



**INFORMATION:**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**TOWN OF CAREFREE WELCOMES BACK SAND AND STONE EXHIBIT BY  
WORLD RENOWNED ARTIST RAY VILLAFANE**

CAREFREE, Ariz., (Jan. 26, 2017) – The Town of Carefree welcomes world renowned artist and sculptor, Ray Villafane, back to create sand art like no other within the Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion, Carefree Desert Gardens starting March 4, 2017. Admission is free\* and open to the public every day of the week. The exhibit will be on display through August.

The first life-size signature sculpture created by Ray Villafane and Sue Beatrice in the Carefree Desert Gardens was completed in May of 2016 titled, "Elephant playing chess with a field mouse," consisting of 24 tons of sand sourced from the Salt River in Arizona. The exhibit garnered world attention by the media who had never seen sand sculpting taken to that level. This year Nikolay Torkhov from Moscow, Russia will join Villafane in creating 24 tons of grandeur over the 2 week period.

For the first time Villafane has also invited professional stone balancer, Tim Anderson, a Pennsylvania native, to join him in Carefree the weekend of March 17-19 to transform the Gardens into an artistic stone stacking playground. Visitors can watch demonstrations, participate and ask questions as Ray and Tim defy the laws of physics without the use of any adhesives other than gravity and stones provided by Mother Nature to create unusual artistic formations in the Desert Gardens pools and around the scenic landscape. The Thunderbird artists will also be present in the downtown area for their Carefree Fine Art and Wine event that weekend, \$3 entrance fee for sand, stone and all the fine art you can consume.

Ray's been on the global scene for 10 years carving sand and says, "I love Carefree and glad to be back again for a second year within the beautiful Desert Gardens, it's a playground and inspiration and appreciate the Town allowing me to be a part of it."

\*Exhibit is free except March 17-19, when the Thunderbird artists will join Ray Villafane, Tim Anderson and their 150 fine artists. \$3 entrance fee. Carefree residents are free.

**About the Town of Carefree**

Carefree is a scenic community of over 3,700 residents nestled in the Sonoran Desert Foothills. Incorporated in 1984, Carefree is regarded as one of the most inspiring and livable places to live in Arizona and centers its culture on desert lifestyle, architecture, culinary arts, health, wellness and community involvement. For more information visit [Carefree.org](http://Carefree.org) or call 480-488-3686.

**About Ray Villafane**

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 and sand. 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 photos of Ray Villafane's work visit [VillafaneStudios.com](http://VillafaneStudios.com).

### **About Tim Anderson**

KeyStone Balance is the artistic stone balance work of Pennsylvania native, Tim Anderson. His work began as a result of a climbing injury that sidelined him during the 2011 season. Spending time along the river, having an artistic back ground and being influenced by cairns (human-made pile of stones) he encountered during his winter travels in the mountains, Tim began his playful venture into stone balancing during the recovery process. While not traveling doing demonstrations, appearances and art shows, Tim spends the majority of his time in the creeks and rivers near home stone balancing and being part of the beautiful areas where he's spent most of his life. See [Keystonebalance.com](http://Keystonebalance.com) for more information.

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### **Samples of Ray Villafane's Sand Sculpting**



"Elephant "Chessie Trunkston" playing chess with a field Mouse, "Hershel Higginbottom" in Carefree, Arizona, 2016.



This year professional rock balancer, Tim Anderson was invited by Ray Villafane to work with him on the Carefree Sand and Stone exhibit March 17-19.



