



Placemaking, taking, keeping, sharing

Together, we'll explore the theme of Placemaking (and related PlaceKeeping, PlaceTaking, and PlaceSharing) in the Calumet Region. How historically have people made the region home and defined their place in it? How do current residents, groups, and organizations seek to redefine spaces where we live, work, and play? Presentations, workshops, and satellite activities will structure our conversation about placemaking both in the Calumet Region and beyond.

Native American Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the Calumet Region occupies the traditional homelands of the Three Fires Confederacy: Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi, and the area was also a site of trade, gathering, and healing for more than a dozen other Native tribes. Nearly a half million tribal members currently make their home in the six states of the Upper Midwest.

We recognize that Indigenous peoples are the traditional stewards of the land that we now occupy, living here long before Chicago was a city and still thriving here today. In terms of the "placemaking" theme of this conference, we acknowledge that the region was known to be an important place long before European settlement, and we also want to highlight the current efforts made by native peoples to steward this place, from wild rice harvesting in the Miller Woods area of Gary to efforts to create a cultural trail at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and many others.

PROGRAM

All Times, Central Time

Tuesday, October 12th

7:00P.M. Welcome

Gary Johnson, Calumet Heritage Partnership (CHP)
Marie Foster-Bruns, OneRegion
Congresswoman Robin Kelly

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7:30P.M. Session 1: Architecture Panel

Moderator: Mary Lu Seidel, Preservation Chicago

Panelists: Joseph Altshuler, Could Be Architecture

Katherine Darnstadt, Latent Designs

Can good places be made? Many of our favorite places depend on the careful work of architects and planners, past and present. What are the best forms to fit the needs of the client? How can a physical space best fit into a community's needs and desires? How can historic spaces be repurposed to meet 21st Century needs? How best can communities engage in shaping their future built environment? The architects and preservationists on this panel will share their insights working across the Chicago area and the country.

Wednesday, October 13th

6:00P.M. Welcome

Tyrell Anderson, Calumet Heritage Partnership (CHP)

Emiliano Aguilar, Calumet Heritage Partnership (CHP)

Christine Livingston, Indiana Dunes Tourism

6:30P.M. Session 2: Preserving the Past: Public History, Oral History, and Digital Storytelling

Moderator: Dr. Kathy Tobin, Purdue University Northwest

Panelists: Allison Schuette, Valparaiso University Welcome Project

Christina Crawley Hearne, Valparaiso University Welcome Project

Nicole Martinez-LeGrand, Indiana Historical Society

Bonnie McDonald, Landmarks Illinois

How have people formed a place? How do we remember those efforts at placemaking? And how do we tell these stories about placemaking? These related questions form the basis for this panel's conversation. By exploring the culture of placemaking, this discussion focuses on some possibilities to understand how individuals and communities interpret and reconfigure history and attach significance to events. Presentations will share some of the methods to sharing pursuits of placemaking, its possibilities, and the limitations of these methods. In this session, our panelists will share their experiences tackling the intersection of placemaking with their public humanities work.

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7:30P.M. Session 3: Regional Creative Placemaking

Moderator: Lauren Pacheco, Indiana University Northwest

Panelists: Felix "Flex" Maldonado, Mural Artist

Gloria Tuohy, Indiana Ballet Theatre

Steven De Falco, Sand Ridge Nature Center

Through arts, culture, and design, creative placemaking strides to strengthen and develop community. This aspect of placemaking requires partnership across individuals and organizations, engages the public, and advances local economic, social, and/or physical change. This panel discusses the re-use of physical space and activation of the environment into public-facing work. Whether by connecting local history with the present, incorporating cultural influences, or nourishing collaboration, creative placemaking results in physical changes and avenues for positive change. Presenters will share some of their work in creative placemaking and adaptive re-use of physical spaces, collaborating with partners, and the possibilities for positive change in our environment, both built and natural.

Thursday, October 14th

5:00P.M. Welcome

Mark Bouman, Calumet Heritage Partnership (CHP)

Casey Terry, Field Museum

5:30P.M. Session 4: Keynote, Placemaking from the Ground Up: Roles of National Heritage Areas

Presenter: Dr. Rolando Herts, Executive Director, Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area

In 55 places across the country, place-makers have reached into the toolbox to create National Heritage Areas to advance their work. They are grassroots local efforts to coordinate and tell stories of national significance. As the Calumet Heritage Area continues to take shape to build from the many instances of placemaking told in this conference, it is an excellent time to take a look at what kind of tool the Heritage Area is. Dr. Rolando Herts is well-positioned to share lessons from his perspective as Executive Director of the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area and Director of The Delta Center for Culture and Learning at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi, where he has served for the past 7 years. Dr. Herts also serves on the Executive Board of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, and is the lead author on that organization's policy statement and position paper on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. His perspective is enhanced by being a native of the greater Chicago region and by his doctoral work on the roles of universities in cultural heritage tourism development as a form of higher ed community-engaged placemaking.

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6:30P.M. Session 5: Organizing Community Green Spaces

Moderator: Ben Helphand, Neighborspace

Panelists: Curtis Whittaker, Faith CDC

 Kimmie Gordon, Brown Faces Green Spaces

 Cory Davis, Claretian Associates

The Calumet Region is sometimes conceptualized in contrasts of heavy industry and ecologically significant areas like the Dunes National Park. In reality, nature is stitched throughout the region's communities. Panelists will share about their efforts to make gardens and other green places in neighborhoods and to increase people's connections to locally sited small preserves and urban rivers. Panelists will also consider opportunities to expand the number of these community places.

7:30P.M. Session 6: Making a Place for Pollinators: An Interactive Pollinator Map Workshop

Presenter: Karen Klinger, the Field Museum

The Calumet region is home to a rich diversity of native plants and wildlife. Of special importance are pollinators and the plants they rely on for food, breeding, and nesting habitat. Some pollinators – like the monarch butterfly – are in serious trouble, and people across the region have joined the fight to make the region a good place for them. The Field Museum is collecting and sharing information about pollinator habitat (including public and private gardens) and resources for people interested in pollinators (including native plant sellers, cultural events, and pollinator programs), and putting it all on a “Pollinator Asset Map”. Join the workshop to learn how placemaking can begin in your own backyard, can be placed on the map, and how individual effort adds up to regional impact.

Saturday, October 16th

All Day Self Guided Tour

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Acknowledgements

The Calumet Heritage Conference is an all-volunteer effort organized by the Calumet Heritage Partnership (CHP) and we would like to thank all the volunteers who made this conference possible. As in 2020, we had plans for an in-person event, with a venue selected and plans for tours after the Conference. However, this was not to be. But last year's virtual Conference was a wonderful success, and we are confident that this will be as well! Our theme of placemaking/placetaking/placesharing/placekeeping is perhaps more urgent than ever, as we all seek the best ways to build strong, resilient places for the Calumet region.

We are very grateful to welcome keynote speaker Dr. Rolando Herts, the Executive Director of the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area. He will help to frame the context for the many great conversations that the Conference will provide, setting them in the context of what great Heritage Areas can be.

We thank the member of the CHP Program Committee, Emiliano Aguilar, Tyrrell Anderson, Kirsten Markusic, David Klein, Kevin Brown, Mark Bouman, and Lauren Pacheco. A special shout out to Lauren, who was all set to host the Conference at Indiana University Northwest until we made the difficult decision to pivot to a virtual format. Maggie Catania of the Calumet Collaborative, our partner in the Calumet Heritage Area effort, was an important member of the Program Committee. Our partners at the Field Museum provided great support, including Madeleine Tudor, Mario Longoni and Casey Terry. Casey handled many of the conference logistics with friendly skill.

We thank you for the donations that you provided to help support the Conference. Thank you to the Field Museum for providing financial and staff support. Thanks to Cleveland-Cliffs – and welcome to the Region!

We thank our accomplished speakers and panelists. Mostly, we thank you for gathering with us this week to think together about what makes great places work in this great regional place called Calumet.

Karen Brozynski, President, Calumet Heritage Partnership

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