Giving Thanks

We have a lot to be thankful for this past season, especially the help from all our summer interns and volunteers. This summer, three interns (Caroline Mattox, Greta Eanes, and Shana Blinick) gained new skills and a deeper understanding of museums. Each week, museum staff presented a seminar series to expose interns to all aspects of museum operations.

This summer interns and volunteers re-catalogued the library collection to create an easily searchable database and made great headway on the upcoming jewelry exhibit. In July, Jan and Jeff Berkson hosted our annual volunteer appreciation party where we recognized our dedicated volunteers: Larry Pietrzak, Pamela Stavinoga, Gloria Hamilton, Courtney Zirkle, Laura Fox, Ken Traisman, Tony Vick, and Tom Berreth, as well as our docents: Carol Muskin, Karl Nauratil, Ellen Collar, and Dan Yamshon.

We also want to acknowledge the support of businesses and foundations: Stolen Blanket Fund at the Chicago Community Trust, Kiwanis Foundation of Evanston, Elizabeth Beidler Tisdahl Foundation, JB Creative, Patricia Dodson Family Foundation, the MacArthur Funds for Arts & Culture at the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, and Pogo Pass.

Finally, we want to show our gratitude to the following individuals whose gifts make all the difference to keep the museum going: Frances Hagemann, Jim and Jackie McGuire, Jan and Jeff Berkson, and Joyce Niederman.

Stunning Stories in Native American Jewelry Exhibit

For thousands of years, artisans have expressed their cultural stories in a wide range of jewelry: showing off local and prized trade materials, expressing traditional symbols, and perfecting new techniques and designs adapted from other cultures. Native and non-Native peoples have cherished Native American made jewelry not just for its intrinsic beauty, but especially for the cultural stories and symbolism the jewelry shares. It can be worn everyday or for special events and rights of passage.

It often represents social status, identity, assimilation, as well as, solidarity with cultural preservation. Native American jewelry is even worn to embody the powers of animals and deities and remind us of our internal strengths.

“In developing the exhibit, we reached out to the artists and tribal communities to share their intimate stories of what their prized jewelry means to them- the materials, symbols, and experience making, wearing, and even losing their treasured pieces” says Kathleen McDonald, the exhibit curator and museum’s Executive Director since 2009. “Stunning Stories in Native American Jewelry” displays over 80 exquisite pieces from the museum’s collection and local collectors. The exhibit also shares the multi-faceted stories each piece tells about the preservation of culture, histories, and spirituality in the face of cross-cultural assimilation.

Join us for the Exhibit Preview and Members Party on September 26 from 6pm to 8pm. The evening includes a reception with food and drinks, a brief presentation of the museum’s activities, and a curator’s tour of the new exhibit. The exhibit opens to the public on September 28th.

Notes From the Director

As harvest time brings summer to a close and school opens new chapters to explore, the museum is celebrating a productive summer, including our “Tricksters!” family film and craft program (pictured here). We’re also looking forward to sharing two new exhibits and numerous programs this fall. As we spread the messages of “Reclaiming Native Truths” be sure to watch the WGN Morning News—Around Town segments on September 4th, 7:45am-9am, to see the museum and local community members on TV once again. It is another amazing accomplishment for such a small staff on a shoe string budget. As we launch our annual campaign this fall, we hope that you will join us with pride as stewards of this amazing collection and educators of truth broadcasting Indigenous voices.
### September Programs

**Weekend Crafts & Stories:**
**Native American Games**
Saturdays 11:00am-12:00pm &
Sundays 12:30pm-1:30pm
*Crafts: Mini Lacrosse Stick, Ring & Pin Game, Stick Game*

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

**Friday, Sept. 6**
**Free Admission Day**

**Thursday, Sept. 26 6:00pm-8:00pm**
**Exhibit Preview and Members Party:**
“Stunning Stories in Native American Jewelry”
Join us for food, wine and drinks, a review of our accomplishments over the last year, and an exclusive first look at our new exhibit.
*RSVP by September 19*

**Saturday, Sept. 28**
**Exhibit Opens to the Public**

### October Programs

**Weekend Crafts & Stories:**
**Northwest Coast Region**
Saturdays 11:00am-12:00pm &
Sundays 12:30pm-1:30pm
*Crafts: Bentwood Box, Button Blanket, Whale Doll*

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

**Friday, Oct. 4**
**Free Admission Day**

**Thursday, Oct. 10**
**Doors open 5pm**
**Panel discussion 6:00pm-7:30pm**
**Repatriation of Cultural Patrimony at the National Hellenic Museum**
333 S. Halsted, Chicago
Join us with our CCA partners in this exploration of changing repatriation practices impacting the Native American, Hellenic, Ethiopian and Chinese communities around the world in this international panel.
Purchase tickets in advance at the CCA Inherit Chicago website. Fee: $5

**Monday, Oct. 14**
**Museum open 10:00am-5:00pm**
**Indigenous Peoples’ Day**
Celebrate IPD Day and Native Americans’ traditional practices to protect the environment with activist and educator Carol Kramer, Ojibwe.

- **10:30am-11:15am**
  - **Young People’s Program**
- **12:30pm-1:15pm**
  - **Adult Program**
- **2:15pm-3:00pm**
  - **Exhibit Highlights Tour**
- **4:00pm-4:45pm**
  - **Family/After School Program**

### November Programs

**Weekend Crafts & Stories:**
**Native American Fine Arts**
Saturdays 11:00am-12:00pm &
Sundays 12:30pm-1:30pm
*Crafts: Tipi, Igloo, Wigwam*

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

**Friday, Nov. 1**
**Free Admission Day**

**Saturday, Nov. 2 4:30pm-7:30pm**
**Dr. Carlos Montezuma Honorary Lecture and Awards: “The Rights of Manoomin”**
with attorney Frank Bibeau, Ojibwe, and also honoring artist William White, Tsimshian, and Michael Roberts, Tlingit.
Awards, lecture, and light dinner reception.
*Fee: $20/$18 members RSVP by Oct. 28*

**Thursday, Nov. 7 6:00pm-7:30pm**
**First Nations Film and Video Festival**
Experience the stories of young Native American filmmakers.
*Free to all visitors*

**Friday, Nov. 29 & Saturday, Dec. 1 2:30pm-3:15pm**
**Re-Indigenizing Native Palettes**
Come learn about tribal food ways of yesterday and changes today. *Fee: $5*

### December Programs

**Weekend Crafts & Stories:**
**Gifts**
Saturdays 11:00am-12:00pm &
Sundays 12:30pm-1:30pm
*Crafts: Antler Necklace, Turtle Bracelet, Beaver Bag*

**Flute Group, Alternating Thursdays 6:00pm-7:45pm**

**Friday, Dec. 6**
**Free Admission Day**

**Friday, Dec. 6**
**Native American Fine Arts Holiday Market Preview Party**
RSVP by 11/29 for this exclusive event to view and buy fine art. Enjoy drinks, hors d’oeuvres, live music, and meet the artists! *Fee: $25/$20 Members*

**Saturday, Dec. 7 10:00am-5:00pm & Sunday, Dec. 8 12:00pm-4:00pm**
**Native American Fine Arts Holiday Market**
Find your most unique gifts for the holiday season at our market of Native American artists. Shop jewelry, art, clothing, pottery, and so much more! *Free market admission! Artist demos free with museum admission. School’s Out! Winter Break Crafts*
2019 marks the 10th anniversary of the Mitchell Museum’s Dr. Carlos Montezuma Honorary Lecture and Awards. The event is named after Dr. Carlos Montezuma, a Chicago physician and Native American activist, and honors his contributions to Native American society, culture and history. This year, the Mitchell Museum honors Frank Bibeau, Ojibwe, William White, Tsimshian, and Michael Roberts, Tlingit.

The 2019 Montezuma Honorary Awardee and Lecturer is Frank Bibeau. Frank is an attorney and treaty rights activist from the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota. He works with Honor the Earth, a native-led nonprofit environmental group working to stop the Enbridge 3 oil pipeline. He will present a lecture titled “The Rights of Manoomin” describing his innovative legal approach to give personage to wild rice.

The Woodrow “Woody” Crumbo Award will be presented to Tsamiinbann, also known as Willy White, a chilkat weaver of the Tsimshian nation. Willy uses his art, knowledge, and the history woven into his pieces to teach everyone from fellow tribal people to children in museums. His 30+ year mission has expanded the number of chilkat weavers and saved this distinctly Indigenous artform from disappearing.

The Elizabeth Seabury Mitchell Award will be presented to Michael Roberts, Tlingit, for his service and philanthropy in Native communities. Michael is the President and CEO of the First Nations Development Institute and is chairman of the Board of First Nations Oweesta Corporation. He was recently named a 2019-2020 fellow in the “Philanthropy Forward: Leadership for Change Fellowship” program of Neighborhood Funders Group and the Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions.

The lecture will be held at the Mitchell Museum’s 3009 Central St. building on Saturday, November 2nd from 4:30pm-7:30pm. Entrance fee is $20/$18 members with a light dinner reception to follow. RSVP by 10/28.

First Nations Film and Video Festival

The Mitchell Museum will host the Fall 2019 First Nations Film and Video Festival on November 14th, 6:00pm-7:30pm. Join us for a program of films made by tribal youth, featuring “Ahomapéni: Relations and Rez Dogs”, a documentary by Jarret Twoyoungmen, Canadian Nakoda, and the Nakoda AV Club. The film explores the question, “What do dogs need to be healthy and happy?” to illuminate different conceptions of human-animal relationships on reserves and in settler dominated spaces. “Acorn” and additional short films will also be shown.

Film has had the most significant influence in how people view Native American imagery and cultural information. Now, Indigenous filmmakers are reclaiming control of this medium through first-voice and self representation. First Nations Film and Video Festival, Inc. shares a key mission with the Mitchell Museum in presenting a Native American perspective to audiences and is dedicated to supporting Native American directors from the US, Canada, Central and South America, and Mexico. For more information on the November 14th event, contact the museum at visitor.services@mitchellmuseum.org. or call 847-475-1030. For more information on the film festival, including schedule and film info, visit their website www.fnfvf.org.

Thanksgiving Program: Re-Indigenizing Native Palettes

November is a time when families typically gather and share a meal in thanks giving. They do so as part of the perceived history of this country and believe the foods served at this annual meal to be traditional among Native peoples. However, each tribe had specific diets brought forth through a variety of means that had both local nutritional and spiritual value for the people.

Come learn about tribal food ways, traditional food to specific regions, such as bison, salmon, and fowl, and how tribes today are working to re-indigenize their diets and move toward new food and economic sovereignty for their people. Learn about corn, a major trade and dietary staple among many tribes across the Americas, and how the contemporary food of fry bread is a measure of colonialism. Find out how tribes are reviving traditional rice farming in the Great Lakes area and more.

Join Ernest M Whiteman III, Northern Arapaho, at 2:00pm on Friday, November 22nd or Sunday, November 24th for this talk.
Being a friend of the Mitchell Museum means being an advocate to help promote and share a deeper understanding of Native American Indian peoples. We reached out to a few of our advocates to ask why they support the Mitchell Museum and what the Museum means to them; here’s what they had to say.

**Sue and Tom Laue:** “The Mitchell Museum is a source of learning about Native American cultures, history, practices, and beliefs.” Tom and Sue have been very involved with the museum and attend as many of our enriching programs and events as they can. “The wonderful speakers at the Mitchell Museum’s events relate their history, current needs and achievements,” Sue notes, “helping me learn and share with others an accurate, vital depiction of native life today.”

The museum is one of only a handful of museums across the country that focuses exclusively on the art, history, and culture of Native American and First Nation peoples from throughout the United States and Canada. “We are privileged to have a museum in our midst that represents so much Native American history and so many cultures... Mitchell helps us become aware of our neighbors” says Tom.

**Terry Straus:** Terry has been a longtime supporter of the museum and its founders, John and Betty (Elizabeth) Mitchell. She explained why she has supported the Mitchell Museum all these years: “I appreciated [John and Betty Mitchell’s] interest in Native communities and believe the Mitchell Museum carries on that commitment.” Since our founding, it has been the museum’s mission to give a voice to Native American peoples. This is the same mission that John and Betty Mitchell lived by and how the Mitchell Museum came to be.

Unlike Sue and Tom, Terry lives far enough away that she rarely gets to visit, but being a donor and staying in touch has made her feel comfortable and confident in her long time involvement. “I appreciate the many special programs held [at the museum]” she says, “and the continuing connection to the Chicago Indian community sustained through the Executive Director’s tireless efforts.” Did you know you can become a volunteer or Board member at the museum? If you are interested, please contact Kathleen McDonald at kmcdonald@mitchellmuseum.org or visit our website for more details.
Indigenous Peoples’ Day at the Mitchell Museum

Indigenous Peoples’ Day is celebrated in cities and states across the US on the second Monday in October to recognize the history and contributions of Indigenous peoples long before and after Columbus. This year, the museum is offering a full day of cultural programming for all ages, free with regular museum admission.

The Mitchell Museum is thrilled to welcome Wabaskunageensch Carol Kramer, an Ojibwe educator and environmentalist, as our featured speaker for the 2019 Indigenous Peoples’ Day celebration on October 14th. Originally hailing from the White Earth Indian Reservation in Minnesota, Carol now lives in Iowa, although she returns to her home village of Pine Point to dance in the pow wow each year.

Carol grew up with an intimate connection to land. Her family tapped maple trees for syrup, picked berries, and harvested wild rice. Carol witnessed her mother burying the first bit of each year’s harvest into the earth to return some of nature’s bounty. She grew up with a duty instilled in her to protect the earth that she has held as a sacred purpose throughout her life. She has been an active environmental conservationist and received the Hagie Heritage Award from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation in 2014 for her lifetime efforts.

For Indigenous Peoples’ Day at the Mitchell Museum, Carol will offer three cultural education programs on Ojibwe culture and environmental preservation practices tailored for both individuals and families. The Mitchell Museum will also offer a docent led tour highlighting the museum’s exhibition:

**Young People’s Program:** 10:30am-11:00am
**Adults Program:** 12:30pm-1:30pm
**Exhibit Highlights Tour:** 2:15pm-3:00pm
**After School/Family Program:** 4:00pm-5:00pm
Free with regular museum admission

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**Repatriation of Cultural Patrimony: Panel Discussion and Pop-Up Exhibit**

The Mitchell Museum is excited to join forces with Chicago’s cultural allies to present a panel discussion on repatriation of human remains and cultural patrimony. Demands for repatriation of lost cultural patrimony and stolen human remains make weekly headlines around the world. Join the Chinese American Museum of Chicago, the Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago, the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian and the National Hellenic Museum in deepening your understanding of the complexities of repatriation in this panel discussion. The discussion will be accompanied by a photographic pop-up exhibit showing how the demands for the return of lost cultural treasures can unite ethnicities and nationalities.

Included among the panelists is Jodi Simkin, Klahoose First Nation, Director of Cultural Affairs & Heritage for Klahoose First Nation. Located in central British Columbia, the Nation has undertaken the development of a systematic framework for the research, location, and repatriation of ancestral remains and related cultural patrimony. A lifelong advocate of social justice issues, Jodi is also the Vice-President of the British Columbia Museums Association (BCMA), an appointed member of the BCMA Indigenous Advisory Committee, and of the Association on American Indian Affairs Repatriation Working Group. Jodi is a past presenter for the Federation of International Human Rights Museums (FIHRM) and of the Learned Society. Additional expert panelists for the Repatriation of Cultural Patrimony event include Dr. Katherine Kelaidis, Visiting Assistant Professor at DePaul University; and Zeresenay Alemseged, paleoanthropologist and Donald N. Pritzker Professor in the Department of Organismal Biology and Anatomy at the University of Chicago.

The Repatriation of Cultural Patrimony program is part of Inherit Chicago, the Chicago Cultural Alliance’s month-long intercultural festival. Join us at 5pm to view the pop up exhibit and 6pm for the panel discussion on **Thursday, October 10th at the National Hellenic Museum** at 333 S Halsted St, Chicago, IL, 60661. Tickets for the event are $5 and can be purchased online at https://www.artful.ly/store/events/18358. For more information, call the Chicago Cultural Alliance: 312-846-6814.
Join the Mitchell Museum for Fun Programs and Events!

Holiday Market

The Mitchell Museum’s annual Native American Fine Arts Holiday Market takes place the first weekend of December, Friday the 6th through Sunday the 8th. Take time to come and buy unique Native American made gifts for friends and family, or for yourself. This is an opportunity to view arts and crafts by American Indian artists from across the country, who will present their art for sale and hold demonstration programs in the museum.

We will have several new artists attending, such as Duran Gasper and Jimmy Yawakia, Zuni artists, and Mitchell Zephier Sr., Lower Brule Lakota, as they offer their latest jewelry pieces. Come and chat with artists as you peruse the latest Native American fine art.

We also offer a chance to learn about artistic techniques directly from the artists. Artist demonstrations are a great way to hear from the artists themselves as they demonstrate their craft, providing stories and insight that goes into each new piece. This year’s market will showcase a wide array of artwork including paintings, drawings, jewelry, beadwork, and pottery with many artists from across the country.

The annual market kicks off with the Friday night preview party where patrons can enjoy live flute music, heavy hors d’oeuvres, wine, beer, and other drinks. Several of the artists will provide talks throughout the evening. This is a great event to get a first look and exclusive time to buy these artists’ works before the market opens to the public. The Preview Party will open the event on Friday, December 6th, 6:30-8:30pm. Admission to the Preview Party is $25 per person and $20 for members. If you wish to attend, please RSVP by 12/3 by calling 847-475-1030.

The market continues, Saturday, December 7, 10:00am-5:00pm and Sunday, December 8, Noon-4:00pm. Market admission is Free. Artist demonstrations included in museum admission. For more information, please contact the museum at 847-475-1030 or email: visitor.services@mitchellmuseum.org.