

## **FELLOWSHIP SQUARE – HISTORIC MESA RECEIVES LIFELONG ARTS ENGAGEMENT GRANT**

*Senior Living Community Partners with ASU to Offer Residents New Programs*

PHOENIX (Aug. 8, 2018) — Fellowship Square retirement community in Mesa was recently awarded a grant from The Arizona on the Arts Commission to bring their residents additional creative programs designed to enhance and enrich their quality of living while challenging their minds.

The funds will go towards a special 14-week project titled “Collecting Memories: Connecting long-term residents with natural history via collecting and macro photography” in collaboration with Arizona State University Natural History Collections (ASU NHC). Each week, project directors Laura K. Ontiveros, CNP, activity coordinator for Fellowship Square Historic Mesa and ASU NHC teaching artist Anne Basham, along with visiting ASU curators and volunteers will lead activity sessions based around the theme, which will include a butterfly emergence and release project.

Residents will be able to participate in some way at every level, and activities will be adapted for more able residents. Themes of science, nature and art will be woven through the butterfly’s life cycle, and residents will catalog the process through macro photography, which will ultimately become part of a traveling exhibit that will end up on display at ASU. At the culmination of the project, Fellowship Square residents will take a field trip to the university to see their own works on display.

“Art is such a popular resident activity on our campus, and it’s one of those things that every resident can make their very own,” says Ontiveros, who applied for the grant. “This is particularly important for our residents that have lost some of their abilities due to dementia or Alzheimer’s and are often corrected in the way they eat or do certain chores — they can’t go wrong with art.” The project also combines elements of science for the more able residents that want to challenge their minds, and nature, for the residents that may feel disconnected from nature. “We are bringing the natural world to our residents and reminding them that they still have a very important place in it,” adds Ontiveros.

Ontiveros notes that this partnership with ASU is a groundbreaking collaboration, and just a stepping stone to additional opportunities for the residents of Fellowship Square – Historic Mesa. For more, visit [www.fellowshipsquareseniorliving.org](http://www.fellowshipsquareseniorliving.org).

**About Fellowship Square:** A not-for-profit retirement community with its mission at the heart of providing quality and responsive senior housing, hospitality and health care services driven by Christian love and concern. Fellowship Square, owned by Christian Care, operates two locations in Mesa, one in Phoenix, one in Surprise, and one in Tucson.