Mitchell Museum *of the* American Indian Fall 2012

Meet Me at the Mitchell

The member's guide to programming, news, special events and much, much more!

Making It Happen

It may take a village to raise a child, but it takes an army to run a small museum. In July, Trish and Bob Barr helped us celebrate the contributions of the museum's volunteers and staff. The museum is blessed with 26 volunteers and 17 board members who generously give their time and expertise to save the museum untold thousands of dollars. We'd also like to welcome our new Board member, Beth Lent and new part-time bookkeeper, Ryan Himmons who recently joined our immensely talented staff.

We are fortunate to have the financial contributions of Will Linder, Sarabess Cahill, Dr. Robert Gluckman, Alice Gutenkauf, the Beidler Foundation, the Daniel and Janet Hidding Foundation, the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, and the Evanston Arts Council.

BMO Harris once again provided general operating support. The Skokie Comfort Inn offered hotel rooms to out-of-town museum presenters. The Costume Society of America has funded a moccasin re-housing project. And Best Buy of Evanston donated two desperately needed laptops.

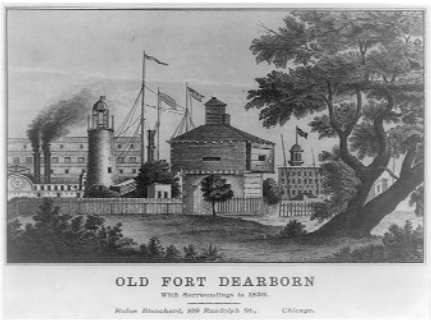
This Spring the Central Street Business Association organized a Community Day fundraising event. By buying at participating Central street shops and selecting the Mitchell Museum as their recipient, shoppers raised nearly $300 for the museum. This Fall you can eat at Noodles & Company at the Old Orchard Mall on September 27th and shop till you drop on Central Street October 20th to help support the Mitchell Museum.

On a hot summer day in June over 50 museum members and friends opened the doors to enjoy the "Pueblo on the Prairie," a home designed in traditional adobe style and filled with American Indian art, and raised over $2,000 for the museum. Our special thanks to John and Sarabess Cahill for hosting the event. If you have a special collection that you would like to share please contact the museum.

The War of 1812: A Local American Indian History

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. Referred to as "America's Second War of Independence," this conflict saw allied Native American, British, and Canadian forces battling the United States in a war that lasted two and a half years. Largely forgotten in America, this war played an important role in shaping the country as we know it and in understanding historic and contemporary American Indian and government relations.

While much of the war took place at sea, in Canada, and in the eastern Great Lakes, crucial events occurred in the Chicago area that aimed to prevent American expansion into Indian territories. The infamous Battle of Fort Dearborn (previously the Fort Dearborn Massacre) between Potawatomi warriors and American soldiers and militia left a lasting mark on Chicago twenty one years before the city's founding. Despite the Battle's prominent remembrance as the first star on the City of Chicago's flag, it remains a controversial event.



"Old Fort Dearborn with Surroundings in 1856," rebuilt after the Battle of Fort Dearborn. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Visit the *The War of 1812: A Local American Indian History* to learn more about all perspectives of this bloody war. View maps and documents from the war, read biographies of prominent American Indian leaders including Tecumseh (Shawnee), and interact with a response board debating if the events at Fort Dearborn were a Battle or Massacre. From the causes of conflict and declaration of war to the local Battle of Fort Dearborn's contemporary controversy, the exhibit provides visitors with new perspectives on a war of lasting importance. ***Exhibit opens Saturday, Sept. 15. Curator tour at 1:00 PM.***

Notes from the Director

While many visitors value our intimate appeal, we're not just a local gem anymore. Last year's *Deconstructing Stereotypes: Top Ten Truths* exhibit was a **NATIONAL FINALIST** for the 2012 AASLH Leadership in History Awards Program. We are also breaking through with our outreach into the American Indian community serving as the only non-Native run organization on the steering committee of the Chicago American Indian Community Planning Initiative and co-facilitating the arts and culture session at the June conference. As we head into this Fall, we need your support to continue expanding our outreach into the American Indian community, both locally and throughout the US and Canada, and become a cornerstone for celebrating diversity, dispelling stereotypes, creating bridges of understanding and respect, and appreciating traditional and contemporary American Indian art. Right now we are able to double your dollars from a generous $25,000 matching donation. Behind the scenes the Board is developing a new strategic plan to ensure the museum's financial stability, to earn professional museum certification, and keep the museum relevant through our programs and exhibits. With so many exciting programs and projects underway it's the perfect time to get involved. Help us keep the momentum and the buzz building! *Pass it on.*

Visit us at www.mitchellmuseum.org and friend us on Facebook!

Calendar of Events: August

Thursdays — **Flute Group**, 6:00 - 7:45 PM

Friday, August 3 — **Free Admission Day**

Saturday, August 4
3:00 - 4:00 PM
Docent-Led Exhibit Tour
Free with regular admission

Saturday, August 11
2:00 PM
Did You Know They're Native II?
Curator tour of new exhibit
A continuation of the museum's popular exhibit, this new installment introduces more politicians, activists, business leaders, and celebrities of American Indian ancestry.

Tuesday, August 21 - Friday, August 24
Crafts All Day!
Summer's Last Hurrah Family Week
Stop by the Mitchell to enjoy making Northwest coast rattles, miniature woven blankets, coloring, and beaded key chains.

2:00 - 2:30 PM
Story time at the Teaching Lodge

Saturday, August 25
2:00 - 4:30 PM

Master Craft: Drum Making Workshop with Tony Showa, *Navajo*
Attendance fee: $15/members & $20/non-members. Drum materials fee: $80/12-inch drum & $120/14-inch drum (includes all materials, tools & drum beater).
RSVP by August 18 by calling (847) 475-1030
See back page for more information!

September

Thursdays — **Flute Group**, 6:00 - 7:45 PM

Friday, Sept. 7 — **Free Admission Day**

Saturday, Sept. 8
3:00 - 4:00 PM
Docent-Led Exhibit Tour
Free with regular admission

Thursday, Sept. 13
6:00 - 8:00 PM
The War of 1812: A Local American Indian History
Exhibit Preview & Annual Campaign Celebration
RSVP by Sunday, Sept. 9th

Saturday, Sept. 15
The War of 1812: A Local American Indian History

1:00 PM
Curator tour of new exhibit

2:00 - 4:00 PM
Teachers' Field Trip & Group Tour Open House
Museum staff and educators will highlight the museum's field trip program, loan boxes, and provide teaching guides for classroom materials.

Tuesday, Sept. 18
6:00 - 8:00 PM
Core Exhibit Development Forum
Join museum staff as we restart discussions on the development of our new core exhibit to open in 2014.

Thursday, Sept. 27
4:00 - 10:00 PM
Noodles & Company Fundraiser
Eat at Noodles & Company in the Old Orchard Mall and 25% of your meal will be donated to the museum. *See back page for more details!*

Sunday, Sept. 30
1:30 - 3:00 PM
Touring Through Time: Local Native History Lecture & Bike Excursion
Meet at the museum for a lecture by Clay Skinner, local historian, on American Indian history and bike to nearby historic land marks in Evanston and Wilmette.
Fee: $10/members & $12/non-members

October

Thursdays — **Flute Group**, 6:00 - 7:45 PM

Friday, Oct. 5 — **Free Admission Day**

Saturday, Oct. 6
3:00 - 4:00 PM
Docent-Led Exhibit Tour
Free with regular admission

Thursday, Oct. 11
6:30 - 7:30 PM
War of 1812 Seminar featuring: Rising-Up from Indian Country: The Battle of Fort Dearborn and the Birth of Chicago
Join Dr. Paul Friesema and author Ann Durkin Keating for a discussion of the War of 1812 and Keating's new book. Book signing to follow.

Saturday, Oct. 20
Community Day
11:00 AM - Noon — Kids' Craft: Dream Catchers
Noon - 1 PM — Food & Light Refreshments
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM — Live Music
2:00 - 2:30 PM — Story Time at the Teaching Lodge
Bonus: shop along Central Street all day & donate a percent of your purchase to the museum! *See the back page for details.*

Saturday, Oct. 20
5:30 - 7:00 PM
Special Community Day Reception
Reception and poetry reading by Dr. Elise Paschen, *Osage*
Fee: $10/members & $12/non-members
See side article for more information!

Wednesday, Oct. 24
6:00 - 8:00 PM
Core Exhibit Development Forum
Join museum staff as we restart discussions on the development of our new core exhibit to open in 2014.

Family Fun & Activities Corner

Weekends are perfect times for families to visit . We offer guided craft instruction on Saturdays (11:00 - Noon) & Sundays (12:30 - 1:30 PM). Crafts *free* with regular admission!

August

4 & 5:	Talking Feathers	18 & 19:	Plains Warrior Shields
11 & 12:	Gods Eyes	25 & 26:	Beaded Key Chains

September

1 & 2:	Button Blankets	22 & 23:	Cherokee Syllabary
8 & 9:	Bolo Ties	29 & 30:	Seminole Patchwork
15 & 16:	Loom Beading		

October

6 & 7:	Woven Baskets	20 & 21:	Dream Catchers
13 & 14:	Quill Boxes	27 & 28:	Northwest Coast Masks

Pow-Wows & Area Cultural Events

Sept. 8th
Battle of Fort Dearborn Commemoration
Prairie District Neighborhood Association
http://www.pdnachicago.com/page07.ph

Sept. 7th - 9th
Indian Summer Festival
Milwaukee, WI
http://www.indiansummer.org/

Sept. 15th
AIC 59th Annual Pow-Wow
Busse Woods, IL
https://www.facebook.comevents/389556914411726/

Sept. 22nd - 23rd
Midwest SOARRING Pow-Wow
Naperville, IL
http://www.midwestsoarring.org/

Poetry Night with Dr. Elise Paschen

Community Day wouldn't be complete without a special cultural celebration for the Mitchell Museum's patrons. Visit us Saturday evening on October 20 from 5:30 - 7:00 PM for a poetry reading by renowned Chicago poet Dr. Elise Paschen, *Osage*.

Paschen is the author of numerous poetry books including *Bestiary*, *Infidelities*, and *Houses: Coasts*. She is the winner of the Nicholas Roerich Poetry Prize, and her work has been published in several notable magazines and anthologies. Best known as the co-founder and Executive Director of *Poetry in Motion*, a nation-wide program which placed poetry posters in subways and busses, Paschen currently serves as the Poet Laureate of Three Oaks, Michigan, and she teaches at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in the Creative Writing Department. Art and expression run as deep as her American Indian heritage; Paschen is the daughter of international prima ballerina Maria Tallchief and the granddaughter of an Osage chief.

This event will feature light food and refreshments, and there will be a question and answer session after Paschen's reading. Don't miss your chance to meet this notable poet and learn more about Native American poetry in Chicago.

Event Details:
Saturday, October 20 from 5:30 - 7:00 PM
Fee: $10/members & $12/non-members

Volunteer Spotlight

Saul Sopoci Drake has been a dedicated volunteer since joining the museum in March 2012. His specialized education - an MA in Anthropology and Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee - allows him to be hands on and assist in a number of different areas. Saul has helped create important museum reports, assisted in exhibition installation, managed the museum's Facebook page, and he's helping to develop the "Deconstructing Stereotypes: Top Ten Truths" traveling exhibit.

Saul has worked in the museum industry for ten years primarily in exhibitions and collections. He has been affiliated with many different institutions such as The Phoebe Hearst Museum of Anthropology at UC-Berkeley, The Logan Museum of Anthropology at Beloit College, The Milwaukee Public Museum and Gunther von Hagens Body Worlds exhibitions. Saul has most recently worked with the Seminole Tribe of Florida at their Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum as Curator of Exhibitions.

Saul and his wife recently moved to Chicago and enjoy spending time getting to know the many artistic and cultural institutions the city has to offer. Saul is an avid runner and hiker, enjoying camping and generally anything outdoors. He also likes to hang with his good buddy Emerson, a ten year old Yellow Lab mix.

Contact the museum to learn about volunteer opportunities!

Community Outreach for Core Exhibit

Community input is vital to ensure that the new core exhibit has an authentic and engaging interpretation, serves the needs of diverse visitors and groups, and gives voice to the American Indian peoples and cultures represented. We need you to brainstorm ideas and share your knowledge and comments.

Throughout 2011 we held meetings at the museum and local American Indian organizations to develop exhibit themes, but quickly realized we needed more participation from the local American Indian community. Last spring, the museum leadership was invited to serve on the Chicago American Indian Community Planning Initiative to plan a community-wide conference in June. The museum's Executive Director served as co-facilitator of the arts and culture session. The committee is now preparing for an action planning retreat. Similar conferences in the 1960s and '80s created Chicago's AIC and an American Indian credit union, illustrating the potential of these historic meetings.

Building on these strengthened relationships, the museum is resuming monthly core exhibit development meetings in September. The 2,000 square foot exhibit is slated to open in the summer of 2014. Don't miss this opportunity to participate in this major exhibition.

Native American Recipe

The late summer and early fall months were traditional times for the people of the plains to gather wild fruits and vegetables to prepare and eat throughout the winter. Enjoy these honey-plum cakes, a modern recipe from the Lakota Nation.

Ingredients for Honey-Plum Cakes

1 cup dark raisins
1 cup boiling water
1 16-oz can purple plums, drained & pitted
1 cup toasted hazelnuts, chopped fine
1/2 cup melted butter
4 cups sifted all-purpose flour
3 teaspoons baking soda
1 1/2 tsp. salt
1 1/2 tsp. allspice
1 tsp. ground cloves
1 cup honey
1/2 cup maple syrup

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees and lightly oil 24 muffin cups.
2. Place raisins in a small bowl and cover with 1 cup boiling water; soak for 30 minutes or until plump then drain.
3. Mash plums in a large mixing bowl. Add remaining ingredients to plums (including raisins) and mix well.
4. Fill each muffin cup 1/2 way full.
5. Bake for 30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.
6. Cool 10 minutes on a wire rack. Loosen sides & turn muffins out of pan. Serve warm with a drizzle of honey or butter.

Mitchell Museum
***of the* American Indian**
3001 Central Street
Evanston, IL 60201
(847) 475-1030
www.mitchellmuseum.org

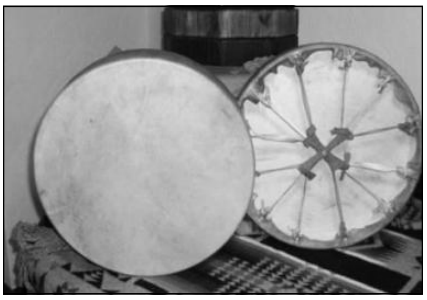
Come see what's happening this fall at the Mitchell!

Master Craft: Drum Making Workshop

On August 25, the Mitchell Museum welcomes renowned drum maker and educator Tony Showa for a unique master craft workshop. Showa is a member of the Navajo Nation (the Dine), an expert drum maker in Navajo traditional and ceremonial life, drum circle facilitator, and historian of Native American culture. He is bringing his expertise and talent to the Mitchell for an afternoon drum lecture and workshop.

Workshop attendees have the option to create their own 12- or 14-inch Native American drum with authentic materials under the tutelage of Showa. As participants build their drums, Showa will discuss the importance of the drum in Native American cultures and attendees will leave the workshop with their own hand-built drum. Attendees who do not want to make a drum are also welcome to listen in.

Attendance fee: $15/members & $20/non-members; ***drum materials fees additional: $80 (12-inch) or $120 (14-inch), which includes all materials, tools & drum beater. Please RSVP by August 18th by calling the Mitchell Museum at (847) 475-1030.***



Eat & Shop for Charity

Donating to the Mitchell Museum has never been so fun and delicious with the following special opportunities:

Visit Noodles & Company in the Old Orchard Mall (4999 Old Orchard Road) on Thursday, September 27 from 4 - 10 PM and 25% of your meal will be donated the museum. Simply say you'd like to donate to the Mitchell Museum at the time of purchase to make your donation. It's that easy!

Support local businesses and the museum at the Central Street Business Association's Community Day, Saturday, October 20. Pick-up a flyer at the museum and shop at participating businesses. Present this flyer to the cashier and a percentage of your purchase will be donated to the Mitchell Museum. How easy is that?

Save the Date!

Don't miss these great events:

Dr. Carlos Montezuma Honorary Lecture
Saturday, November 10th
Celebrate Native American Heritage Month by attending this cultural and educational lecture.

Native Arts Holiday Bazaar
Saturday, December 1 (10 AM - 4:30 PM) &
Sunday, December 2 (Noon - 3:30 PM)
Buy Native American arts & crafts directly from the artists!