



## PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

**Mark Bouman** has served as President of Calumet Heritage Partnership since 2006. After a long career as Professor of Geography at Chicago State University, he joined The Field Museum in 2012 to work alongside colleagues who have worked for the past decade to shine a light on the Calumet region's cultural and ecological assets. Mark directs the Chicago Region Program and is the Associate Director of the Museum's Science Action Center. He has been active in a number of regional organizations, including the Lake Calumet Ecosystem Partnership, the Calumet Stewardship Initiative, and Vital Lands Illinois. He currently serves on the Millennium Reserve Steering Committee and the Executive Council of Chicago Wilderness. Mark was the Project Director on the map insert that originally appeared in the Spring 2009 Calumet issue of Chicago Wilderness magazine, which is included in today's program materials.

**John Cain** has served South Shore Arts as executive director since 1993 and as executive director of the Northwest Indiana Symphony since 2008. Leading South Shore Arts through an evolutionary phase that culminated in the opening of two branch locations and its designation by the Indiana Arts Commission as a Regional Arts Partner, he has been instrumental in the organization's rise as a leader in the cultural life of the Calumet region. He has curated exhibits in Chicago for Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art and the Carl Hammer Gallery. For South Shore Arts he has curated "The Artist As Collector" (2004), "Two Bucks to Pony Up: Curiosities from the Midway" (2012), and "Baby Boom or Bust" (2014). He created the Outstanding Midwest Artist Series and curated solo exhibits for Michael Noland, Lorraine Peltz, Margaret Wharton, and Chris Cosnowski. John serves as a consultant to the Miller Beach Arts & Creative District and Theatre at the Center. He was the founding chairman of the Mayor's Hammond Commission for the Arts and Humanities. He has served as a board member of Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art in Chicago and as a grant panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts.

**Susan Eleuterio** is a professional folklorist, educator, consultant to non-profits, and activist. She has conducted fieldwork, research, and public programming with cultural and ethnic groups across the United States. Her work includes public/educational programming and materials (exhibits, performances, lesson plans, curriculum guides and festivals); professional development (PD) for teachers about the cultural communities of their schools; and PD for folk, traditional and fine artists on developing school curriculum and residencies. She is currently working on "Beyond Illustration: Mexican and Irish American Dance Costume in the Midwest." She holds an MA in American Folk Culture from the Cooperstown Graduate Program (SUNY/Oneonta) and a BA in English/Education from the University of Delaware. Her publications include a guide to Irish American material culture, a teacher's guide to folk arts education in Missouri, and essays on glass ceiling stories, the Irish in Chicago, and Mexican and Irish folk dance costume.

**Barbara Spies Labus** is a native of Michigan's Upper Peninsula and has been a resident of Whiting for the past 25 years. Barbara worked for many years as a printer at a fine art workshop in Chicago. She began doing illustration work for an ongoing series of educational outreach posters for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and has also created several posters in the 'Just Around the Corner Along the South Shore Line' poster series. Until recently she was a guest lecturer in the computer graphics department at Purdue Calumet. She now commutes to Valparaiso to work part-time for the Shirley Heinze Land Trust, where she handles an assortment of responsibilities, including communications. Barb received her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Printmaking from Western Michigan University, and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Painting & Drawing from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

**Mario Longoni** is the Urban Anthropology Manager in the Science Action Center of the Field Museum. He specializes in participatory research methods and cross-cultural dialogue facilitation, bringing these approaches to bear on the Center's community engagement initiatives. His work focuses on uncovering and documenting the concerns and assets (broadly conceived) of communities so that they can be leveraged to improve residents' quality of life and address wider issues of urban sustainability.

**Judith Hansen O'Toole** is Director/CEO of the Westmoreland Museum of American Art, in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. O'Toole graduated from the University of Minnesota and then received her master's degree in Art History from Penn State University. She has organized exhibitions on American still-life painting, the Ash Can School, and the Hudson River School, among other themes. Additionally, her work has been published in peer-reviewed journals, museum catalogs, and books. An expert in American still life painting, she authored a monograph on the 19th century still-life painter Severin Roesen, published by Bucknell University Press in 1992. She is a member of the Association of Art Museum Directors, serves on the board of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, is a reaccreditation team leader for the American Association of Museums, and is active in the Pittsburgh Chapter of the International Women's Forum.

**Carolyn Saxton**, a certified fundraising executive (CFRE), is President and CEO of Legacy Foundation, Lake County's Community Foundation. Carolyn has worked in the not-for-profit sector her entire career. Prior to coming to Legacy Foundation she was Executive Director of Lubeznik Center for the Arts in Michigan City. During her tenure there she was instrumental in working with the leadership to incorporate the arts into the redevelopment of the downtown Franklin Street. Through her initial efforts Art Space, a not-for-profit in Minneapolis, was brought to Michigan City to establish a live/work space for 40 artists, and she led the Michigan City Public Art Committee for 5 years establishing Sculpfusion a two-year outdoor exhibition of 13 sculptures. She developed the First Friday Art Walks for Michigan City which bring 400-500 people to tour and experience the arts activities each month. She was named as a member of the Northwest Indiana Society of Innovators for her arts focus to re-energize Michigan City's economic development. Previous to her work at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, she was Executive Director of the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation in Illinois taking it from a start-up organization to one with assets of over \$11 million. Now at Legacy, she manages nearly \$50 million in assets and 260 donor advised funds which support charitable organization and philanthropic interests of the donors who established them.

**Roman Villareal** is a sculptor and painter who draws inspiration for his work from his community and the visual aspects of his surroundings; his art tells the history and life of South Chicago, where he was born and raised. Roman is the founder of the *Under the Bridge Studios*, a project he started with the hope of revitalizing his community after closure of the local steel mills. He studied the works of the "Old Masters" on his own, experimented with form and style, and simultaneously worked to cultivate his own style depicting "life in the inner-city." He represents the many facets of life in the "barrio," his chosen subject matter. His current work includes a commission from the Chicago Park District for a sculpture monument to be housed permanently in the new Steelworkers' Park at 87th Street and the lakefront, on the former site of US Steel. Roman is self-taught and takes influences from life. His style is his own.

**Pat Wisniewski** began her career in the Steel Mills of South Chicago where she worked in the plant and was an elected Union Representative for United Steelworkers of America. After the devastating plant closing of the 1980's, Pat began a career of helping the region's unemployed to be retrained into new careers through the Dislocated Workers Program in the City of Chicago. A latent desire for creative expression drove Pat back to school, where she received her Bachelors Degree in Communications from Indiana University Northwest with a concentration in Theatre, Film, and Video. After graduating in 2009, she began her production company, *For Goodness Sake Productions*, with the mission of producing quality films that make a difference. Her most recent production *Everglades of the North: The Story of the Grand Kankakee Marsh*, aired on PBS stations across the country and was nominated for a Chicago/Midwest Emmy Award in 2013. She began filmmaking at WYIN-Lakeshore Public Television assisting in the shooting and editing of several local WWII Veterans' stories as a compendium to Ken Burns' documentary *The War*. Pat won a Christopher Award in 2006, for a short student documentary about *How One Person Can Make a Difference*. Currently she is working with prominent environmentalist Lee Botts to produce a documentary entitled *Shifting Sands*, which will cover the environmental history along the southern shore of Lake Michigan.