



A Working List of Arts Organizations and Institutions in The Calumet Region of NE Illinois and NW Indiana

The 15th Annual Calumet Heritage Partnership Conference, Art and Heritage: The Making of the Calumet Region, explores the role of the arts in expressing, defining, and building connections around heritage in the Calumet region. We hope the conversations that emerge from this meeting will help to establish why the arts matter to a proposed Calumet National Heritage Area and how a national heritage area designation could build on the arts in the region to enhance quality of life.

Research has shown that the arts support tourism and economic development as well as placemaking (Silver and Miller, Tripp Umbach). The arts contribute to placemaking by expressing the essence of a place to its inhabitants, and creating and strengthening bonds among individuals and organizations (Bender, Morley et al, Wali et al.). Recent reports have documented some of these economic and social benefits that the arts sector brings to the Calumet region (Northwest Indiana Quality of Life Council, One Region). Additionally, researchers from The Field Museum recently convened two “Community Conversations” about the importance of arts in the region. They found that:

- 1) arts practice in the Calumet region is simultaneously broadly dispersed throughout the region and concentrated in vibrant pockets, especially in areas where the arts are supported by local government or institutions of higher learning,
- 2) artists have their creative networks but often feel separated from other pockets of artistic activity by social and political boundaries, and
- 3) youth art and repurposed or found art are important categories of practice.

What follows is a working list of arts organizations in the Calumet region compiled through the Community Conversations, Field Museum staff conversations with individual regional stakeholders, and online research. While not exhaustive, it reflects the range of arts practice and its geographic spread to all corners of the region. It shows the potential of the arts to both bolster and be strengthened by the creation of a Calumet National Heritage Area. This document will be posted to the Calumet Heritage Partnership website www.calumetheritage.org for comments and suggested additions.

Art Venues, Collectives, Companies and Centers

119th Street Artists (Whiting, IN)

www.119streetartists.org

119th Street Artists is a non-profit organization of artists, craftspeople, and art patrons who hope to stimulate interest in and promote the fine arts.

CONTACT INFO: info119sa@yahoo.com

18 Artists (Chesterton, IN)

www.18artists.com

A cooperative online gallery engaged in furthering the careers of emerging and established artists in the Northwest Indiana and Chicagoland area. An exemplary group of award-winning artists, the group offers a forum for the display and sale of two and three-dimensional art in a broad range of styles and media. There are numerous exhibits during the year throughout the Chicago and Duneland regions.

Arts Alive! (Whiting, IN)

www.artsalive45.com

Arts Alive! Is a community-based group led by residents, artists, and business owners that provides resources for painting murals, selling local artwork, and promoting cultural awareness in the community.

The Art and Earth Trail (Northwest IN)

artandearthtrail.com

The Art and Earth Trail is a resource that provides seven detailed driving loops (one per county). These loops showcase the "rich and diverse heritage" of artisans, crafters, and farmers alike. The loops have adjoining points that offer visitors the opportunity to create their own trail.

The seven loops include: Dunes Loop (Chesterton), Michigan City-LaPorte Loop, Notre Dame Loop (South Bend/Mishawaka), Time to Unwind Loop (Plymouth/Culver), Heritage Trail Loop (Elkhart/Goshen), Lakes Loop (Warsaw/Winona), and Shippshewana Loop.

Books, Brushes & Bands for Education (Hammond, IN)

www.bbb4e.org/

A non-profit community organization that brings families to education opportunities through literacy, visual arts, and music.

5920 Hohman Avenue, Hammond, IN 46320

Beverly Arts Center of Chicago (Chicago, IL)

www.beverlyartcenter.org

A multidisciplinary center that offers fine arts education, programming, and entertainment to all ages. Classes include arts, music, theatre, and dance. The Center features rotating exhibitions of art by upcoming artists.

2407 W 111th St, Chicago, IL 60655
(773) 445-3838

The Center for Visual and Performing Arts (Munster, IN)

<http://www.cvpa.org/>

The Center is a multi-purpose facility that houses the Northwest Indiana Symphony, South Shore Arts, and Theatre at the Center, as well as catering facilities for public and private events.

1040 Ridge Road, Munster IN

Chesterton Art Center / Chesterton Art Fair (Chesterton, IN)

www.chestertonart.com/

A non-profit association founded by local artists with the purpose of continuing education for the arts, and a venue for regional artists to exhibit and sell their work.

219-926-4711

Cornerstone Gallery and Studio (Blue Island, IL)

2412 James St. Blue Island, IL
(708) 389-0011

Depot of Beverly Shores Museum & Art Gallery (Beverly Shores, IN)

The museum pays tribute to the town's history and architecture. The gallery has ongoing exhibitions of paintings, drawings, sculpture, ceramics, wood-carving, and fiber art.

525 Broadway St., Beverly Shores, Indiana 46301

The Drama Group (Chicago Heights, IL)

www.dramagroup.org

The Drama Group is one of the only volunteer theatre groups that is well-respected throughout the Chicago area. They continue to provide a quality theatre at affordable cost and put the community in community theatre.

330 W. 202nd St., Chicago Heights, IL 60411

Box Office Phone (708) 755-3444

Lobby Phone (708) 754-5000

Art Venues, Collectives, Companies, and Centers

Gary Shakespeare Co. (Gary, IN)

Gary Shakespeare Company organizes theatre performances in the area.

500 South Lake Street, Gary, IN 46403, USA

Box Office: 219-938-4565

Hammond Arts Center (Hammond, IN)

www.hammondartscenter.org

The Hammond Arts Center provides high-quality community art classes and art exhibitions to the Hammond community. It seeks to bring art awareness and transformation to the community.

5832 Hohman Ave, Hammond, IN 46320

Hobart Arts League (Hobart, IN)

www.hobartarts.com

Hobart Arts League is a place to bring artists together to encourage, inspire, and exhibit their artwork to the general public. They also offer art instruction to the interested public.

Indiana Ballet Theatre (Northwest IN)

www.ibtnw.org

A 501c3 organization that produces classical ballets using local talent, offers classes in multiple forms of dance, and is currently working on opening a classical arts centre in Crown Point, IN.

Illiana Artists (Munster, IN)

www.illianaartists.org/

Illiana Artists is an organization that provides a variety of activities and educational programming to aspiring artists. Monthly meetings and events are held which feature demonstrations, workshops, and presentations by well known local artists and art professionals. These events give members the opportunity to meet and interact with fellow artists.

8955 Columbia Ave, Munster, Indiana.

La Porte County Symphony Orchestra (La Porte, IN)

www.lcso.net/

La Porte County Symphony Orchestra plays a full concert season and offers choral opportunities for youth.

Lake Street Gallery (Gary, IN)

www.lakestreetgallery.com/

Lake Street Gallery has provided American crafts, original art, and custom framing throughout the Northwest Indiana region since 1993. They specialize in local art inspired by the Indiana Dunes, shores of Lake Michigan, and a wide selection of abstract art and photography.

Lubeznik Center for the Arts (Michigan City, IN)

www.lubeznikcenter.org/

Lubeznik Center for the Arts is a contemporary art center that links art exhibitions, the performing arts, educational programs, and collaborative community outreach. Within the Center is the Area Artists Association that works to increase the appreciation and recognition of local artists.

Marian Theatre Guild (Whiting, IN)

A church sponsored organization that is one of the longest running community theatres in Northwest Indiana, which presents a fall musical and spring drama/comedy annually. The Guild is associated with St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and performs in their Marian Memorial Auditorium. It offers a professional stage experience to everyone who participates in its productions, whether on stage, back stage, or in the music pit.

1849 Lincoln Ave, Whiting, IN

219-473-7555

The Merge Building (Hammond, IN)

www.mergebuilding.com/

The MergeArts Project is a unique forum to regularly introduce and showcase the works of regional artists, generate increased awareness of artistic expression, and provide financial support for local charities and community groups. By buying a piece of art, 10% of the purchase price goes to the benefiting charity of the current exhibition.

5920 Hohman Avenue, Hammond, IN 46320

Art Venues, Collectives, Companies, and Centers

Miller Beach Arts and Creative District / Marshall J. Gardner Center for the Arts (Gary, IN)

www.millerbeacharts.org/

The Marshall J. Gardner Center for the Arts is a place for the visual and performing arts with the addition of community events.

Mosnart (Chicago, IL)

tallskinny.com/mosnart/

Mosnart is an art gallery that brings artists to Pullman and Pullman to artists through mini art residencies housed in an original Pullman workers flat. Mosnart encourages interactions between visiting artists, historic architecture, and the community at large.

Northwest Indiana Excellence in Theatre Foundation – NIETF (Crown Point, IN)

www.nietf.org/

Northwest Indiana Excellence in Theatre Foundation (NIETF) brings appreciation for arts as a theatre arts community through musicals and plays.

Northwest Indiana Symphony (Munster, IN)

www.nwisymphony.org/

The Northwest Indiana Symphony provides orchestral programming that promotes opportunities for enjoyment and expands interest in and understanding of diverse music. The Northwest Indiana Symphony is comprised of the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Chorus, and the Women's Association.

1040 Ridge Road, Munster, IN 46321

Paul Henry's Art Gallery (Hammond, IN)

www.paulhenrysart.com

A gallery that provides space for artists and local musicians to showcase their work.

416 Sibley St., Hammond, IN 46320

(219) 678-5015

Pottery Boys Clay Studios (Blue Island, IL)

Pottery Boys Clay Studios sells the work of local potters, hosts demonstrations and events, and is open by appointment.

(708) 272-4444

Renditions Gallery (Porter, IN)

105 Pheasant Run, Porter, IN 46304

(219) 728-1606

Ross Music Theatre (Merrillville/Hobart, IN)

www.m-mproductions.com/rmtindex.html

Ross Music Theatre is a community-based theatre group that offers theatre classes and youth workshops. Along with M & M Productions, they have a two musical show season every year with an occasional third musical.

Sidecar Gallery (Hammond, IN)

gallerysidecar.com/home.html

Sidecar is a gallery providing space for local artists to exhibit their work.

411 Huehn St., Hammond, IN 46320

South Chicago Art Center (Chicago, IL)

<http://www.happyartcenter.org/>

South Chicago Art Center is a local in-school program that provides young ages with an accessible safe place to participate in visual arts programs and organizes cultural field trip programs.

South Shore Arts (Munster, IN)

www.southshoreartsonline.org/

Programs and offerings of South Shore Arts include: Everykid educational outreach program, four exhibit galleries, classes in a range of media for all ages, children's performances, art appreciation programs, and regional art services in partnership with Indiana Arts Commission.

Locations:

The Center for Visual and Performing Arts,
1040 Ridge Road, Munster IN (main location)

Crown Point, 123 North Main St.

Hammond (Substation No.9), 435 Fayette Street

South Shore Dance Alliance (Griffith, IN)

www.southshoredance.org/

South Shore Dance Alliance, a 501c3 organization, is a performing company and dance studio in the Northwestern Indiana region. It was founded on the premise that no aspiring dancer shall be denied access to training due to lack of financial resources.

Art Venues, Collectives, Companies, and Centers

Southern Shore Art Association (Michigan City, IN)

www.southernshoreartassociation.com/

An organization of artists and people interested in art, offering exhibits, educational opportunities, and social events for their members and the wider community.

Steeple Gallery (St. John, IN)

www.thesteplegallery.com/

A gallery very active in the community, hosting many non-profit and corporate meetings, exhibits, educational programs, and lectures.

Studio 659 (Whiting, IN)

<http://studio659.org/>

Located in the historic district of downtown Whiting, Studio 659 is both an art gallery and a studio that offers classes for youth and adults.

Tall Grass Arts Association (Park Forest, IL)

www.tallgrassarts.org/

Tall Grass Arts Association (TGAA) exhibits the work of local, regional, national, and international artists. To promote public education and appreciation of the arts, TGAA offer classes in all media for youth and adults. They also organize an annual juried art fair featuring artworks from across the country.

Towle Theater (Hammond, IN)

www.towletheater.org/

Towle Theater serves the Northwest Indiana region through the production of performing art events and acting classes.

5205 Hohman Ave., Hammond, IN 46320

(219) 937-8780

Under The Bridge Studios (Chicago, IL)

<http://rockscars.net/>

An outlet for the youth to express themselves through art and music. Along with all-ages music events, Under the Bridge showcases exhibits of up and coming artists.

Union Street Gallery (Chicago Heights, IL)

www.unionstreetgallery.org/

Union Street Gallery is an art resource for the Chicago southland community through diverse art exhibits, classes, and art outreach projects.

Village Artists (Homewood, IL)

www.villageartists.org/

Village Artists is a non-profit group providing its members with a workspace, classes, and exhibits. The studio is fully equipped with a kiln, pottery wheels, sculpture stands, easels, and shelf space to store supplies.

Vogt Visual Arts Center (Tinley Park, IL)

www.tinleyparkdistrict.org/Parks-Facilities/vogt-visual-arts-center.htm

Vogt Visual Arts Center houses a gallery that displays artworks by various local and well-known artists. It offers art classes that include watercolor, stained glass, and oil painting.

West Side Theatre Guild (Gary, IN)

thewestsidetheatreguild.com/

West Side Theatre Guild is an active theatrical venue in the Northwest Indiana region, dedicated to serving the community through the arts.

White Ripple Gallery & Co. (Hammond, IN)

www.whiteripple.com

White Ripple Gallery is a 3-story gallery with multiple exhibit rooms, event space, and artist studios and workspace. The gallery is focused on exhibiting the work of established to emerging artists working in all mediums.

College/University Arts Programs and Facilities

Brauer Museum of Art – Valparaiso University (Valparaiso, IN)

valpo.edu/artmuseum/

The Museum has a nationally recognized collection of 19th, 20th, and 21st century American art such as Georgia O’Keeffe, Ed Paschke, Childe Hassam, Frederic Edwin Church, Asher B. Durand. It serves to educate the campus and community members with original works of American art and international religious art.

Calumet College of St. Joseph Arts Department (Whiting, IN)

www.ccsj.edu/academics/colleges/mfa/index.html

The Digital and Studio Arts Program, in collaboration with the English Department, works toward the creation of a vibrant community for literature and the arts, thus enhancing and strengthening the creative and liberal arts atmosphere at the college. Exhibits and programs display the results of these efforts to the college and surrounding community.

Center for Urban and Regional Excellence – Indiana University Northwest (Gary, IN)

www.iun.edu/cure/

The Center engages the university and community in partnerships to provide programs and events to all ages.

First Friday Wordsmiths of Purdue University Calumet (Hammond, IN)

The First Friday Wordsmiths strive to develop an active community of writers at Purdue University Calumet and in the surrounding community by offering workshop opportunities that will complement existing creative writing class offerings. By fostering a literary environment conducive to writing and the writing process, the Wordsmiths provide members the opportunity to participate in activities such as poetry slams, readings, conferences, publication information sessions, and other networking opportunities.

2200 169th Street, Hammond, IN 46323

(219) 989-2400

Gallery for Contemporary Art – Indiana University Northwest (Gary, IN)

www.iun.edu/art-gallery/

The Gallery for Contemporary Art, located at UI Northwest, presents an exhibition program that enhances the school’s academic offerings by making collections available for study, research, and to educate the university community and the general public of Northwest Indiana about contemporary and historic art.

Governors State University Visual Arts Gallery (University Park, IL)

www.govst.edu/gallery/

The gallery displays the work of emerging and established student artists’ to create a visually compelling experience.

Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park – Governor’s State University (University Park, IL)

www.govst.edu/sculpture/

Governors State University’s Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park provides the Chicagoland region with a premier presentation of large-scale contemporary sculpture. Programs and events present the landscape and sculpture in new and unexpected ways that are both educational and inspiring.

Purdue University Calumet – Department of Communication and Creative Arts (Hammond, IN)

webs.purduecal.edu/cca/

Offers courses, concentrations, and degree in the arts and communications at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Purdue University North Central (Westville, IN)

www.pnc.edu/

Supporting Organizations

Blue Island Arts Alliance (Blue Island, IL)

beckydenny119@gmail.com

A group of individuals working to educate, entertain, inspire, and connect the Blue Island community through the arts.

Claretian Associates – New Communities Program (Chicago, IL)

www.claretianassociates.org/index.html

Addresses community development through the arts, health care, housing, safety, employment, and environmental awareness.

CISA Studios (Hammond, IN)

<http://www.cisastudio.com>

A Custom Art Company designed to provide the best professional Art and Advertising services.

cisastudio@yahoo.com (email)

Culture Coast (Chicago, IL)

culturecoast.org/

Culture Coast is a community-building effort that promotes Chicago's South Side as a premier cultural place, support audience building efforts of organizational members, and reflects the geographic diversity of the members through the exchange of the arts and cultural awareness.

The East Side Chamber of Commerce (Chicago, IL)

www.eastsidechamber.net/

The East Side Chamber of Commerce has been serving the East Side of Chicago since 1925. The Chamber focuses on promoting businesses that are complementary to other offerings in the region. It hopes to promote programs and businesses through the enticements of art, music, and health related activity.

Forest Preserve of Cook County (Cook Co, IL)

fpdcc.com/

With more than 69,000-acres, the largest forest preserve district in the United States provides opportunities for exploration with wildlife, outdoor recreation, and environmental education. The Forest Preserve actively works to integrate the arts into their offerings.

Indiana Humanities Council

www.indianahumanities.org/

Indiana Humanities is an independent and non-profit corporation governed by a volunteer board of Indiana educators and community leaders. Indiana Humanities provides programs, such as Food for Thought and Community Conversations, grants for humanities programs throughout the state, and space -- physical and digital-- for people to connect and converse. 1500 N. Delaware St. Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

The Legacy Foundation (Lake Co, IN)

<http://www.legacyfdn.org/>

Legacy provides grants to non-profits and funding for special projects designed to strengthen the fabric of Lake County communities.

Northwest Indiana Creative Professionals: Art, Design, Culture, and Events (Northwest, IN)

<http://www.nwicreative.org/>

Northwest Indiana Creative Professionals is a first-ever online community dedicated to growing creative talent in Northwest Indiana.

Whiting Arts Council (Whiting, IN)

<http://www.whitingindiana.com/community/the-arts/>

Promotes and supports a range of arts organizations, spaces, and events in the city of Whiting.

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