



CITY OF TUCSON

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Andy Squire
Public Information Officer, City Manager's Office
(520) 306-0080
Andrew.Squire@tucsonaz.gov

Date: Jan. 30, 2020
TDD: 791-2639

GEM SHOW OFFICIAL KICKOFF RECEPTION AND NEWS CONFERENCE

For the next two weeks, more than 65,000 guests will gather in Tucson to participate in the 66th annual Tucson Gem, Mineral & Fossil Showcase. The event, featuring minerals, gemstones, jewelry and fossils, officially begins Saturday, Feb. 1, at more than 45 locations throughout the Tucson area.

To mark the start of this year's "Gem Show," the City of Tucson and Visit Tucson are hosting a kickoff reception and news conference.

2020 Tucson Gem, Mineral & Fossil Showcase Kickoff Reception and News Conference
Friday, Jan. 31, 2019, from 4 - 6 p.m.
Tucson Convention Center East Lobby

Limited Parking at Tucson Convention Center Lot A
Additional Parking at TCC Lot B on the west side of the TCC (*Enter through the West Entrance*)

At the news conference, Mayor Romero, Visit Tucson staff, City of Tucson Public Safety staff, and staff from the Pima County Health Department will address changes that guests can see at this year's show, highlight new and upcoming projects that enhance this and future gem shows, and share important health and safety information for guests and residents. Following a brief news conference, there will be an on-site reception with gem show owners and vendors, and food and beverages sponsored by Visit Tucson.

The Tucson Gem, Mineral & Fossil Showcase is important to the City of Tucson, both economically and culturally. The individual shows have set the standard for gem and mineral shows around the world and collectively they represent the largest gem show event of its kind. The results from the 2019 FMR economic impact study indicate that direct spending associated with the 2019 gem show was \$131.4 million.

The City of Tucson and its partners are again offering GemRide, the free shuttle service that connects convenient downtown parking locations and our Mercado and Kino Parking Hubs with 43 of the Gem, Mineral, and Fossil shows around Tucson. The shuttle's four routes cover 40 different stops, running from as early as 8 a.m. to as late as 7 p.m., Feb. 1 – Feb 17. Check the individual route maps at <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/park-tucson/gem-show-parking> for start and stop times.

###