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Sanguinetti House Museum Upgrades Planned with Funding from Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area

Yuma-AZ – July 18, 2014 – The charming Sanguinetti House Museum and Gardens in Yuma’s historic downtown will undergo major improvements to reflect its original grandeur. Charles Flynn, Executive Director of the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, announced today an ambitious project that will bring the museum to life with stories of Yuma’s emergence as a major metropolitan community as seen through the eyes of 19th century entrepreneur, E. F. Sanguinetti. Flynn said: “The Sanguinetti House museum is the focal point of the Brinley Historic District, and the Heritage Area is proud to partner with the Arizona Historical Society and Yuma County Historical Society in their efforts to revitalize the entire museum campus.”

Upgrades to the museum will start immediately according to Yanna Kruse, Arizona Historical Society Division Director. Museum doors will temporarily close on July 27, 2014, and will reopen in November, 2014. The final phase of the 6-phase upgrade plan will be completed in 2015.

“The museum is coming alive with the hustle and *bustles* of turn-of-the-century life in Yuma,” commented Kruse. “Ropes restricting access to the period rooms are coming down! Museum guests will be able to enjoy a cup of tea right where E. F. Sanguinetti himself entertained guests a century ago. It is going to be a magical experience!”

As a tribute to Yuma’s military community, the museum will reopen in November, 2014 with a powerful *Medal of Honor* exhibit honoring recipients of the highest military decoration. All veterans will receive free admission to the museum. Following this six-month exhibit, a new exhibit will be installed to tell the story of the life and times of E. F. Sanguinetti during Yuma’s formative years from 1890 to 1946.

Dr. Anne Woosley, Executive Director of the Arizona Historic Society, said, “This project is the perfect example of a community partnership that preserves Yuma’s rich history while providing a unique experience for visitors and year-round residents. We look forward to the grand reopening of the Sanguinetti House Museum and Gardens in November!”

Family of E. F. Sanguinetti donated his house, gardens and aviary to the Arizona Historical Society as a fitting testament to his legacy. For information about the Sanguinetti House Museum and Gardens, please call 928-782-1841, email ykruse@azhs.gov or visit www.arizonahistoricalociety.org.

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The Arizona Historical Society is Arizona's oldest cultural institution, founded by an act of the Arizona territorial legislature 150 years ago. The Arizona Historical Society serves as the steward of state history, fulfilling its mission to collect, preserve, interpret, and disseminate the history of Arizona and the West.