Mitchell Museum of the American Indian

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

PROMOTING AND SHARING AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURE FOR

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS
Greetings from the Mitchell Museum!

2012 marked the museum’s 35th Anniversary and a celebration of many achievements. From rather humble beginnings in a basement space of Mitchell Brothers Real Estate office, the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian has grown not just in the number of objects in the collection, attendance, the size of the museum space, or as an independent 501(c) 3 non profit organization, but most importantly, in the recognition of the museum’s quality programs and exhibits and its outreach with the American Indian community. Over the last 35 years, hundreds of individuals have volunteered their time and expertise to support the museum’s staff in all areas of the museum’s operations. Funders have fueled the museum: not only keeping the doors open and surviving, but also growing the museum into a valued member of the Evanston, American Indian, and museum communities.

2012 was filled with prominent awards including “Best of 2012: Best Museum on the North Shore: Up and Comer” by Make It Better! Chicago’s North Shore magazine. The Mitchell Museum also received the Illinois Association of Museums’ Superior Award and was a national finalist in the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) Leadership in History Award program for the “Deconstructing Stereotypes: Top Ten Truths” exhibit demonstrating the Mitchell Museum’s high quality interpretation and exhibit techniques. We have come a long way and look forward to continuing this success into the future.

To define this vision of the future for the Mitchell Museum, the Board of Directors embarked on a new strategic plan for 2013-2015. Crystalizing the museum’s activities into three clear goals: financial stability, reaching professional museum accreditation standards, and outreach to the American Indian community in making our museum relevant to all our constituents. While lofty goals in light of the global financial stressors, the museum is poised to do even greater things in the years ahead. Through vigilant efforts, the museum laid the groundwork for many future collaborations with organizations and individuals in the American Indian community serving on the Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative. We are formalizing written policies for our accreditation standards, and expanding our donor base to move up new donors into our fundraising pipeline. None of this can happen without you. Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully Submitted,

James DeNomie, Bad River Chippewa
Board President

Kathleen McDonald
Executive Director
The Mitchell Museum offers a diverse range of programs from academic lectures, artist-led workshops and music and dance demonstrations to deepen the public's understanding of American Indian peoples and culture. The Kids Craft Mornings, storytellers, docent-led tours for school-age and adult groups and activity tables engages children and demonstrates the museum's reputation as a family friendly place. The weekly Flute Group, Book Seminar series, and annual Native American Art & Craft Holiday Bazaar encourage regular participation from adult audiences. With such great offerings our attendance rose another 2.37% in 2012 to 9644.

In 2012 the museum welcomed artist Sharon Skolnick, Ft. Sill Apache, comedian Marc Yaffee, Navajo, and Paul DeMain, Oneida/Ojibwe, the Dr. Carlos Montezuma Honorary Lecturer. Audiences also enjoyed a local native history lecture and bike excursion and storytelling by Robert Wapahi, Dakota, just to name a few.

The Mitchell Museum also reaches out to teachers providing resources and programs to assist in teaching about American Indian culture in the classroom from loan boxes with hands-on artifacts to curriculum guides and lesson plans. The museum also strengthened its outreach efforts serving on the steering committee of the Chicago American Indian Community Planning Initiative (CAICPI) and hosting their retreat in December. With all of these programs plus exceptional presenters, the Mitchell is a bustling center for learning and cultural experiences.

Central to the Mitchell Museum’s mission is to collect and preserve traditional and contemporary Native American art and material culture from Paleo-Indian times to the present to tell the stories of American Indian art, history, and culture for this and future generations. Since 1977, the collection has grown from 3,000 to over 10,000 objects and over 3,000 books and periodicals in its library representing some of the country’s best American Indian textiles, basketry, beadwork, visual arts, jewelry, and sculpture.

In 2012 the inventory of the library was completed; the object inventory continues. We also started the moccasin rehousing grant from the Costume Society of America. Several new donations are currently on view in the “New Treasures of the Collection” exhibit including a painting by Kevin Red Star, Crow, and a stone carving of two seasons of Inuit life.
Carving Traditions: Modern Inuit Carvings, January
Inuit stone, bone, ivory, baleen, and wood carving is an art dating back 2,500 years. Created as a way to remember and honor past lifeways and to pass down traditions, these carvings provide a window into Inuit life. Since the 1940s, carvings have greatly increased in popularity both within Inuit communities and among art collectors. In this exhibit, visitors discover how Inuit artists carved and shaped unique materials to illustrate family life, travel, hunting, and animals.

Changing Views of American Indian Fine Art, June
From trading posts to the international contemporary art world, Native artists have contributed to the American fine art tradition. This exhibit challenged perceptions of American Indian art and features work by Woody Crumbo, Dan Namingha, and other well-known artists. The exhibit also includes many interactive displays, including an art drawing table, discussion boards, and a guessing game that will challenge perceptions of Native Art.

Did You Know They’re Native II, August
Many famous and prominent people in the United States and Canada are Native, or have Native ancestry; most of these people are household names or have done incredible things but some are less commonly known. Learn more about the famous people you might already know who are Native, and about other Native people who have led fascinating lives in the second of this exhibit series.

War of 1812: Fighting for Their Homelands, Sept.
Referred to as “America’s second War of Independence,” the conflict saw allied Native American, British, and Canadian forces battling the United States in a war that lasted two and a half years. View maps and documents, read biographies of prominent American Indian leaders including Tecumseh (Shawnee), and debate if the events at Fort Dearborn were a Battle or Massacre. From the causes of the conflict and war to the local Battle of Fort Dearborn’s contemporary controversy, the exhibit provides visitors with new perspectives on a war of lasting importance.

New Treasures of the Collection, December
Since the museum’s founding in 1977, the collection has grown from 3,000 to over 10,000 objects. View a selection of the donations from collectors across the country to the museum. The selection represents just a sampling of the interesting, visually striking, and culturally relevant pieces. The exhibit also provides an overview of the current collection projects in a slideshow and a few hands of items new to the education collection.
Financial Fitness

In 2012, the museum finished another year with a positive cash flow despite a challenging fundraising climate. The museum’s board deliberated steps for the museum to achieve financial stability and established strategic goals to implement this by expanding our reserve account to cover six months of operating expenses and the building depreciating costs. Knowing that raising an additional $160,000 above regular operating income is ambitious, we aim to build the account over seven years. As the museum does not have an endowment, this reserve account will provide an important cushion to ensure the museum’s stability and growth. We also addressed the need to improve the efficiency of the museum’s bookkeeping and hired a part-time, in-house bookkeeper and solicited CJBS, LLC to oversee the museum’s accounting and reports.

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

### Balance Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>FY 2012</th>
<th>FY 2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>$63,314</td>
<td>$73,954</td>
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<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td>$1,300,263</td>
<td>$1,331,032</td>
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<td>Other Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$1,364,577</td>
<td>$1,404,986</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities &amp; Equities</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td>$8,465</td>
<td>$18,800</td>
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<td>Equity - Retained &amp; Fund Bal.</td>
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<td>$1,532,404</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equity - Net Income</td>
<td>(30,074)</td>
<td>(146,218)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Equity</td>
<td>$1,356,112</td>
<td>$1,386,186</td>
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</table>

| **Total Liabilities & Equity** | $1,364,577 | $1,404,986 |

### Income Statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>$247,791</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expense</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Ordinary Income</strong></td>
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<td>Other Income/Expense</td>
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<td>Adjustments</td>
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<td>Depreciation</td>
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<td><strong>Net Other Income</strong></td>
<td>$ (30,830)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Income</strong></td>
<td>$ (30,074)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Flute players, at the 35th Anniversary Benefit Gala
A small museum could not survive without the dedicated volunteers whose exceptional work is vital to the museum’s operation, especially our docents. These volunteers contributed 3091 hours in 2012!

Ivan Berk
Alex Bloss
Ellen Collar
Laura Dudnik
Diana Hunter
Virginia Huntley
Barbara Johnson
Amanda Jones
Anita Kneifel
Susan Laue
Patricia Lischke

Bob Miller
Barbara Novick
Mary Lee Paoletti
Laurence Seeger
Katherine Simmons
Tamatha Smith
Pamela Stavinoga
Veena Vijayakumar
Jennifer Witkov
Cheryl Wollin

Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Party, December 2012.
Foundations & Corporate Donors

**Business Member ($100-249)**
- American Brain Tumor Association
- Central Street Business Association
- CJBS, LLC
- Hansen Design Associates
- Kettelkamp & Kettelkamp
- Lake County Forest Preserves
- National Awards
- National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution
- North Shore Eye Center
- The University Guild
- Warner & Baird, Inc.

**Visionary ($250-499)**
- Loyola University Chicago
- Noodles & Company
- St. Augustine’s Center for American Indians, Inc.

**Fellow ($500-999)**
- Chicago American Indian Community Planning Initiative
- Evanston Arts Council, City of Evanston
- Illinois Humanities Council
- John and Margaret Sagan Foundation
- Northshore Retirement Home
- Northwestern University
- Park Ridge Indian Scout Foundation
- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
- Robert R. McCormick Foundation
- Rubens Family Foundation
- Vanguard Charitable Endowment

**Patron ($1,000-2,499)**
- Costume Society of American
- Max M. and Carol W. Sandfield Philanthropic Fund of Dallas
- Elizabeth Beidler Tisdahl Foundation
- First Bank & Trust of Evanston
- Illinois Disability Pooled Trust
- JB Creative, Jan and Jeff Berkson
- John J. Cahill, Inc
- William M. Hales Foundation

**Guardian ($2,500-4,999)**
- Daniel and Janet Hidding Foundation
- Harris Bank Foundation

**Warrior ($10,000-19,999)**
- Richard H. Driehaus Foundation

**In-Kind Gifts**
- Adler Planetarium
- Amy G Beauty Salon
- Anton’s Green House
- Buffalo Wild Wings
- Celtic Knot Public House
- Chalet Landscape, Nursery & Garden Center
- Chestnut Street Inn
- Chicago A Cappella
- Chicago Bulls
- Chicago Chamber Musicians
- Chicago Cubs
- Chicago Shakespeare Theater
- Crust & Crumb Breads
- Dance Center Evanston
- Evanston Symphony Orchestra
- Fire House Grill
- George Ritzlin Antique Maps and Prints
- Gethsemane Garden Center
- Happy Husky Bakery
- Heaven Meets Earth Family Yoga Studio
- Hilton Orrington/Evanston
- Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center
- Illinois Sports Facilities Authority
- KidSnips & Mustard’s Last Stand
- Language Stars
- Light Opera Works

**In-Kind Gifts from Individuals**
- Ivan Berk
- Christy Jones and Judy Ferguson
- Janice Kincheloe
- Barry Lundberg
- Susan Salisbury
- Cheryl Wollin

**Alderman Mark Tendam, Candace Corr**
- Little Journeys
- Lulu’s Dim Sum and Then Sum
- McGaw YMCA
- Moller Financial Services
- Native Art Traders
- Nature’s Perspective Landscaping
- Next Theatre Company
- North Shore Hotel
- Northlight Theatre
- Northwestern Athletics
- Norwex
- Notice
- Pilates Connections
- Prairie Joe’s
- Pump It Up! Glenview
- R.C. Danon Gallery
- Schafer’s
- Shedd Aquarium
- Skokie Valley Symphony
- Spex
- Starbucks
- Stella
- Sutton Studios
- The ComedySportz Theatre
- The Orion Ensemble
- The UPS Store
- Thodos Dance Chicago
- William’s Shoes - The Walking Spirit
- William’s Shoes Next Door
- Zanies Comedy Nite Club

(L-R) Allan Niederman, Diane and Alice Gutenkauf, and Joyce Niederman
The Mitchell Museum of the American Indian is one of the few museum 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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