

Press Release for immediate Release
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“The Irish Government has announced that the **2019 International Commemoration of the Great Irish Famine is to take place in Phoenix, Arizona”**

Josepha Madigan T.D., Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and Chair of the National Famine Commemoration Committee, has announced that the 2019 Commemoration will take place in Phoenix on November 3 rd , 2019.

The Famine Commemoration was first established in 2008 following an Irish Government decision to commemorate the Great Irish Famine with an annual national famine memorial day.

The annual national commemoration revolves between the four provinces of Ireland. An international event also takes place annually to commemorate the Great Irish Famine. 2019 also marks the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the **An Gorta Mór, The Great Hunger Memorial** at the Irish Cultural Center/McClelland Library. This monument, designed by Phoenix artist Maureen McGuire, was the first structure built on ICC site in 1999. The arch reflects a Celtic passageway, symbolizing entry from the old world to the new, from despair to hope, from oppression to freedom. Seamus King did the marble/stone work, and Sean Prior composed the poem.

ICLF President Leslie Thompson stated the Irish community is delighted to host this significant event and more information will be forthcoming soon.

For more information about the **International Commemoration of the Great Irish Famine**, visit:

<https://www.chg.gov.ie/minister-madigan-announces-that-the-2019-international-commemoration-of-the-great-irish-famine-is-to-take-place-in-phoenix-arizona-in-november/>