Meet Me at the Mitchell
A member's guide to programs, special events, news and much more!

Giving Thanks

We hope that you are enjoying your holidays and in the spirit of the giving season, we are giving thanks to all of our supporters. As we near the end of 2018 we have exceeded our $234,000 operating budget goal. We are deeply appreciative of all the donors who gave throughout the year, but want to recognize those who contributed since our August newsletter.

Donor Appreciation Party and New Artwork Revealed

Each year the museum is honored to receive gifts in many forms from volunteer services, funds, to artwork. Each is vital to the museum, and on February 7th the museum will celebrate the new collection acquisitions and the donors and volunteers who support the museum in a special exhibit opening and donor appreciation party.

Central to our museum’s mission is the unique objects and premiere artwork that visitors come to experience as touchstones to history and culture. Displaying the ‘real thing’ within an interpreted context is what makes a museum unique and special place to visit and expands our understanding of the world and the people in it. We are excited to share with you some of the museum’s new acquisitions, as well as, new artwork added to the permanent exhibit “A Regional Tour of American Indian Cultures.”

Join us February 7th for a reception with food and drink, award ceremony to recognize the museum’s donors, and tour of new installations of recent acquisitions and artwork for the permanent exhibit including artists John Nieto, Chris Pappan, and Woody Crumbo. A public tour of the new display is also offered on February 9th. Learn more about our collection in the newsletter insert, but be sure to see these pieces in person to fully experience and appreciate these incredible examples of American Indian art.

Donor Appreciation Party: Feb. 7, 6:00pm-8:00pm. Public Tour: Feb. 9, 2:30pm-3:00pm. Free with museum admission.

Notes From the Director

Did you see the Mitchell Museum featured on WGN this fall? Check it out at www.wgntv.com. The museum continues to attract exceptional media coverage for a small museum with its important messages about American Indian cultures and peoples. We are thrilled to have a complete staff again, with Erika Brown (pictured) joining us in November in our Visitor Services and Marketing position.

Erika has a MA in International Cultural Heritage Management from Durham University and recently worked with the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council in Montana. We also have several new volunteers helping to greet visitors, give docent tours, and condition report artwork.

This fall we had record-breaking attendance at our 3rd Indigenous Peoples’ Day programs, a fascinating discussion by our Dr. Carlos Montezuma Awardees- Ross Racine, Louie Gong, and Frederick Hoxie, and several new artists at our Native American Fine Arts Holiday Market including award-winning potter Judy Tafoya. We have a terrific line-up of exhibits and events planned for 2019, so be sure to plan a visit to the Mitchell Museum.

Visit us online at mitchellmuseum.org and Like Us on Facebook!
### January Programs

**Weekend Crafts & Stories: Arctic Crafts & Stories of the Ookpik**  
Saturdays from 11:00am-12:00pm & Sundays from 12:30pm-1:30pm  
*Crafts: Inuit Snow Goggles, Inuit Wall Hanging, and Ookpik Doll*  

**Flute Group, Alternating**  
Thursdays 6:00pm-7:45pm  
Contact the museum for meeting location.

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<tr>
<th>Friday, Jan. 4</th>
<th>Free Admission Day</th>
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| Saturday, Jan 12  
2:00pm-2:45pm | Native American Myths and Legends by Storyteller Joyce Miller-Bean  
Afro-American / Muskogee Nation of Oklahoma. $12/10 members. |

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<th>Friday, Feb. 1</th>
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| Thursday, Feb. 7  
6:00pm-8:00pm | Donor Appreciation Party & New Acquisitions Exhibit Preview  
We will honor the members of our Giving Circle and offer an exclusive preview of the new art pieces on exhibit for our donors, members, and volunteers. |

| Saturday, Feb. 9  
10:00pm-5:00pm  
2:30pm-3:00pm | New Acquisitions Exhibit Opens to the Public  
Public Tour by Joseph Gackstetter  
Free with museum admission. |

### February Programs

**Weekend Crafts & Stories: Boat Crafts and Regional Water Vessels**  
Saturdays from 11:00am-12:00pm & Sundays from 12:30pm-1:30pm  
*Crafts: Birch Bark Canoe, Dugout Canoe, and Kayak*  

**Flute Group, Alternating Thursdays 6:00pm-7:45pm**  
Contact the museum for meeting location.

### March Programs

**Weekend Crafts & Stories: Plains Crafts & Stories of the Bison**  
Saturdays from 11:00am-12:00pm & Sundays from 12:30pm-1:30pm  
*Crafts: Ledger Art, Parfleche Bag, and Bison Doll*  

**Flute Group, Alternating**  
Thursdays 6:00pm-7:45pm  
Contact the museum for meeting location.

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<th>Friday, Mar. 1</th>
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| Saturday, Mar. 2  
6:30pm-9:00pm | Annual Benefit Gala  
The 2019 Benefit Gala, featuring a fashion show by Fox-Way Designs will be held at the Wilmette Golf Club. Tickets $155/person; $1085/table of 8. |

| Saturday, Mar. 9  
3:00pm-4:30pm | Milestones in American Indian History (CPDU Credit Available for Teachers) Open to the public.  
$5 admission. |

| Monday, Mar. 25-  
Friday, Mar. 29  
10:00am-5:00am | School’s Out! Spring Break Crafts  
Come to the museum over Spring Break to learn about Native cultures and make a Beaded Necklace, a small Moccasin, or a Talking Stick. Free with museum admission. |

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<th>Friday, Apr. 5</th>
<th>Free Admission Day</th>
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| Monday, Apr. 15  
Frinday, Apr. 19  
10:00am-5:00pm | School’s Out! Spring Break Crafts  
Come to the museum over Spring Break to learn about Native cultures and make a Beaded Necklace, a small Moccasin, or a Talking Stick. Free with museum admission. |

| Saturday, Apr. 27  
2:00pm-3:30pm | Toypurina and the Kizh Nation  
Dr. Gary Stickel, Kizh Nation  
Dr. Stickel will offer a presentation on the Kizh Nation in the Los Angeles area. $12/$10 members. |
The Mitchell Museum’s Collections

Founded in 1977, the museum began with a donation of 3,000 objects amassed by John and Elizabeth Seabury Mitchell to expand the public’s understanding and appreciation of Native American cultures. Core to the museum’s mission even 40 years later, is to collect, preserve, and interpret a collection of traditional and contemporary American Indian art and material culture. Since its founding the collection has grown to over 10,000 pieces. Representing over 1,100 culturally diverse tribes from throughout the US and Canada, the collection makes the Mitchell Museum a unique cultural institution. There are only a handful of museums across the country with this sole focus. The Mitchell Museum provides visitors, researchers, artists, and tribal members not only the opportunity to see and experience these pieces first hand, but also to cross-culturally compare designs, production techniques, materials, uses, and practices.

In the future, as the interests and needs of our constituents change, the museum will have the collections available to demonstrate and document a broad range of artists, tribes, and cultural practices over time. The collection is also a valuable resource used by visiting researchers and by other museums on loan for their exhibits. Preserving these pieces ensures that these stories are not lost for future generations to learn from and experience.

Virtually all of the museum’s collections have been donated to the museum. The museum is extremely fortunate to receive offers of materials weekly, which is vital as we do not have a budget to purchase new acquisitions. Only a limited number of items are accepted into the collection, however, following the stringent guidelines in our collections policy. First, the piece must fit within our scope of collecting which is objects made or used by American Indian or First Nations People from the US and Canada from Paleo Indian times to the present. Second, the donor must have a full ownership of the piece to transfer the title to the museum and the piece cannot be culturally inappropriate such as looted funerary objects which need to be returned to their tribe. Third, the piece must significantly add to the collection and not duplicate existing pieces. This last rule is the most time consuming to determine as we research each piece and compare it to our current holdings. With our small staff, it can take weeks or even months to process a donation. But with careful consideration and working closely with donors, we continue to improve the collection.

Today, the collection contains representations of some of the best artists in Indian Country including pottery by Maria Martinez and Nampeyo, sculptures by Charlie Pratt and Doug Hyde, beadwork by Rhonda Holy Bear, quillwork by Yvonne Keshik, weavings by Larry Yazzie, and basketry by Ruth Watt just to name a few. Not only does the collection contain award-winning artists, but it also documents cultural lifeways from dance regalia to cooking and stone-carving tools. Several contemporary American Indian artists have used the collection for reminders of traditional techniques and inspiration for their designs.

Today, the museum installs two to three new exhibits each year and regularly rotates new objects into exhibitions. Currently over 600 objects or 6% of the collections are on display—better than the museum average of 1-5%. This does not include the 283 images included on the interpretative panels. But, with limited display space, most of the collection is stored behind-the-scenes.

The objects in storage are cared for in a climate-controlled facility where we can closely monitor the light, temperature, humidity, and potential bugs that can damage the objects. The objects are housed in acid-free and supportive containers, and protected in boxes or bagged in inert plastic to further protect them from environmental and handling damage. While we cannot see damage from light or the trace acid in materials overnight, gradually the true colors fade and the structural integrity of sensitive materials like fabrics and paper can be permanently damaged.

Equally important to the care of the physical collection is the documentation and interpretation of the object. Each object is catalogued and photographed to create a digital and printed record. Staff, volunteers, visiting scholars and cultural experts continue to research the collection and add notes to the object files which are used to expand on the provenance of the object and its cultural significance. Records are organized in file drawers for the physical copies and in a computer database program called File Maker Pro. Documentation is essential for knowing what we have, its current storage location, and recording condition changes over time.

Moccasins made by a Santee Sioux artist c. 1875-1880 with elegant floral beadwork. Gift of the Enivar Charitable Fund from the collection of Mrs. Leonard S. Florsheim Jr.

Birchbark covered storage basket. Gift of Constance Weil and Susan Weil Bates
Adopt an Artifact

For a small museum, caring for such a culturally significant collection is a large responsibility. Maintaining the physical space, insuring the collection, purchasing archival quality storage shelves and acid-free housing materials, and hiring professionally trained staff to process and properly manage the collection are all tremendously expensive. Each year we spend approximately $28,000 caring for the collection.

In 2018 we were pleased to accept the first of an annual gift of $1,500 from the Patricia Dodson Family Foundation to help us expand our collections care. We are excited to use this gift to attend to some of the most pressing needs of the collection. Our first project targets the 2-D framed art collection. These pieces are often donated to us in non-archival frames and mats which contain traces of acidity that, over time, damage the artwork. After we complete our condition report assessment, we will un-frame the at-risk items, place them in acid-free folders and store them in flat-storage drawers, recently donated by Gary Lee Partners, to prevent further damage.

Other projects we would like to tackle with future funding include completing the photography and cataloguing of new acquisitions, converting the digital records in FileMaker Pro to a more robust Past Perfect collections software, re-housing textiles on supportive, hanging tubes, and moving more of the boxed collection onto rolling shelving units to complete our shelf compaction system to maximize storage space.

An exciting way to help us fund these projects is to Adopt An Artifact. With a donation of $100 or more, you can sign up for a one-year adoption of your favorite object to help support the documentation, conservation, and storage of the Mitchell Museum’s collection. For your gift, you will receive a Certificate of Adoption, a photograph and historical description of the artifact, and you can visit the artifact with museum staff. Your artifact adoption is tax deductible and makes a great gift!

Objects in this year’s Adopt An Artifact program highlight some of our new acquisitions and artwork installed in the permanent exhibit. Five of them are pictured here to choose from on the insert below. Help support the care of the museum’s collection for you and future generations to learn from and enjoy.

Donation Slip (Tear Off and Return Via Mail)

Donor Name (as it should appear in recognition): ____________________________________________
Contact Name: __________________________________ Business: ______________________________
Address: ___________________________________ City: __________________ State: __ Zip: ________
Email __________________________________________ Telephone __________________________
Adopting Artifact: __ Birch bark Basket  ___ Moccasins ___ Walrus Carving ___ Nampeyo Pots ___ John Nieto Painting

Payments and Pledges:

For recognition (based on giving level): E-mail logo, text or jpeg/tiff to kmcdonald@mitchellmuseum.org or call 847-475-1030.

Total: $_________ paid today. Or pledge installments ___ monthly ___ annually for $____ total over _____ years.

___Check enclosed Payable to Mitchell Museum of the American Indian  ____ PayPal payment online
___ Visa  MasterCard  Discover  Name on Card ____________________________
Card Number ____________________________ Exp. __________________  V. Code ________

The Mitchell Museum is a 501(c) 3 tax-exempt organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.
Milestones in American Indian History

California’s Kizh Nation

The Kizh/Gabrieleño are the state-recognized Indian Tribe of greater Los Angeles, Orange County, and the offshore islands including San Nicolas. San Nicolas island is well known from Scott O’Dell’s award winning children’s novel Island of the Blue Dolphins, based on a true story of a girl who spent eighteen years alone on the island. Several objects from the island are currently on display in the museum’s permanent exhibit.

As the tribal archaeologist for the Kizh Tribe, Dr. Gary Stickel co-authored Toypurina: The Joan of Arc of California with Tribal Secretary Dr. Christina Swindall. Toypurina, whose story is remarkably like Joan of Arc, is the only Native American woman to have led a revolt against foreign invading powers in American History. Pick up a copy of Island of the Blue Dolphins or Toypurina and join Dr. Stickel on April 27th for a discussion of the Kizh Nation, state recognition, and the heroines in Toypurina and Island of the Blue Dolphins. Apr. 27, 2:00pm-3:30pm. Fee: $12/$10 members.

Myths and Legends Storytelling

Storytelling is one of the oral cultural traditions of tribes from coast to coast. On Saturday, January 12, 2019, the Mitchell Museum will host Joyce Miller-Bean for a family storytelling program on American Indian Myths and Legends.

Joyce Miller Bean is Afro-American and Native American of the Mvskoke-Creek tribal nation. Joyce has been a professional storyteller for over thirty years. Joyce has twice been the official storyteller for the Illinois State Library at the Illinois State Fair as well as having been one of the storytellers in a PBS television series called “Story Barn”. She has done multicultural storytelling for multiple branches of the Chicago Public Library, as well as stories at Chicago Public Schools.

Joyce's storytelling repertoire includes classic tales from Aesop to Shakespeare, ghostly tales, and many types of ethnic folklore. Join us for her adaptation of base-mythology and legends from a variety of tribal nations which appear in American Indian Myths and Legends by Richard Erdoes.

For more information, contact the museum at 847-475-1030. Jan. 12, 2:00pm-2:45pm. Fee: $12/$10 members.

Friend of the Mitchell Museum

Jackie McGuire has been a friend of the Mitchell Museum since it was still a part of Kendall College. After retiring from her career in fundraising with Rotary International, Jackie’s friends encouraged her to join the Board of the museum that she had always loved. She took the plunge and has been diligently serving as a Board Member since 2013.

Jackie’s favorite aspect of Board participation is her continued access to new learning opportunities at the museum’s programs and events. Serving on the Board also led her to enroll in a course at Northwestern University on Indigenous Peoples of the United States and Canada so that she could be more informed on the issues facing Indigenous communities. For Jackie, Board service is a gratifying way to have a measurable impact on the world. She sees our many school group tours as a critical part of the museum’s work and hopes the understanding of American Indian peoples those students gain will help them make a more just world for all peoples.

Are you interested in joining our Board of Directors? Email Kathleen McDonald at kmcdonald@mitchellmuseum.org.

Milestones in American Indian History

Brush up on your understanding of important milestones in American Indian history and the local tribes in the Great Lakes region from an Indigenous perspective. On Saturday, March 9, the Mitchell Museum will host a program presented by museum staff, expanding on the major events that shaped Indigenous peoples’ lives today.

School classrooms and field trips are the first place that many students first begin learning about Native American cultures and people and the Mitchell Museum works to provide authentic, accurate and engaging resources. The museum provides the public and especially teachers access to exhibits and programs, online curriculum and lesson plans, school tours, and a hands-on object loan box program.

For more information, contact the museum at 847-475-1030 or email visitor.services@mitchellmuseum.org. The program and provides CPDU credit.

Mar. 9, 3:00pm-4:30pm. Fee: $5.
Join the Mitchell Museum for Fun Programs and Events!

2019 Annual Benefit Gala
Your spot at the Gala is waiting for you! Our Annual Benefit Gala is an exclusive opportunity to support the Mitchell Museum and experience American Indian artistry like never before. The evening will include an elegant seated dinner, a full bar, raffle prizes, and a silent auction of art, jewelry, and more.

You’ll also be treated to a Native American fashion show of pieces from Fox-Way Designs. Specializing in modern fashion with a Native flair, Fox-Way Designs creates stunning garments that honor Native clothing traditions while innovating new styles, such as the modern ribbon skirt in our Indigenous Entrepreneurship exhibit (see photo). Don’t miss out on the Gala—call us at (847) 475-1030 to claim your ticket!

Date: Saturday, March 2, 2019
Time: 6:30pm-9:00pm  Venue: Wilmette Golf Club
Individual Tickets: $155 per person
Private Table for 8: $1085 (save $20/person!)

School’s Out! Spring Break Crafts
Spring Break will be here before you know it! Your student can learn about Native cultures with a visit to the Mitchell Museum as we offer School’s Out Spring Break crafts. Come in from 10am-5pm on March 25-29 or April 15-19 to try your hand at Spring Break crafts. DIY Crafts offer families the chance to learn more about Native American culture by creating a small craft item. Books from our library are also available on a variety of Native American tribes for youth to deepen their cultural understanding. You can even make a Beaded Necklace, a Mini-moccasin, or a Talking Stick.

And, don’t forget our regular weekend crafts. In January, make crafts from the Arctic. During February, make paper models of Native water craft. Explore Plains culture with a craft in March, and, in April, enjoy making musical instruments. Weekend crafts are offered Saturdays 11am to 12pm, and Sundays 12:30pm to 1:30pm.

Spring Break Crafts:
10:00am-5:00pm
Free with admission.

Weekend Crafts:
Sat. 11:00am-12:00pm;
Sun. 12:30pm-1:30pm.
Free with admission.