First Cultures and Traditions of America. The Gathering of Nations features 3,000 participants, including Native dancers, singers and performers. While the Powwow's main attraction is the Native dancing and singing inside Tingley Coliseum; musical performances are presented on the contemporary performance stage known as Stage 49.

It is significant that the largest and most well-known event in Indian country is not happening this year, therefore, it was decided to create the **Gathering of Nations Virtual Experience**. The Experience will feature streaming video of the 2019 Gathering of Nations on two channels. One channel will feature an enhanced replay of the last year's powwow, and the other is the replay of Stage 49 musical performances and bands. **The Virtual Experience via video stream will take place on Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25, in real-time as if the event was taking place live on [www.gatheringofnations.com](http://www.gatheringofnations.com) and [www.powwows.com](http://www.powwows.com).** Additionally, the virtual

experience will offer interactive components such as the **Indian Trader`s Market in a virtual Shopping Experience**, where viewers will be able to connect with vendors directly. **Official Gathering of Nations merchandise** will be available online. **Also, the Souvenir Program Magazine will be available to download for free from the Gathering of Nations website.** The magazine offers great articles and other information about Powwow life. **Viewers will have the opportunity to make donations to other non-profits which are established to assist Native Americans during this Pandemic.** Information to the donation sites will be posted on the Gathering of Nations website, [www.gatheringofnations.com](http://www.gatheringofnations.com).

It is worth noting, in a recent Economic and Fiscal impact study conducted by UNM BBER, collected data from the 2019 Gathering of Nations activities, which generated an economic impact for the City of Albuquerque of twenty-four million dollars and generated over 260 jobs during the event, in addition to the multitudes of contractors hired to bring the event to life each year. *It is with a heavy heart that due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this event will not happen in 2020, but we hope the Virtual Experience will help fill the hearts and spirits of everyone at home and social distancing for the health and safety of our people, until we come together again in 2021.*

**The Gathering of Nations Is North America`s Biggest Pow Wow!**

**“MORE THAN JUST A POWWOW - IT’S THE NATIVE EXPERIENCE”**

**A safe and family friendly event for EVERYONE!**

**For more information, visit the Official Web Site of the Gathering of Nations,**

**[www.gatheringofnations.com](http://www.gatheringofnations.com).**

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**GATHERING OF NATIONS  
POW WOW**

**FREE Online**

**THE VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE**  
**APRIL 24 & 25, 2020**

[WWW.GATHERINGOFNATIONS.COM](http://WWW.GATHERINGOFNATIONS.COM)  
[WWW.POWWOWS.COM](http://WWW.POWWOWS.COM)



**North America's Biggest Pow Wow!**