

## PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

A new museum explores the diverse histories—and continuing contributions—of America’s original peoples. **By Kristi Eaton**

LAST YEAR, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that much of eastern Oklahoma is Native land—a positive sign for the sovereignty of the 39 tribes headquartered in the state. Now a new Oklahoma City museum is dedicated to telling each of their unique stories.

The First Americans Museum, which opened in September in a 175,000-square-foot building on the Oklahoma River, hosts exhibitions on Native arts and culture, including pieces from the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian; public events and educational programming; a restaurant with Indigenous-inspired cuisine; and a museum store with handmade products and one-of-a-kind pieces by First American artists.

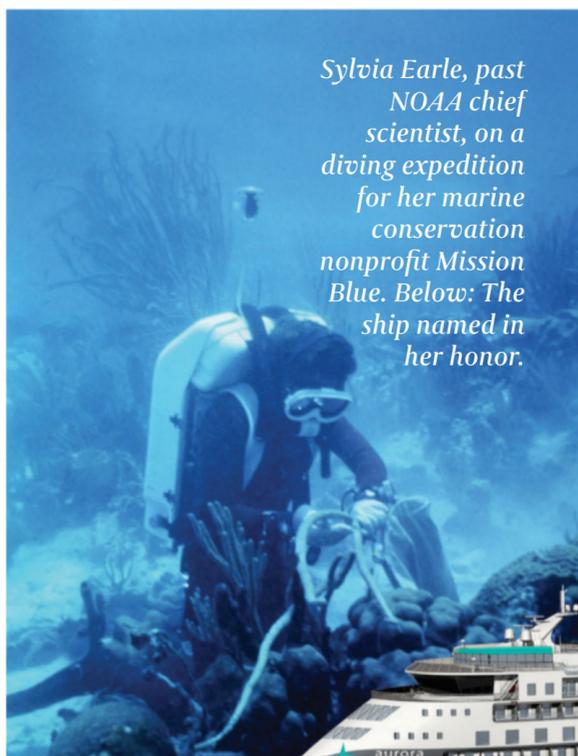
Among them is Kennetha Greenwood, an Otoe-Missouria designer whose limited-edition Pagrahunyē (“They First Came”) blanket distills the origin stories of Oklahoma’s many tribal nations—a task she acknowledged as challenging, considering that all but a handful were forcibly relocated from across the country in the 19th century. The brightly hued piece represents a patchwork of cultures, with constellations



▲ Traditional dance performances will be part of the public programming at Oklahoma City’s First Americans Museum.

reminiscent of Pawnee star charts, spiraling water in the style of Southwestern peoples, and leaf patterns from the southern plains.

Greenwood reminds us that tribal narratives aren’t always told from a First American context. “We each have our own journey,” she says. “This is an opportunity to tell our story from our perspective.” [famok.org](http://famok.org).



*Sylvia Earle, past NOAA chief scientist, on a diving expedition for her marine conservation nonprofit Mission Blue. Below: The ship named in her honor.*

## COLD COMFORTS

Luxury meets sustainability aboard an Antarctica-bound ship. **By Paul Brady**

The newest ship from Australian outfitter Aurora Expeditions, which launches in November with a series of Southern Ocean itineraries, is named for oceanographer Sylvia Earle—and the vessel stays faithful to her ethos.

Four diesel-electric engines emit fewer harmful particulates and gases than traditional models; “virtual anchoring” uses GPS and thrusters to minimize damage to the ocean floor; and the so-called X-Bow design reduces fuel consumption and ensures a smoother ride.

But the green features don’t impinge on creature comforts.

Almost all 71 cabins have private verandas, and the onboard spa offers a cedar-lined sauna and an extensive treatment menu (perfect for relaxing after Zodiac expeditions to the continent for rock climbing or off-piste skiing).

After Antarctica, the ship will head to Alaska, Baja California, and other expedition-cruising grounds. [aurora-expeditions.com](http://aurora-expeditions.com); trips from \$22,600 per person.