BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

PRESIDENT’S REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CALUMET HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP 2019
BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

CHP over the past year has brought people together to celebrate, interpret, restore, and protect heritage in the Calumet Region.

• More people involved than ever before
• More activities than ever before
• Significant progress on a variety of projects and initiatives, including the heritage area
Bringing People Together
Mission

• The Calumet Heritage Partnership is a diverse, bi-state partnership of organizations and individuals working in the Calumet region of Northwest Indiana and Northeast Illinois.

• All Volunteer

• CHP’s Mission is to identify, preserve, protect and reclaim the natural, historical, cultural and recreational heritage of the Calumet region of Illinois and Indiana for the purposes of educating and inspiring the public, restoring regional pride, and revitalizing our communities and their interconnectedness.

• Our main project for the past few years has been the development of a Calumet National Heritage Area.

• Our annual Calumet Heritage conference is our main event and we host a variety of other events throughout the year.
• 90+ members as of today.

• Membership numbers are still strong, due to a successful conference, but have declined compared to last year.

• Renewals due in January may make up some of the difference.
Bringing People Together

Financial Health as of December 31, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>7,378</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>8,857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>-1,479</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Donations and Grants Received in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donations</th>
<th>3000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>1800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$2350 in end of year donations received after January 1.
$6302 in assets as of January 12, 2019
Bringing People Together
Financial Supporters

Thank You to Our Financial Supporters!

• Mortar Net Solutions
• Gary Johnson, CHP Board Member
• Field Museum and Arcelor Mittal
• Calumet Ecological Park Association
• And you our members!
Bringing People Together

In Kind Support and Volunteer Support from

• Simon Beemsterboer
• Calumet Collaborative
• Wilderness Inquiry
• Field Museum
• Our Members and Collaborators
How We Brought People together in 2018

Accomplishments

- Collection
- Connections
- Conference and Events
- Regional Heritage
- Governance
CHP maintains a collection of artifacts and documents primarily from the ACME Steel Plant housed at Pullman.

This year we donated three large artifacts from ACME Steel to the Chicago Park District and moved them to Steelworkers Park. We also developed interpretive signage for the artifacts.

Thank you to Mike Dimitroff (CPD), Pullman, and Simon Beemsterboer.

Collections committee exploring funding to develop our collection and opportunities to display it to the public.
Calumet Curators group of CHP is a network of museums, galleries, and local history organizations, whose goal is to strengthen visibility for all organizations, illuminate and facilitate partnerships between and among organizations, and deepen thematic messaging and programming.

Madeleine Tudor, Group Leader
mtudor@fieldmuseum.org

Through the Calumet Curators participants have:

- Broadened their networks by learning about other regional heritage-based organizations and by getting to know other museum practitioners
- Started thinking about their own collections in new ways
- Learned new or enhanced methods of exhibit development and display
CONNECTIONS
CALUMET CURATORS

Accomplishments and Goals for the Future

• Produced a draft of a Calumet Museums, Galleries and, Local History Guide. Available at calumetheritage.org

• At work developing a traveling exhibit to be presented at
  • Historic Pullman Foundation/Pullman National Monument Visitor Center Opening June 27, 2019
  • Gary Public Library Opening Jan/Feb 2020
  • Brauer Museum of Art at Valparaiso University, Opening June/July 2020
  • Field Museum Opening February 2021 through January 2022
The Calumet Stewardship Initiative of CHP seeks to facilitate communication and collaboration across the Calumet region around ecological initiatives and culture/nature integrated initiatives.

Mario Longoni (mlongoni@fieldmuseum.org) is the group leader.

Bi-annual Meetings
- The next meeting is Thursday, April 11 from 3-5 p.m. in Illinois, location TBD

Calumet Outdoors Series
- May: Dan Ryan Woods, Benjamin Cox
- June: Cindy Oakley Oak Ridge Prairie biking tour
- July “Walking the Freedom Trail,” Tom Shepherd, 70 attendees
- August: Indian Ridge Marsh, Jayme Boberek and Daniel Suarez I
- September: Big Marsh Park, Friends of Big Marsh Park
- October: Paddle on Wolf Lake, Wilderness Inquiry
- November: Indiana Dunes, Mark Bouman,
CONNECTIONS

• Organized the Challenges and Opportunities of Environmental Stewardship panel for the Calumet Heritage Conference

• Calumet Outdoors Facebook Group

• Challenges and goals for the coming year:
  • Need hands-on help organizing the Calumet Outdoor Series: Contact Mario (mlongoni@fieldmuseum.org) if you are interested in being on the committee.
  • Encouraging members to cross state lines for meetings.
  • Partnering with Heritage Hackers Group to collaborate on a demonstration project
CONNECTIONS HERITAGE HACKERS

• Established this year

• The purpose of the Calumet Heritage Hackers is to provide a forum for creators and makers interested in heritage and to collaborate on producing publications and media using a variety of formats that interpret the Calumet region.

• Cameron Banga is Group Leader cameronbanga@gmail.com

• Organizational meetings facilitated networking and brainstorming of collaborative projects.

• Selection and completion of first project is a goal for 2019.

• Projects could include a VR tour of a historic or natural site, maps, a design for a heritage area kiosk.

• Interested in collaboration with the Calumet Curators and CSI.
CONNECTIONS
LAKE SHORE PEOPLE’S MUSEUM SUPPORT

• CHP participated in the formation of the Lakeshore People’s Museum

• Provided financial support for the first pop-up People’s Museum Event at the Douglas Environmental Center
Conference and Events

Exhibits

• In partnership with South Shore Arts, CHP sponsored two art exhibits
  • Along the Lakefront: Chicago and Industry Works of the Calumet Region at the Indiana Welcome Center
    • Thank You to Kathy Los-Rathburn, Matthew Kaplan and Thomas Hocker for their art and to Tom Shepherd for organizing it.
  • Indy Windy: A Love Story
    • Continuing through January 29, 2019 at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster
      • Then Feb 8-March 10 to the Miller Beach Arts & Creative District Gardner Center with opening reception February 8, 6-9 P.M., ArtHouse a Social Kitchen, and the Gary Public Library and Cultural Center
Conference and Events

CALUMET HERITAGE CONFERENCE

• Conference “sold out” for the first time ever!

• Keynote Speaker Brenda Barrett, Living Landscape Observer

• Honoring Edward Sadlowski

• Panels on Environment, Cultural Heritage, Underground Railroad, the Lakeshore People’s Museum, and Wolf Lake
Regional Heritage

CALUMET NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

- CHP working with the Field Museum produced A Feasibility Study for a Calumet National Area which was submitted to the National Park Service (NPS) after a period of public review. The NPS responded that the initial study had not met all of their assessment criteria and recommended a revision.
- CHP and the Field Museum revised the study and in May 2018 submitted the revised version to the National Park Service.
- In July 2018 the National Park Service responded that the revised feasibility study met all ten of their assessment criteria for feasibility.
- The next step is to pursue recognition from Congress.

http://calumetheritage.org/cnhasstudy.html
Regional Heritage
CALUMET NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

• As planned in the feasibility study, CHP has partnered with Calumet Collaborative and Field Museum to share the work needed to develop the heritage area.

• The Calumet National Heritage Area Coordinating Committee Started Meeting in 2018
  • Made up of an equal number of representatives from CHP and Calumet Collaborative with participation from Field Museum staff. All but one committee member are paid members of CHP.

• Accomplishments
  • CC and FM obtained several grants to support heritage area work.
  • Established a group of professionals to develop a plan for heritage area branding and wayfinding. Have hired a consultant to do initial work.
  • Hired a VISTA Volunteer, Cooper Sheldon, who is working with the Calumet Curators, researching an events calendar for the heritage area, and creating a database of heritage resources.
Regional Heritage

CALUMET NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

• Approved a plan for the development of a management plan for the heritage area led by the Field Museum. Kickoff at the Calumet Heritage Conference
• Developed a draft mission statement for the heritage area
• Launched a website for the heritage area: https://www.calumetheritagearea.org/
• Produced a new Heritage Area Flyer
• Drafted legislation for the heritage area, potentially to be introduced soon
• Advocacy work with congresspeople and with local governments, agencies, and leadership organizations in Northwest Indiana and Illinois.
Governance

CHP Board Retreat

• CHP’s Board held a two evening facilitated retreat in August to take stock and plan for the future

• All but two board members participated

• Significant Outcomes
  • An organization with a record of significant accomplishments and core strengths of talented people and knowledge and passion about the region
  • A consensus about CHP’s future relationship with the heritage area work
    • Reaffirmed that CHP is a convening partner who shares in the management of the heritage area with other organizations as described in the feasibility study.
    • CHP will help lead the vision and strategy and be a voice for the heritage area
    • CHP will contribute projects to the heritage area that are in our “wheelhouse”
    • CHP will foster strong, trusting relationships with partner organizations and will use agreements, protocols, and processes to work with them in a positive way.
    • CHP will be a catalyst for the heritage area
Governance
CHP Board Retreat

• Significant Outcomes Continued
  • Initial discussion of a revised mission statement for CHP.
  • Formation of Ad Hoc Committees to work on Governance, Strategic Planning, and Program Planning, etc.
  • A strong consensus about and renewed enthusiasm for the future work of CHP

• Retreat Follow-up Accomplishments
  • Policies approved by the board (available at calumetheritage.org):
    • Expectations of Board Members
    • Conflict of Interest Policy
    • Document Retention Policy
    • Whistleblower Policy
    • Diversity Policy
  • A draft programing plan
  • Work on a draft mission statement for the Calumet Heritage Area
  • Continued work on revised mission and vision statements for CHP
  • A review of CHP’s bylaws and development of a new governance structure to help CHP evolve into a more sustainable organization not overly reliant on a small group of individuals and capable of meeting the demands of serving the heritage area.
Governance
Goals for 2019

• Revised bylaws and reorganized governance structure capable of managing the growing commitments of CHP.
• A revised mission statement
• Development of a robust membership, fundraising, and grantseeking program
• Development of a programing plan for CHP and the heritage area
• Continued development of our collection
• Further development of the CHP Groups
• Consolidation of CHP-related websites
• More events and activities!
Bringing People Together
Plans for 2019

• A new CHP Awards Program
  • Keeper of the Calumet Award
  • Calumet Heritage Partnership Leadership Award

• Calumet Outdoor Nature Photo Contest
  • Look for event announcement this spring

• 20th Annual Calumet Heritage Conference
  • In October in Illinois

• More Calumet Outdoors excursions

• The First Calumet Curators exhibit in June

• Continuation of Windy Indy

• And potentially much more…
  • Lecture series?
  • Publications?
  • Heritage Area Designation!?
Thank you to departing board members

• Amy Radolak (1 year)
• Jessica Renslow (1 year)
• Jason Berry (3 years)
• David Holmberg (4 years)
• Tiffany Tolbert (6 years)
• Sherry Meyer (Many years)

And to all who have served on the board this year!

• Amanda Aguilera
• Mark Bouman
• Karen Brozynski
• Benjamin Cox
• Gary Johnson
• David Klein
• Diane Pugh
• Tom Shepherd
Bringing People Together

This year CHP brought people together to learn about and collaborate in celebrating, interpreting, and protecting the heritage of the Calumet Region.

Our groups have matured and developed into a major source of programming.

We continue to collaborate on events with other groups and organizations.

We passed a major milestone with the completion of the Feasibility Study.

We have made significant progress in the development of the Calumet Heritage Area in partnership with the Calumet Collaborative, The Field Museum, and with you!

The Board has taken important steps to ensure that CHP will continue bringing people together for a long time to come.

Thank you for a great year!
Mike Longan, President
Gary Johnson, Vice-President Indiana
Karen Brozynski, Vice-President Illinois
David Klein, Treasurer
Diane Pugh, Secretary
Amanda Aguilera
Mark Bouman
Benjamin Cox
Tom Shepherd
Kevin Brown*
Paul Petrakis*
Kathleen Tobin*

*New Members