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

Giving Thanks

Your generosity keeps our doors open to educate school children; provide unique experiences addressing current events important to American Indians today; support Indigenous performers and presenters; and preserve Native American art and material culture for future generations. We are deeply appreciative of all of our 2017 supporters from members to major donors.

Our 40th Birthday campaign was a great success exceeding our 2017 operations goal and helping to build our reserve funds. Thank you to all of those who believed in the museum’s mission to promote and share a deeper understanding and respect for Native American peoples: Jan and Jeff Berkson, Jane and O.C. Edwards, Deborah and James Ford, Jane Friesema, Glennis and Barry Lundberg, Jackie and Jim McGuire, John and Linnea Mead, Allan and Joyce Niederman & Family, Tim and Sue Salisbury, Terry Straus in Honor of Frances Hagemann, and Dr. Patricia Zygmun.


We look forward to partnering with you in 2018 with new partnership opportunities to support our Benefit, Bingo Adventure, and Entrepreneurship exhibit.

“Native American Woven Arts” Opening in February

Weaving has always been an integral part of Native American cultures. From clothing like Chilkat blankets (left) in the Northwest Coast to accessories like woven purses (lower right) in the Woodlands, weaving is a varied and true art form.

Our new exhibit opening in February, “Native American Woven Arts,” appreciates the artistry and expertise of weaving unique and priceless baskets, bags, rugs, blankets, and clothing. The exhibit will explore the steps to create woven pieces from material gathering and preparation to final finishing, as well as interpreting the finished art form.

Visitors can learn the stories and significance behind weaving designs from Two Grey Hills rugs (left) to Spider Woman baskets from the voices of tribal members. The exhibit also introduces the artists and their family businesses making textiles and basketry, including the rug to the left made by Navajo artist Minnie Hoskie.

Visitors will even be able to try their hand at weaving a rug or basket! Join us as we celebrate the history of Native weaving in this exhibit of exquisite Native American woven arts opening to the public on February 10th with a members preview and donor appreciation party on February 8th from 6-8pm.

Notes From the Director

2017 has been a phenomenal fall at the Mitchell Museum with record-breaking crowds and new partners at Indigenous Peoples Day (left), Understanding Your Indigenous Roots programs, Thanksgiving Myths, and the Native Fine Arts Holiday Market, not to mention our Dr. Carlos Montezuma Honorary Lecture and Awards and the 40th Birthday Party celebration revealing many upgrades to our permanent exhibit “A Cultural Tour of American Indian Cultures.” We were thrilled to be on WBEZ radio twice this fall.

We have another huge line-up planned for 2018. Be sure not to miss these wonderful opportunities to experience Indigenous cultures, especially the performance of nationally renowned comedian, Larry Omaha, in March. Check out a preview of him on YouTube.

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

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

**Flute Group, Alternating Thursday 6:00 - 7:45 PM**  
Contact museum for meeting location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday, Feb. 2</th>
<th>Free Admission Day</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, Feb. 8</strong></td>
<td><strong>“Native American Woven Arts” Exhibit Opening &amp; Donor Appreciation Party</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 - 8:00 PM</td>
<td>Join us for the opening of our new exhibit on woven textiles &amp; basketry. See the front page for details.</td>
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| Saturday, Feb. 10 | **“Native American Woven Arts” Exhibit Public Opening** |
| 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM |  |
| 2:30 - 3:30 PM | **Spotlight Tour of the Exhibit**  
Included with museum admission. |

### March Programs

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

**Flute Group, Alternating Thursday 6:00 - 7:45 PM**  
Contact the museum for meeting location

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<td><strong>Saturday, Mar. 10</strong></td>
<td><strong>2018 Annual Benefit Gala: “The Funny Side of Indigenous Life”</strong></td>
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<td>6:00 - 9:30 PM</td>
<td>The benefit gala will be at the Wilmette Golf Club and feature comedy by Larry Omaha, a served dinner, full bar, silent auction, raffle, and flute music. See the back page for more details.</td>
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| Sunday, Mar. 25 & Friday, Mar. 30 | **Native Myths: About Stereotypes** |
| **Education Coordinator Ernest M Whiteman III** will talk about the common stereotypes surrounding Native American peoples. |

| Tuesday, Mar. 27—Friday, Mar. 30 | **School’s Out Spring Break Crafts** |
| 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM | Come to the museum over Spring Break to learn about Native cultures and make a Beaded Necklace, a small Moccasin, or a Talking Stick. |

### April Programs

**Weekend Crafts & Stories: Native Musical Instruments**
Saturdays from 11:00am - Noon & Sundays from 12:30 - 1:30pm  
*Crafts: Rattle, Drum, & Native Flute*

**Flute Group, Alternating Thursday 6:00 - 7:45 PM**  
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<tr>
<th>Sunday, Apr. 1</th>
<th>Museum closed</th>
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| Sunday, Apr. 8 | **Book Signing & Discussion with author Alice Azure** |
| **Azure will be launching her fifth book, Hunger Feast, a collection of poetry.**  
She has won awards from the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers for previous works. |

### January Programs

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

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

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<td><strong>Thursday, Jan. 18</strong></td>
<td><strong>Last Call Tour: Contemporary Native Women Exhibit</strong></td>
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<td>6:00 - 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Enjoy a tour of the award-winning exhibit before it closes. The last day to see why the exhibit won a 2017 Award of Superior from the Illinois Association of Museums will be Sunday, Jan. 21.</td>
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| Sunday, Jan. 21 | **Norman Sandfield Lecture: Awa Tsireh: Pueblo Painter & Metalsmith** |
| 2:00 - 3:00 PM | Sandfield will discuss his book on Tsireh, renowned for his paintings and metalwork in silver and copper. |

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| 2:30 - 3:30 PM | **Spotlight Tour of the Exhibit**  
Included with museum admission. |
Awa Tsireh Lecture with Norman Sandfield

The Garden of the Gods Trading Post in Colorado has helped introduce Native artwork to a wider audience for almost 100 years. One artist who took up summer residence there in the 1930s was Awa Tsireh of the San Ildefonso Pueblo. Tsireh was a skilled metalsmith and painter whose works were popular with tourists and collectors from across the country.

His paintings often featured pueblo dancers and mythology, while his silverwork tended to depict animals.

On Sunday, January 21, Norman Sandfield, a world-recognized collector and longtime friend of the Mitchell Museum, will discuss his recent work *Awa Tsireh: Pueblo Painter and Metalsmith*, which won the 2017 New Mexico/Arizona Book Award: Biography – New Mexico subject.

The book explores Tsireh’s paintings and metalwork, both those in museums and those held in private collections. An exhibition of Tsireh’s work, including pieces from Sandfield’s own collection, is currently on display at the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona, and Sandfield coauthored the book with Heard Museum director Diana F. Pardue. The exhibition runs at the Heard until July 1.

**Sunday, January 21, 2:00—3:00pm; $10 / $8 members**

Alice Azure Hunger Feast Book Launch

On Sunday, April 8, the Mitchell Museum is proud to host a book launch for Alice M. Azure’s *Hunger Feast*. The collection of poems is Azure’s fifth book and was edited by Terry Straus, the recipient of the Mitchell Museum’s 2017 Elizabeth Seabury Mitchell Award. The event, from 2:00—3:30p.m., will include a discussion by Azure as well as a book signing.

Azure currently lives in the St. Louis metropolitan area, while her Mi’kmaq roots are from the Kespu’kwitk District (Yarmouth County) of Nova Scotia. She is among the many Mi’kmaq artists, humanists, educators, lawyers and writers that are archived in the Tepi’ketuek Mi’kmaw Archives, available online at http://mikmawarchives.ca/.

Azure is a member of the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers and the St. Louis Poetry Center. The Wordcraft Circle awarded Azure’s *Games of Transformation* the 2012 poetry book of the year and *Worn Cities* the 2015 chapbook of the year.

Her recent works have also been published in *Dawnland Voices: An Anthology of Indigenous Writing from New England* and the journals *Dawnland Voices 2.0, Yellow Medicine Review* and *Cream City Review*.

Dr. Fred Hoxie serves on the Mitchell Museum’s council of advisors. He began working with the museum while the director of the D’Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian History at the Newberry Library, where he became involved with many organizations that worked to change and evolve views on Native American history and cultures. Dr. Hoxie strongly believes in the Mitchell Museum’s mission to promote and share a deeper understanding of Native American Indian peoples - the same mission guiding his works as a historian, researcher, and writer. Dr. Hoxie sees himself as a teacher first and foremost. After college, he served as a high school history teacher and later as a professor in history at the University of Illinois. He now continues his teaching efforts as a historian, most recently writing the “Oxford Handbook of American Indian History.”

Thank you, Dr. Hoxie. We are proud to have such a distinguished scholar on our council of advisors.

If you are interested in volunteering at the museum or becoming a Board member, please contact Kathleen McDonald at kmcdonald@mitchellmuseum.org.

Spring Break will be here soon! Join us March 27-30 from 10am to 5pm for our School’s Out: Spring Break Crafts at the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian.

Your families and friends can learn about Native American cultures while making a Beaded Necklace, a small Moccasin, or a Talking Stick. The School’s Out Craft is included with regular admission to the museum.

In addition to crafts, this year the Mitchell Museum will also host two short presentations on Native American stereotypes. Education Coordinator Ernest M Whiteman III, Northern Arapaho, will talk about the common stereotypes surrounding Native American peoples.

Stop in on Sunday, March 25th, or Friday, March 30th, to enjoy a craft and a presentation on Native American stereotypes. The presentations will begin at 2:00pm and run for 30 minutes. For more information, please contact the museum at 847.475.1030.

Omaha’s unique point of view on multi-ethnic America has garnered numerous TV appearances and places him in great demand on the casino and corporate circuit. Born on the banks of the Missouri river, Larry’s childhood was spent fighting flood waters, snakes, and coyotes on the Midwestern plains. The rest of his days were spent battling his 20 siblings and cousins for space and food in a two bedroom house built by his uncle. His comical stories about his youth are hailed by the Los Angeles Times as "Refreshing, funny and universal."

In addition to Larry Omaha’s comedy performance, the benefit gala will feature a served dinner with elegant cuisine, full bar, silent auction, raffle, and flute music.

**Saturday, March 10, 2018,** from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the Wilmette Golf Club. Individual tickets are $145 or a table of 8 attendees for $1040 (a $120 savings)

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The Mitchell Museum of the American Indian was honored at this year’s Illinois Association of Museum’s conference in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, this October with the Superior Award for Exhibits. This award recognizes the scholarship and important messaging of the Contemporary Native American Women Opening Doors to Change” exhibit. The exhibit is open until January 21st with a ‘last call’ tour by Kathleen McDonald on January 18th.

The Superior Award is the top honor in the state given to only one organization a year. IAM Awards Chair, Pam Rohleder, explained they do not give the Superior Award every year, but all of the judges unanimously agreed that the Mitchell Museum earned this recognition. The award was accepted by the museum’s executive director Kathleen McDonald (right) and co-curator Arlene Hirschfelder (center) who flew in from New Jersey. The museum also won the Superior Award in 2012 for the Deconstructing Stereotypes: Top Ten Truths exhibit which is currently traveling to area libraries and schools.