

Tucson Auto Museum



SEP 2022 Newsletter



Tucson Auto Museum

(520) 207-5715
990 S. Cherry Ave
Tucson, AZ
Tucsonautomuseum.com

September Events

Our 1966 Batmobile Replica will be at this years Tucson Comic Con! Sep 2-4.

Our Batmobile specifics-

Upcoming Events

Tucson Comic Con
Sep 2- 4th

Little Anthony's Diner Car
Show
Sep 3 & 17th

Tucson Classics Car Show
Oct 15, 2022

Cops & Rodders Car Show
Nov 5, 2022

- Bat 15 built by Fiberglass Freaks of Logansport, Indiana
- One of just 27 built to date
- Built on a 1972 Lincoln chassis; completed in August 2011
- Powered by a GM 350 cu. in. V-8; automatic transmission
- Featured on the Today Show and Good Morning America in November of 2013
- Shown at the 2012 Indianapolis World of Wheels
- Shown at the 2012 Chicago Comic-Con
- Batmobile accessories include bat phone, emergency beacon, homing receiver scope, bat ray projector, detect-a-scope, and parachutes
- Equipped with power steering and brakes

The Batmobile from the 1966–1968 live action television show and its film adaptation began life as a Ford concept car called the Lincoln Futura, built over a decade earlier in 1955. The body of the Futura was fabricated by Ghia of Italy, whose artisans hammered the car's panels over logs and tree stumps carved as forms to create the sleek manta ray-like car. In 1959, the Futura was featured sporting a fresh red paint job in the film *It Started with A Kiss*, starring Debbie Reynolds and Glenn Ford. In 1965, ABC-TV chose famed Hollywood customizer George Barris to design a "Batmobile" for their soon-to-go-into-production Batman show. Dean Jeffries worked on the design and initial fabrication for the Batmobile, using a 1959 Cadillac, but when the studio wanted the car faster than he could provide, he turned it back to George Barris. With only three weeks to finish, Barris decided that rather than build a car from scratch, it would be best to transform the Lincoln Futura (bought from Ford for \$1.00) into the famous crime fighting vehicle of TV's caped crusader. Barris hired Bill Cushenberry to do the metal modifications to the car. When filming for the series began, several problems arose due to the age of the car: it overheated, the battery went dead, and the expensive Mickey Thompson tires kept blowing. By mid-season, the engine and transmission were replaced with a Ford Galaxie. The most frequent visual influence of this car is that later Batmobiles usually have a rear rocket thruster that usually fires as the car makes a fast start.



Recent highlights

- We plan to reopen Oct 20th!! Our new open days will be Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Make sure to join us and see what is new.
- We are planning a First responders appreciation day for October 16th. If you are a first responder or know of one, please put them in contact with the museum manager.
- Our Museum Manager, Courtney Carr, was a guest recently on the Cars Yeah Podcast. She discusses her background, her love of all thing's car related and highlights many of the museum's unique cars.

<https://carsyeah.com/ourportfolio/2057-courtney-carr/>

Our next area of focus

We are looking for volunteers! We have several opportunities available for people looking to get out there and fill their free time with some fun volunteer opportunities within the museum.

Homefront: Museum Liaison for the Homefront area. Answer questions about the cars, know about the historical background on the various vehicles.

Information Desk: Greet and count visitors entering the Museum. Direct visitors to areas around Museum. Answer general questions.

Vehicle Restoration: Dust off vehicles, clean windows, direction from the museum's mechanic for any other restoration help.

Please reach out to the museum manager if you would like to volunteer within our museum. ccarr@tucsonautomuseum.com



