

February 27, 2026

OKLAHOMA CITY — 39 Restaurant and First Americans Museum congratulate and thank Loretta Barrett Oden on the conclusion of her years' long affiliation with FAM and the restaurant—a collaboration which dramatically advanced FAM's commitment to the sustainment and elevation of Indigenous cuisine.

A member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Chef Loretta is one of the premiere historians and purveyors of Native American foodways in the world. She has imparted her knowledge to dozens of leading Native chefs through her workshops and trainings prior to and during her long affiliation with FAM. She is also a noted author of Native Cuisine cookbooks, an Emmy award-winning creator and host of the popular PBS cooking series, *Seasoned with Spirit - A Native Cook's Journey*, and was Chef/owner of the Corn Dance Café in Santa Fe—an early standout in the Indigenous cuisine movement.

Loretta leaves FAM and 39 Restaurant to embark on other projects that will continue her commitment to supporting the next generation of talented chefs exploring this cuisine, and to bringing these food traditions to native communities and others throughout Oklahoma and the US.

“Loretta’s contributions to 39 Restaurant and First Americans Museum have been of immeasurable importance,” said executive director Dr. Kelli Mosteller. “We are grateful for her indispensable contributions during the course of her tenure and wish her the best.”