

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Hughes Federal Credit Union Introduces Two New Affinity Debit Cards
Benefiting Southern Arizona Arts and Education**

New card designs give members an easy way to support the Fox Tucson Theatre Foundation and the Vail School District Foundation with every card issued.

TUCSON, Ariz. (Oct. 5, 2026) – Hughes Federal Credit Union announced two new affinity debit cards that provide ongoing financial support to two foundational Southern Arizona institutions: the historic Fox Tucson Theatre Foundation and the Vail School District Foundation.

For every new affinity debit card issued, Hughes donates \$5 directly to the chosen organization, providing members with a turnkey opportunity to invest in local arts preservation, youth performance programming and regional classroom initiatives.

"Supporting cultural landmarks and public education creates lasting value for our members and the wider Southern Arizona community," said Valerie Fanelli, Vice President of Marketing at Hughes Federal Credit Union. "These affinity cards offer a tangible, everyday connection between our members' financial lives and the grassroots organizations that enrich our region."

Celebrating Downtown Heritage: The Fox Tucson Theatre Affinity Card

The newly designed Fox Tucson Theatre affinity card honors one of Tucson's most iconic historic landmarks. Hughes will donate \$5 to the Fox Tucson Theatre Foundation for each Fox affinity card issued, directly supporting the organization's ongoing cultural programming, historic preservation and community education initiatives.

The launch complements Hughes' continued community investment in the theatre, which includes its \$5 million naming rights commitment for the upcoming Hughes Federal Credit Union Event Center at the Fox (the Hughes Center at the Fox). Serving as the new Stone Avenue entrance to the expanded performing arts complex, the center will host educational events, youth performances and regional gatherings.

Spotlighting Student Talent: The Vail School District Foundation Affinity Card

The Vail School District Foundation affinity card features artwork created by a local high school student, chosen through a live community voting event hosted Sept. 26 at the Hughes Vail Branch. Over 100 community members and families reviewed five student finalist designs

selected from 25 submissions across Vail-area high schools, with KIIM-FM broadcasting the results live on site.

The top three student artists were:

- First Place (42% of votes): Veta Roth, Empire High School, for *"Where the Desert Meets the Sky."* Veta received a \$500 prize, and her winning artwork will serve as the official face of the new Vail School District Foundation debit card design.
- Second Place (33% of votes): Jemma Byrd, Cienega High School, for *"Life in the Valley."* Jemma received a \$250 prize.
- Third Place (12% of votes): Addyson Nemits, Empire High School, for *"A Resting on a Tree."* Addyson received a \$100 prize.

"The enthusiasm and support from the community made this event incredibly special," said Irlanda Cuevas, Community Engagement Manager at Hughes Federal Credit Union. "It was inspiring to see so many residents come together to celebrate local student talent while supporting a program that benefits Vail schools."

The winning card design will be available to Hughes members beginning Nov. 1. Every Vail affinity card issued generates a \$5 contribution from Hughes to the Vail School District Foundation, directly funding teacher grants, student opportunities, and academic enrichment programs throughout Vail schools.

"This partnership not only showcases the remarkable artistic talents of our students on a daily platform, but it also delivers meaningful, sustainable funding to support educational opportunities throughout the district," said Stacy Winstyrg, President of the Vail School District Foundation.

Both affinity debit cards will be available at all Hughes Federal Credit Union branch locations and online.

About Hughes Federal Credit Union

Hughes Federal Credit Union is a member-owned financial institution serving more than 190,000 members with over \$2.6 billion in assets. Since 1952, Hughes has remained deeply committed to improving its members' financial well-being while maintaining strong local roots in Southern Arizona. Built on a foundation of trust, service, and community impact, Hughes offers a full range of financial products and services designed to meet the evolving needs of its diverse membership. Recognized among the best credit unions in Arizona by *Forbes*, Hughes

continues to invest in innovative solutions, financial education, and impactful community partnerships. For more information, visit HughesFCU.org.

About the Fox Tucson Theatre Foundation

The Fox Tucson Theatre Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, operating, and programming Tucson's historic 1930 "Crown Jewel." The Foundation enriches Southern Arizona's cultural fabric through world-class performing arts, historic venue preservation, and educational community initiatives. For more information, visit FoxTucson.com.

About the Vail School District Foundation

The Vail School District Foundation enriches learning opportunities for students and strengthens schools throughout the Vail community by funding teacher grants, innovative classroom programs, and educational partnerships. For more information, visit VailFoundation.org.

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