

Discovering the Hohokam in Downtown Phoenix

Downtown Phoenix yields a rare archaeological find

As convention center rises, dig unearths ancient culture

Angela Cara Pancrazio

The Arizona Republic

Oct. 15, 2006



Angela Cara Pancrazio / The Arizona Republic - Remains of some of the Valley's earliest residents rest in the shadow of Phoenix's newest high-rise



The demolition of the old Phoenix Civic Plaza site uncovered ancient Hohokam ruins and remains of the original Phoenix townsite, such as this ice-making business.

Angela Cara Pancrazio / The Arizona Republic



Workers excavating the Phoenix Civic Center site have uncovered thousands of bags of artifacts. The pot sherds and other items - some dating back 1,000 years to the Hohokam civilization - are now being studied at the Logan Simpson Design lab in Tempe.

Angela Cara Pancrazio / The Arizona Republic



Archaeologists and a crew from the archaeological firm of Logan Simpson Design have found traces of the oldest pithouses in the Phoenix metropolitan area, some dating as far back as 1000 B.C. They're also digging up ruins of Phoenix's original 1870 townsite buried beneath the old Civic Plaza.



Archaeologists sifting through thousands of buckets of dirt have found thousands of artifacts from the ancient civilization buried beneath the old Phoenix Civic Plaza.



Most of the pithouses uncovered beneath the Phoenix Convention Center site come from the Hohokam and Late Archaic periods.