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PRESS RELEASE

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AIA Tucson Society Wins Local Society Incentive Grant

The Archaeological Institute of America is pleased to announce that the AIA Tucson Local Society is the first recipient of the Archaeological Institute of America's Local Society Incentive Grant. The AIA Tucson Society is housed at the Classics Department in the College of Humanities at the University of Arizona, with many of its members and officers working or studying on campus.

Established in 2003 to encourage a local society to plan a project and apply for funding to help pay for its implementation, the Local Society Incentive Grant may be used to help fund a teachers' workshop, a kids' archaeology fair, a project to benefit local schools, an event in a local library, a symposium, or any activity that promotes archaeology and the AIA's objectives for local community activities. Funds may be used for such things as mailings, advertisements, supplies, brochures, or handouts, as well as for honoraria and travel expenses. The event should focus on public outreach and education. Attracting new members to the AIA and the local society should be a primary goal. The award is intended to aid a local society in strengthening its position, visibility, and outreach to its community.

The Tucson Society intends to use funds towards construction of a Greek kiln to educate and involve AIA members, local schools, and local artists in the techniques, making, and firing of Greek style pottery. They will use the money to build the kiln and do a first firing. Studio and vocational artists will be encouraged to participate and to share their expertise. Afterwards the kiln will be used as a fundraiser for subsequent firings. K-12 schools will have the facility made available to them so that students can see and learn firsthand about this aspect of ancient cultures.

The award was presented January 4, 2004 at the Awards Ceremony in the Hilton San Francisco Hotel and Towers at the 105th AIA Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California.

The Archaeological Institute of America, located at 656 Beacon Street in Boston, Massachusetts, is the oldest and largest archaeological organization in North America. Celebrating the 125th anniversary of the founding of the AIA, its almost 9,000 members, including scholars, students and interested people from all walks of life are united by their shared passion for archaeology and the light it can shed on our human past.

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