



**INFORMATION:**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**TOWN OF CAREFREE FEATURES SAND SCULPTING IN DESERT GARDENS BY  
WORLD RENOWNED ARTIST RAY VILLAFANE**

CAREFREE, Ariz., (April 4, 2016) – The Town of Carefree welcomes world renowned artist and sculptor, Ray Villafane, to create art like no other within the Carefree Desert Gardens starting April 2 through April 10, 2016 and a larger display in the Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion starting May 15 through the summer. Admission is free, and based upon the overwhelming success and attendance of the “Enchanted Pumpkin Garden” this past October, the Town of Carefree unanimously voted to have Ray back for seasonal town events through 2016/17.

Ray’s first sculptor will be around 15-tons and created out of washed river silt. The silt is very fine and allows for Ray to achieve great detail with this sculpting. This will be smaller than most of his works as he has created larger-than-life sand sculptures for attractions in Russia, Italy, Puerto Rico and New York.

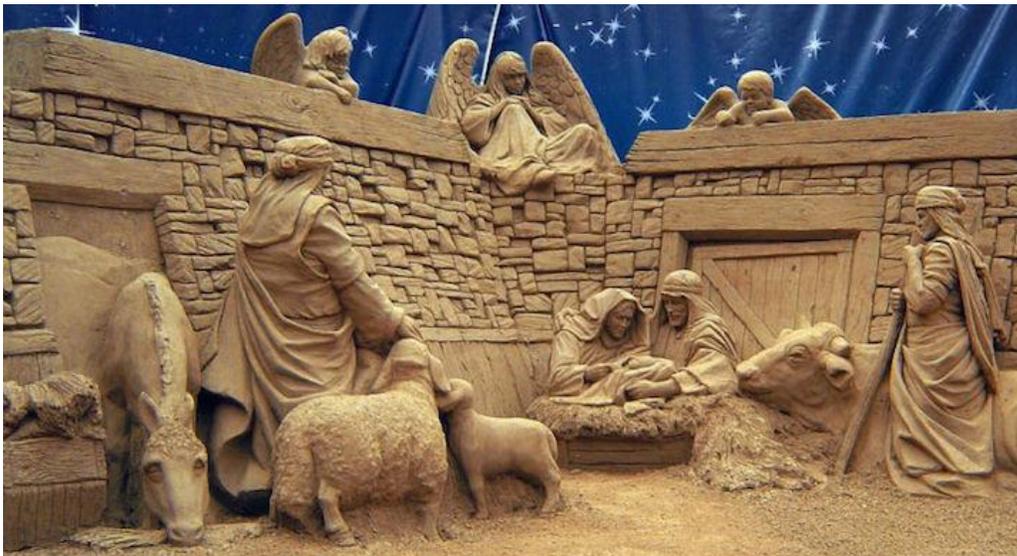
Ray’s been on the global scene for 10 years carving sand and says, “I love Carefree and its beautiful Desert Garden, it’s a playground and inspiration for me and appreciate the Town allowing me to be a part of it.” Later in the season, starting May 15, Ray will attempt a 20 ton sculpture that will be on display in the center of the Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion within the Desert Gardens through August.

Based in Arizona, Ray Villafane is an internationally acclaimed American sculptor who has traveled throughout the globe fashioning exceptional figures and scenes out of pumpkins, sand and snow. He recently has taken up rock balancing which is also on display in Carefree.

Villafane has been called, “The Michelangelo of pumpkin carving,” by Martha Stewart, carved for the President at the White House, and has appeared on numerous national TV programs as well as holding two World Guinness Book of Records for carving the largest pumpkins in the world. He’s also known for his Food Network’s Pumpkin Challenges, which he won in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

For more information on the Town of Carefree please visit [Carefree.org](http://Carefree.org) . For more photos of Ray Villafane’s work visit [VillafaneStudios.com](http://VillafaneStudios.com).

## Samples of Ray Villafanes Sand Sculpting



One of Ray's first sculptors in 2008 was for the annual sand sculpting project in the town of Jeselo, Italy in the province of Venice called the "Nativity Scene". Soon invited back due to his overwhelming following to sculpt Dante's Inferno.





Rock Balancing in the Carefree Desert Gardens