Mitchell Museum
of the American Indian

2011 Annual Report
Greetings from the Mitchell Museum!

2011 was a groundbreaking year: the museum launched several multi-year projects, upgraded internal operations, and won an exhibit Excellence Award from the Illinois Association of Museums. Building excellence in a museum takes time, a special mix of professional expertise, and funders who believe in your vision. We are so fortunate to have these key factors to build an exciting future for the Mitchell Museum.

In 2011, the museum committed to achieve professional museum accreditation standards through the American Association of State and Local History’s StEPs program. The museum accessed all areas of operation identifying where new policies and procedures were needed and envisioning how to advance the museum’s brand, develop its donor base, and partner with American Indian communities across North America. We also launched the redevelopment of the permanent core exhibit to add more interpretation of Native art, history and cultures and voices of our American Indian and First Nation constituents to complete the advancement of our exhibition program. To learn more about the museum’s uniqueness we hired MBMD Strategic Consultants through an ArtsWork Fund grant and using surveys, focus groups, and other research learned that the Mitchell Museum is one of only a handful of museums across the nation (not just in Chicago) that focuses exclusively on the art, culture and history of the American Indian and First Nation peoples throughout the United States and Canada.

Our strategy for stronger, more informative programs drew bigger crowds including our Native Poetry Night, dance demonstration, and Dr. Carlos Montezuma Honorary Lecture. As an international museum, we welcomed nearly 10,000 visitors including delegations from the Nunatsiavut band near the Arctic Circle and Bahrain in the Middle East. Behind the scenes, the collections advanced with new donations and great progress on the collection’s inventory. The museum also reorganized its financials and switched to accrual accounting. While the IRS 990 report shows this “paper loss”, the museum still operated with a positive cash flow for the year (see Financial Fitness). Our Honorary Council of past and present Mayors of Evanston, led by Joan Barr Smith, honored us by hosting a special fundraising event at the museum in June to welcome new prospective donors.

With the contributions of an exceptional staff, board, and volunteers, the museum earned its first Excellence Award for the “Dazzling Colors: The Evolution of Plains Reservation Art” from IAM and was a national finalist for the American Association of State and Local History for the “Deconstructing Stereotypes: Top Ten Truths” exhibit laying the foundation for greater successes to come. In the next two years, we will continue to reach out to our constituents to redevelop our permanent core exhibit to achieve these same standards of excellence and complete our StEPs goals.

Glennis Lundberg
Board President (July ’09-June ’11)

Jim DeNomie, Bad River Chippewa
Board President (July ’11– present)

Kathleen McDonald
Executive Director (Dec ’09-present)
Although some view the Mitchell Museum as a local, neighborhood museum, we have an international reach attracting visitors from around the globe. Whether attracted by our expanded family craft programs now offered all weekend and during school breaks, award-winning exhibitions, informative tours, or unique programs, the museum brings nearly 10,000 visitors to Central Street. Museum attendance increased 2% on top of the previous year’s 16% growth. 2011 growth was seen primarily in the school group attendance figures with steady or only slight drops in other areas. The museum is featured in local and regional publications and on Radio Disney and NPR.

The museum hosted a long list of programs in 2011 highlighted by quality Native performers and thought-provoking topics. The year started with a master craft beaded jewelry class taught by Norma Robertson, Dakota, and a Bolo Ties Fashion Show for our donor appreciation party, the Blackhawk Performance Company dance demonstration and a gourd-vase dream catcher workshop. Poets Marc LaRoque, Ojibwe, Kimberly Blaeser, Chippewa, and Thirza DeFoe, Ojibwe and Oneida, headlined our Native Poetry Night and storytellers Ron Kanutski, Ojibway and Florence Dunham, Mohawk, brought traditional and contemporary storytelling to museum audiences young and old. The museum held an Artist Marketplace, Appraisal Day, and Native Arts Holiday Bazaar. We also discussed tough topics from stereotypes and cultural competency, traditional Native healing vs. western medicine, American Indian heroes, the impact of Indian mascots, and the Cherokee freed-man issue and for teachers, how to incorporate Native American crafts into the classroom and teach without stereotypes.

In 2011, the museum focused on a collections inventory to better track where items were stored, identifying collections that needed improved packing, and verified important documentation of the collection. The Midwest Registrars Committee, partnering with Gaylord and Terry Dowd, Inc., supplied volunteers and over $3,000 worth of textile storage materials to re-house the clothing collection. By adding rolling shelves to create compact storage, staff were able to greatly enhance the capacity and standard of care in the collections. The museum also received a bounty of books and over 133 new acquisitions from katsinas and a powerful bronze sculpture of Powder Face to a ledger drawing by Chris Pappan, Osage, Kaw, Cheyenne River Sioux, European.
**Cahokia: Rediscovering Archaeology**

Located eight miles east of present day St. Louis, Cahokia offers an incredible glimpse into this vanished Mississippian culture characterized by agricultural economies, mound architecture, technological innovation, and artistry. At the height of its population in 1250, around 40,000 Native people lived in Cahokia, a larger population than London at the time. This exhibit highlighted the role of archeologists in uncovering and re-discovering new aspects of American Indian culture from examining to date only one percent of this settlement site.

**Through the Eyes of the Eagle: Illustrating Healthy Living for Children**

Diabetes affects nearly 24 million people in the United States, but is a much higher risk for the Native American and Alaska Native communities. Featuring 65 original watercolor paintings and illustrations from the popular children’s book series, Eagle Books, plus jingle dresses and lacrosse materials from the Mitchell’s collection, this exhibit focused on teaching young children about healthy living and diabetes prevention through traditional American Indian foods and physical activity. The four-part Eagle Books series was written by health worker Georgia Perez, illustrated by Patrick Rolo (Bad River Band of Ojibwe, Wisconsin) and Lisa A. Fifield (Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin, Black Bear Clan) and produced in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

**Deconstructing Stereotypes: Top Ten Truths**

*National Finalist for the American Association of State and Local History's Excellence in History award!*

Exhibit Developer, Laura McDowell, surveyed Native peoples across the U.S. and Canada about the stereotypes they felt most impacted their lives. The results created an exhibit exploring the diversity and complexity of contemporary Native life and includes direct quotes from Native and indigenous peoples. “This is not an issue about people being offended. Our hearing is about the real harm that is done to all people, Native and non-Native alike, when mascots, movies and images reinforce the stereotypes and lines that divide rather than unite us.” Senator Daniel K. Akaka, Hawaiian. The exhibit also addressed many other common misconception about treaties, casinos, mascots and urban Indians.

**Treasures of the Collection**

Since the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian was founded by John and Elizabeth Seabury Mitchell in 1977, the collection has grown from their original 3,000 artifacts to a robust 10,000 pieces. Native art collectors, as well as Native artists from across the country, donated artifacts to the museum to carry on the mission to promote and share a deeper understanding and respect of American Indian peoples. The collection covers tribes throughout the United States and Canada from Paleo-Indian times to the present, but concentrates on 19th through 21st century materials. Over 75 objects in the “Treasures of the Collection” exhibit highlight the Mitchell Museum’s outstanding collection of baskets, Southwestern art, beadwork, Inuit art, and ledger drawings.
In 2011, staff refined the museum’s financial reports and developed financial goals with a deeper understanding of the museum’s future needs. Despite tough fundraising conditions, the Mitchell Museum modified projects to control expenses and finished the year with a positive cash flow of $3,198. We are sincerely grateful to the contributors listed on the following pages who made all of the museum’s programs and activities possible, especially our 100% giving Board of Directors.

Following the StEPs accreditation program’s review of the museum’s fiscal management, the museum switched accounting firms and implemented overdue adjustments to clean-up the museum’s bookkeeping and advanced to an accrual accounting system preferred by grant agencies. The adjustments to the balance sheet included a cost not retail valuation of the museum shop inventory, updating unpaid and prepaid expenses, and writing off completed or uncollectible pledges. We also wrote off old bad debt as well as unused accounts lingering from the museum’s last audit in 2006. This clean up resulted in an accurate reflection of the museum’s finances, but a significant paper loss on the IRS 990 and Illinois Cultural Data project reports. Our Profit and Loss Statement shows these adjustments under Other Income and Expense to net $-149,416. In the future, the museum is budgeting to cover a 6-month reserve operating fund (built up over five years) and building depreciation (built up over seven years).

The diversity of revenue sources remains a strength of the museum and we were able to again increase the number of donors, both vital to surviving the economic downturn.

**Balance Sheet**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>FY 2011</th>
<th>FY 2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>$54,996</td>
<td>$101,723</td>
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<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td>$1,331,032</td>
<td>$1,361,801</td>
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<td>Other Assets</td>
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<td>$71,919</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$1,386,028</td>
<td>$1,535,443</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities &amp; Equities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td>$14,424</td>
<td>$21,775</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equity - Retained &amp; Fund Bal.</td>
<td>$1,371,604</td>
<td>$1,513,668</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equity - Net Income</td>
<td>$(142,214)</td>
<td>$(24,147)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
<td>$1,371,604</td>
<td>$1,513,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</strong></td>
<td>$1,386,028</td>
<td>$1,535,443</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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31% Earned Revenue $77,010

69% Contributed Revenue $170,412

**Income Statement**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Statement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>$247,422</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Expense</td>
<td>$244,224</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Ordinary Income</strong></td>
<td>$3,198</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income/Expense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prior Year Adjustments</td>
<td>$-118,647</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>$-30,769</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Other Income</td>
<td>$-149,416</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Income</strong></td>
<td>$-146,218</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Expenses $244,225
A small museum could not survive without the dedicated volunteers whose work is vital to the museum’s operation, especially our docents. Three cheers for all the volunteers!

Ivan Berk  Chuck Hopper  Barbara Novick
Alex Bloss  Mitch Hopper  Mary Lee Paoletti
Ellen Collar  Bobbi Hopper  Laurence Seeger
Manola Corrent  Diana Hunter  Max Silvers
Laura Dudnik  Barbara Johnson  Trimmie Stamell
Caroline Fernald  Amanda Jones  Pamela Stavinoga
Diane Gutenkauf  Anita Kneifel  Cheryl Wollin
Diane Hall  Cherie Lockett  Jennifer Witkov
Chloe Henderson  Marissa Medansky  Andrew Young

Individual Donors

Visionary ($250-499)
Linda Bechtle and Steve Flugum
Jan and Jeff Berkson
Bob and Sue Boone
Frank and Hannah Callahan
Frank and Jan Cicero
Candice and J.R. Corr
Stefan and Theresa Doser
Paul and Jane Friesema
William and Carolyn Gifford
Lawrence Hamilton
Mitch and Marylou Horwat
Barbara and Chris Johnson
Amanda Jones and Daniel Hartnett
Paul and Nancy Leonard
John and Linnea Mead
Margie Murdough
Neal and Trimmy Stamell
Cheryl Wollin
Joseph Yi

Fellow ($500-999)
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Kenneth Flammang
David and Mary Ann Grumman
James and Bonnie Lytle
Kevin Rielley
Bette Slutsky
Robert and Diane Teska
John and Marge Wold
Patricia Zygmun

Patron ($1,000-2,499)
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Ivan and Shelly Berk
Joyce and Bruce Chelberg
Elliot and Laura Dudnik
Joan Goldner
Alice M. Gutenkauf
Reed and Joe Hagee
Frances Hagemann
Will Linder and Janette Bowers
Glennis and Barry Lundberg

Allan and Joyce Niederman
Barbara Novick
James Pritzker
Timothy and Susan Salisbury
Gary Shipley

Guardian ($2,500-4,999)
John and Sarabess Cahill
Jim and Diane Stuart

Messenger ($5,000-9,999)
Dr. Robert Gluckman

Fire keeper ($50,000-)
Elizabeth Seabury Mitchell

In-Kind Gifts
Allan and Joyce Niederman
Sarabess Cahill
James P. DeNomie
Paul Friesema
Glennis and Barry Lundberg
Frances Hagemann
Trimmy and Neal Stamell
Eliot Waldman

After our Bolo Tie Fashion Show Donor Appreciation Party in January, funders gathered again for the 2011 Spring Benefit: ‘Food, Fun & Games” to raise $14,328 for the museum. In June, our Honorary Council, led by former mayor, Joan Barr-Smith, welcomed new donors to learn about the museum and in September we held our Annual Matching Campaign celebration at the opening of the “Treasures of the Collection” exhibit.
Foundations & Corporate Donors

**Business Member ($100-249)**
- Central Street Business Association
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- Native Visions
- Northwestern University
- Jones Lang LaSalle

**Visionary ($250-499)**
- California Pizza Kitchen, Inc.
- Child Care Center of Evanston
- J.B. Creative, Inc.
- Kristofek Financial Corp.
- St. Augustine’s Center for American Indians, Inc.

**Fellow ($500-999)**
- First Bank and Trust of Evanston
- McTigue Financial
- PEO Sisterhood, Chapter DV
- Robert R. McCormick Foundation
- Rubens Family Foundation
- Sagan Family Foundation

**Patron ($1,000-2,499)**
- Illinois Disability Pooled Trust
- Lincolnwood Garden Club of Evanston
- Max M. and Carol W. Sandfield
- Philanthropic Fund of Dallas
- North End Mother’s Club
- Park Ridge Indian Scout Foundation
- The Kiwanis Foundation of Evanston
- William M. Hales Foundation

**Guardian ($2,500-4,999)**
- BMO Harris Bank
- Daniel and Janet Hidding Foundation
- Illinois Humanities Council
- John J. Cahill, Inc.
- Landau Family Foundation
- Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
- Stuart Family Foundation

**Messenger ($5,000-9,999)**
- Illinois Humanities Council

**Warrior ($10,000-19,999)**
- ArtsWork Fund of the Chicago Community Foundation

**In-Kind Gifts**
- Adler Planetarium
- Allegro Dance Boutique
- Amy G. Beauty Salon
- Anton’s Green House
- Café Ba Ba Reeba
- Casteel Coffee
- Chalet Landscape, Nursery and Garden Center
- Chalk Boutique, LTD
- Chestnut Street Inn
- Chicago Chamber Musicians
- Chicago Cubs
- Chicago Shakespeare Theater
- Dance Center Evanston
- Devon Bank
- East Bank Club
- Elements Contemporary Ballet
- Ergo Salon
- Gethsemane Gardens
- Gold N’ Pear
- Happy Husky Bakery
- Heaven Meets Earth Family Yoga Studio
- Hilton Garden Inn
- Illinois Sports Facilities Authority
- Kids Snips
- Light Opera Works
- Maggiano’s Little Italy
- Native Art Traders
- Next Theatre
- Northlight Theater
- Oceanique
- Piccolo Theater
- Pilates Connections
- Plantings
- Prairie Joe’s
- Quince at the Homestead
- Shedd Aquarium
- Skokie Comfort Inn
- SPACE
- SPEx Eyewear
- Starbucks
- Sutton Studios Photography
- Terry Dowd, Inc.
- The Mather
- WineStyles
- Zanies Comedy Nite Club

Thirza Defoe, Ojibwe

The Harriers

“Treasures of the Collection” Exhibition

Evanston Symphony Orchestra
Evanston School of Ballet
Gaylord Bros, Inc.
Gene Siskel Film Center
Gethsemane Gardens
Gold N’ Pear
Happy Husky Bakery
Heaven Meets Earth Family Yoga Studio
Hilton Garden Inn
Illinois Garden Inn
Illinois Sports Facilities Authority
Kids Snips
Light Opera Works
Maggiano’s Little Italy
Native Art Traders
Next Theatre
Northlight Theater
Oceanique
Piccolo Theater
Pilates Connections
Plantings
Prairie Joe’s
Quince at the Homestead
Shedd Aquarium
Skokie Comfort Inn
SPACE
SPEx Eyewear
Starbucks
Sutton Studios Photography
Terry Dowd, Inc.
The Mather
WineStyles
Zanies Comedy Nite Club
The Mitchell Museum of the American Indian is one of the few museums across the country that focuses exclusively on the art, history and culture of American Indian and First Nation peoples from the United States and Canada from Paleo-Indian times to the present.

Our mission is to promote and share a deeper understanding and respect of Native American peoples through the collection, preservation, and interpretation of their traditional and contemporary art and material culture.

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