PRESS RELEASE

Somali Artifact and Cultural Museum to bring first complete traditional Somali hut to Minneapolis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Somali Artifact and Cultural Museum is bringing a traditional Somali nomadic hut to Minneapolis. The hut is a complete dwelling used by nomadic camel-herding peoples in rural Somalia, and will become part of the Somali Museum’s permanent collection.

The Somali Artifact and Cultural Museum is the only museum in America devoted to preserving traditional Somali arts and folklore. Its collection of over 700 artifacts from traditional nomadic society serve as educational materials which connect Somali youth to their heritage and inform non-Somalis about Somali culture. In October 2013 the Somali Museum officially opened its public gallery, in a small storefront space on Lake Street.

The hut was donated by a traditional community called Xingalool, in Puntland, Northern Somalia, where women of the community constructed the hut by hand specifically for the Somali Museum. The community presented the hut to Osman Ali, the Somali Museum’s founder and director, in a ceremony and celebration that included dancing and speeches. The hut is constructed out of wood, plant fibers, and cloth mats woven by hand.

As of March 3, the hut is in transit to Minneapolis—it is being shipped by sea, from Somalia through Dubai. The Somali Museum has partnered with the Hennepin Theater Trust to organize a temporary gallery of East African culture in City Center downtown. When the hut arrives in Minnesota, it will be moved in to this gallery space, and it will be constructed in a community-wide celebration.