

**PRAIRIE RECLAMATION SPONSORED**

Phase 2 of our historic prairie reclamation project has been funded by generous grants from the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin's C.S. Besadny Conservation Fund and the Alliant Energy Foundation. Work progresses!



**THANKFUL**

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We have also been blessed with generous support toward our "Remediation and a Road Map" initiative designed to address the most pressing current preservation needs of the 1832 Indian Agency House, as well as lay the groundwork for a comprehensive, big-picture preservation strategy. The Cissy VD Bryson Fund at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation has provided a substantial gift in memory of Cissy Van Dyke Scannell Bryson, who was a Colonial Dame and ardent supporter of the Agency House. In addition, Great American Treasures awarded us a Museum Alliance Grant to be used for this critical preservation work. Updates on progress will be forthcoming.

We are deeply appreciative of all of you who help us meet our essential operational needs through your financial partnership year after year. We cannot do what we do without your steadfast, generous support.

Special contributions have been made to dedicate this season in memory of Mary Louise Banzhaf, Edward (Ted) Rebholz, Dr. Marilyn Baxter, Polly Stone, Olive "Cissy" Bryson; and in honor of Barbara (Bobbie) Collings, Dr. Anne Vravick, and Adam N.

[www.agencyhouse.org/donate](http://www.agencyhouse.org/donate)

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**GET A HEAD START ON LEARNING**

What are creative arts? How might they be distinctive to cultural identity? What can we learn about the past by studying creative arts? What were the artistic sights and sounds of the portage like in 1832?

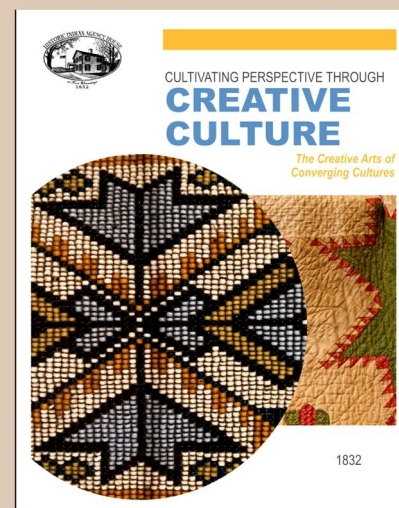
Explore this season's theme in depth through hands-on activities with this free learning guide — a valuable resource for families, homeschoolers, and anyone who likes to learn. Although geared toward grades 4 - 6, this curriculum is readily adaptable for younger or older children and adults. In a classroom setting, it may be used as a stand-alone unit, or the lessons may be used a-la-carte to supplement a standard art, humanities, or social studies curriculum.

Contents:

- I. What are creative arts?
- II. More than meets the eye
- III. The vibrant arts of 1832
- IV. Threads produce a tapestry

Wisconsin Educational Standards are also included for the convenience of educators.

[www.agencyhouse.org/arts](http://www.agencyhouse.org/arts)



**WAU-BUN EXPRESS**

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**EVENT CALENDAR**

- JANUARY - MAY +**  
Prairie restoration
- MAY 17**  
Opening day
- MAY 20**  
Special exhibit opening
- JUNE 3 - 4**  
Living history (Civ. War)
- JUNE 13**  
Speaker: Josephine Lee
- JULY 11**  
Speaker: Dr. A. Simpson
- JULY 15**  
Indigenous Cultural Arts
- JULY 22**  
French-Métis Cultural Arts Day
- JULY 29 - 30**  
Enduring Skills weekend
- AUGUST 5 - 6 & 12 - 13**  
Archaeological dig & Blacksmithing demonst.
- AUGUST 22**  
Speaker: S. Priddy III
- SEPTEMBER 1, 8, & 22**  
Dugout canoe wkshops
- SEPTEMBER 8-10**  
Scouts BSA weekend
- SEPTEMBER 12**  
Speaker: Mary Antoine
- SEPTEMBER 16**  
Living history (1832)
- DECEMBER 9**  
Kiddie Christmas & Holiday shopping

[agencyhouse.org/events](http://agencyhouse.org/events)

**CULTIVATING PERSPECTIVE: THE CREATIVE ARTS OF CONVERGING CULTURES**

Dear Friends,

Creative arts are powerful tools of expression within cultures, offering insights into the hearts and minds of people groups. Our trademark sounds and creative arts of all varieties are often a part of our cultural identity, associating us with a group. They differentiate, yet at the same time they connect. If we trace our arts to their roots, we find that they are embedded in the soil of our shared history and human experience.

In October, 1830, Juliette Kinzie found herself ascending the winding Fox River to the portage after having married the new Fort Winnebago Indian Agent. She wrote of her excitement as she passed through a land which was foreign to her urban Eastern senses, but more importantly than that, her voyage up the Fox River and her early years at the ancient Fox-Wisconsin portage placed her on a winding path through the complexities of the cultures surrounding her, each with its own creative traditions: Hoocąk (Ho-Chunk) families, French voyageurs, the Métis, Euro-American and Black settlers, and others with distinctive ethnicities of their own.

In the midst of a history which is otherwise saturated with upheaval and conflict, we find these stories of cultural discovery as people from widely dissimilar backgrounds navigated their daily lives in close quarters. Unique modes and flavors of music, fine and decorative arts, storytelling, and dance flowed into the portage, converging at the confluence of the rivers.

This season's programming is designed to bring us together to enjoy and explore the diverse arts of our site's past. We hope that it will inspire us all to appreciate a sense of unity in our differences well beyond the realm of cultural arts. We look forward to a fantastic season of discovery with you!

Respectfully,

Adam Novey  
Executive Director and Curator

# OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES...DEMONSTRATIONS...HANDS-ON OPPORTUNITIES...MORE!

Creative arts speak! They express thoughts, ideas, and emotions. They can convey beliefs, customs, traditions, and history. They may seek to persuade, educate, or inspire.

This season, come and enjoy a wide range of captivating performances, fascinating demonstrations, and extra-

ordinary hands-on experiences for all ages. Four cultural arts weekends offer a taste of the creativity which was on display in this region nearly 200 years ago.

Experience the pulsing energy of Indigenous singing and dancing by the Wisconsin Dells Singers and Dancers of the Ho-Chunk Nation; the lively strains of French-Métis fiddling by Pierre Pleau; dynamic Métis step dancing by Danielle Enblom of The Step Collective; and Euro-American folk music and hymns sung and performed on intriguing historical instruments by John and Connie Nicholas of Salty Strings Music Ministry.

Watch demonstrations of skills such as Norwegian spoon chip carving, Ho-Chunk beading, and Métis finger weaving.

Investigate “Everyday

Elegance” with The Galena Living History Society as they illuminate the creative artistry in the setting of everyday life in 1832.

...and try your own hand at a wide variety of historical cultural arts and skills, from flutemaking to flintknapping, fiber arts to pottery, and a whole lot more.

A plethora of unique creative expressions converged here at the Fox-Wisconsin portage in 1832: music, dance, painting, poetry, storytelling, architecture, fashion, and everything in between.

## LIVING HISTORY

The Historical Timekeepers will be on-site adding “living history” ambiance to the physical setting of your tour the weekend of June 3-4. Regular tour admission fees apply, but members get in free for this special enhanced tour experience.



Each creative art reflected its own distinctive parent culture, but all were woven together into a richly variegated tapestry on the cultural landscape.

There is so much more to creative arts than meets the eye. Something

lies beneath the surface waiting to be discovered. We can look more closely and listen more carefully to uncover all kinds of unique insights.

Creative arts are a means by which

we as people can connect, enjoy one another, inspire one another to think more deeply, and look at life from new perspectives. We look forward to sharing and exploring with you!

[agencyhouse.org/cultural-arts](http://agencyhouse.org/cultural-arts)

## ONLINE SERIES FEATURES COMMON THREADS

“Common threads” is the title of this season’s Explore History online video series. Cultural creative arts are expressions of creativity which can be distinctive marks of cultural identity. Yet these diverse creative expressions blend into a beautiful tapestry attesting to our shared human experience.

Creative arts play a variety of roles in people’s lives. Survey creative artifacts from various cultures which converged at the portage in 1832. Value the differences which make people unique while reflecting on the commonalities that tie us together across cultural lines.

[www.agencyhouse.org/common-threads](http://www.agencyhouse.org/common-threads)

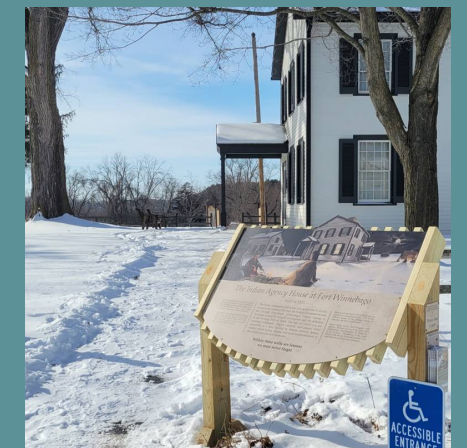
## NEW EXHIBITS INSTALLED

Two brand new exhibits are installed and ready to be explored and enjoyed by visitors admission-free.

Our season-themed special exhibit, funded with grants from the Community Foundation of South Central Wisconsin and the Chipstone Foundation, will open with a ribbon cutting on May 20. This visitor center exhibit explores the core ideas of this season’s theme.

A grant from the Kohler Foundation and a contribution from Nan Rebholz in memory of Edward (Ted) Rebholz funded a permanent outdoor exhibit between the visitor center and the Agency House. The informational kiosk presents the home’s historical context.

[www.agencyhouse.org/exhibits](http://www.agencyhouse.org/exhibits)



## WE ARE THANKFUL

2023 events & exhibits are made possible by:

- Chipstone Foundation
- General Engineering Company
- Community Foundation of SC Wisconsin
- Myrtle Fund - Wm. O’Connor/Krista Roys
- Kohler Foundation
- Brakebush Family Foundation
- City of Portage / Portage Tourism
- George L.N. Meyer Foundation
- The Historical Timekeepers
- Thomas & Lynn Casper
- Ho-Chunk Museum & Cultural Center

Please see THANKFUL, Page 4

## SPEAKER SERIES TO OFFER CULTURAL INSIGHTS THROUGH HISTORICAL ARTS

Join us on a Tuesday evening each month at 6:30 pm from June through September for a series of fascinating and thought-provoking presentations.

Ho-Chunk Nation Museum & Cultural Center Director Josephine Lee is slated to speak June 13 on “Ho-Chunk Creative Arts in Cultural Context.”

On July 11, Dr. Alphonso Simpson, Chair of the African American Studies program at UW-Oshkosh, will present “Hand in Hand: Music and Storytelling in the African American Community.”

August 22 brings Sumpter Priddy III of

Alexandria, Virginia, to Portage, Wisconsin. A pioneering researcher and author on American decorative arts, Mr. Priddy will discuss “*American Fancy: The Cultural Phenomenon of Exuberance in the Decorative Arts, 1790-1840.*”

Mary Elise Antoine — historian, author, and Wisconsin representative on the board of the French Heritage Corridor — will explore “French-Canadian Heritage in Wisconsin: Pièce sur Pièce Architecture and Cultural Preservation.”

Admission is free, thanks to the co-sponsorship of the Museum at the Portage, the Kohler Foundation, and the

Chipstone Foundation.

