



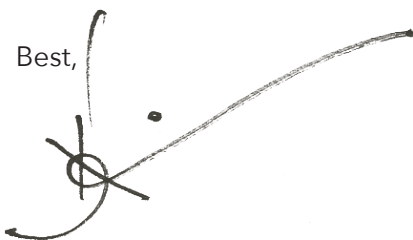
from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

It is with great pride that I share we will be opening the Montague/Urschel Gallery as a standalone, Porter County art-focused museum space this spring. You may be familiar with this name, as the MUG (our nickname for the gallery) has served as our program space since late 2017. Work is currently underway to prepare the 1,200-square-foot, foundation-owned gallery to accommodate our first show, *On the Scene: Selections from the Permanent Collection*. You can read a special note from PoCo Muse Foundation Chair Joanne Urschel and learn more about the inaugural exhibit by flipping to page eight.

As we revise our short and long-term plans, I want to remind you that your continued support is what ensures a better and brighter future for our storied institution. The first two weeks of operation in the MUG between April

29 and May 9 will be open exclusively to our members and donors as a way to say thank you. That means there's no better time to renew your membership – or join for the very first time – than now!

Best,



Kevin Matthew Pazour
Executive Director • PoCo Muse

P. S. – I hope you will make a special gift between now and our inaugural *MuseDay Tuesday* giving day on Tuesday, May 11.



We have a goal to raise
\$10,000 by the first time
the Montague/Urschel
Gallery opens to the
public — **May 11!**

muse day
TUESDAY
2021
pocomuse.org/donate

Your gift — whether it is \$5 or \$5,000 — supports our work, which includes online content and programs, the care of our collection, and providing all-new experiences in the Montague/Urschel Gallery. Help us continue to share the history and culture of Porter County for generations to come.

STATEMENT *on the* MUSEUM'S FUTURE *at* 16/18 INDIANA AVE

SPECIAL NOTE

The award-winning PoCo Muse will reopen to the public in Porter County's 150-year-old jail at some point in the future with an update to all existing exhibits. We are grateful to Porter County Government and our members and donors whose combined support removes the barrier of general admission to ensure that every visitor can experience local history.

STATEMENT

This last year has brought great change to many things in Porter County and the world beyond it. After careful consideration, the trustees of the PoCo Muse Foundation and the City of Valparaiso have decided to terminate the long-term lease associated with the city-owned buildings at 16/18 Indiana Avenue. We retain ownership of the

corner building at 20 Indiana Avenue, as our foundation purchased it outright in 2017.

Our foundation is grateful to the City of Valparaiso for its support and patience over the last nine years as we have helped reinvent the PoCo Muse to be the dynamic institution it is today. Most importantly, the foundation is proud of the work completed to rejuvenate the facades of the 1878 Valparaiso City Hall and the circa 1885 LaForce Boot & Shoe Store. Both buildings now stand out as gems in the county seat's beautiful historical downtown south of the iconic courthouse.

We have been working closely with the museum's staff, our donors, and county and city officials to set an amended course for the short and long term. We are thrilled about the planned opening of the Montague/Urschel

Gallery as an art space and are eager to share other plans in the near future.

Even though our next steps will be different, our support of the PoCo Muse and its commitment to helping Porter County residents gain a stronger and more purposeful sense of place, identity, and community through local history remains unwavering.

Board of Trustees, PoCo Muse Foundation

Joanne Urschel, Chair • Kathryn McMillan, Interim Treasurer • Ellen Kapitan, Secretary • Brandi Anstine • Gretchen Buggeln • Kathleen Evans • Ruth Johnston • Kevin Kerr • Carlos Rivero • G. A. Ronneau



Image • An image taken by John Tilford showcasing the facade rejuvenation work completed by his company, Restore-Tech Construction. August 2016.



Image • Frederick L. Frey, Assistant Professor of Art at Valparaiso University, is flanked by two welded steel sculptures, part of his exhibit at the Sloan Galleries, Moellering Library on VU campus, opening March 14 and continuing through April 2, 1971.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Visit pocomuse.org/today-in-history or our Facebook page to view a variety of local stories on the day they happened from varying years in history. Read about the long legal career of Ira Tilton on March 5 from a story that appeared in *The Vidette-Messenger* on that date in 1971.

IMAGE OF THE DAY™

From ice cream socials to recreational league sports, visit the PoCo Muse feed every morning at 7a to see the image of the day from fifty years ago. You never know when your history might appear. Flip to pages 10 and 11 of this newsletter to see two exclusive 1971 images.

HISTORY FROM HOME

Learn about how farmer-turned-philanthropist Fred Smoke made a fortune and gave away over a million dollars in Porter County (March 13) and how the Kouts Fire Department was organized a century ago (April 10) in our *History From Home* email series.

LOOKING BACK

February's History From Home email summarized the awful 1921 "fast train" wreck in Porter, but our Looking Back series chronicles the aftermath of the infamous event. Visit our newsfeed daily at 8a for your dose of history from a century ago.

Note: Members can look at the entire month of curated images and news blurbs all at once by logging into the "For Members" section of pocomuse.org. The password to unlock this section arrives in the PoCo Musings email at the start of each month.



Welcome to the brand new *PoCo Muse Podcast!* The **Season One Trailer** is now available on our website and wherever you listen to podcasts. Look for **Episode 1: We Are Porter County** to drop soon!

The inaugural season will focus on telling stories of the old Porter County Jail (now the current home of the PoCo Muse), the people who lived, worked, or were imprisoned there, and its impact on the county as a whole.

NEW ART EXHIBITION *coming soon*

AT THE CORNER OF ART & HISTORY

We at the Porter County Museum Foundation are excitedly awaiting the opening of the Montague/Urschel Gallery. The gallery is located in the south half of our foundation's building at 20 Indiana Avenue, across the street from the PoCo Muse.

Some may wonder why an organization dedicated to supporting the preservation, restoration, and exhibition of artifacts is opening an art gallery. The answer is simple. Without art, much of history would be lost to time.

The arts record history and communicate it to the present. Through the arts, it is possible to see renditions of past events. Through music, culture has been carried down through time to the present.

Architecture reveals form and function of civilization. Dance, drama, and literature allow the present to immerse itself into the times and lives of our past. The arts serve to connect us to our pasts and give direction to our futures.

So, I invite you to visit us at the corner of Art and History on the corner of Indiana Avenue and Franklin Street.

Sincerely,



Joanne Urschel

Chair • Board of Trustees, PoCo Muse Foundation

ON THE SCENE: SELECTIONS FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

Artists have long been drawn to the beauty and richness of the Porter County landscape. From the dunes of the lakeshore to the abundant flora and fauna of the grand Kankakee River, this area is uniquely situated to offer artists of all media opportunities to explore what place – and what *this place* in particular – means to them.

This inaugural exhibition of the Montague/Urschel Gallery, *On the Scene: Selections from the Permanent Collection*, presents never-before-displayed artworks from the Collection which respond to the alluring invitation to explore this place. Come see this newly repurposed gallery space and explore these scenes from Porter County with a fresh perspective.



ON THE SCENE

Selections from the Permanent Collection



Left • *The Vidette-Messenger*, March 27, 1971.

"Mr. and Mrs. Roger Erickson and Mrs. Robert Brooks, right, discuss pros and cons of metal sculpture which she accomplished during class being taught by Antone Popp of Gilbert Gallery, Chesterton. Ericksons are co-chairmen of annual art fair this year, to again be held at St. Patrick's School."

Right • *The Vidette-Messenger*, April 19, 1971.

"During Career Week, today through Saturday, merchants will have window displays of articles made by local senior and junior high school students. From left are extension agent Norman Long, representing Kiwanis Club, Career Week sponsor; Clyde Schuler of Merchants Association; and Dave Watson and Douglas Craig, junior high school industrial arts teachers."





Image • March 5, 1971: "For Service. Attorney Ira C. Tilton holds gavel plaque presented to him by Attorney Herb Douglas on behalf of the Porter County Bar Association in tribute to 93-year-old lawyer's 57 years of legal service to citizens of Porter County."

We extend our gratitude to the following individuals for their financial support in December 2020 & January 2021.

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- Eric Wignall
- Randy & Jo Ellen Zromkoski

MEMBERS-ONLY *programs*

EXPLORE VALPARAISO — NOW AND THEN

Starting March 10, 2021

Head over to the “For Members” section of our website (www.pocomuse.org) to access this new interactive tour of downtown Valparaiso. When asked for a password, use the most recent password sent to you via the Musings e-mail updates.

Explore Valparaiso – Now and Then is a new digital offering from the PoCo Muse that allows you to see how much, or how little, downtown Valparaiso has changed over the years. This offering, which can be accessed through our website, presents historical photographs of downtown Valparaiso side by side with present day photographs of the same location.

MEMBERS PREVIEW OF NEW EXHIBITION

April 29 - May 9, 2021

The first two weeks of operation in the Montague/Urschel Gallery between April 29 and May 9 will be open exclusively to our members and donors to enjoy the inaugural exhibit, *On the Scene: Selections from the Permanent Collection*.

GOING BACK TO THE MOVIES

Going Back to the Movies is a monthly e-series exclusively for PoCo Muse members. Jeff Schultz, the official PoCo Muse Film Critic, is revisiting and reviewing select films in commemoration of what would be the Premier Theatre’s centennial this year. Schultz has selected *Catch-22* for the March 27 review and *The Aristocats* for April 24.

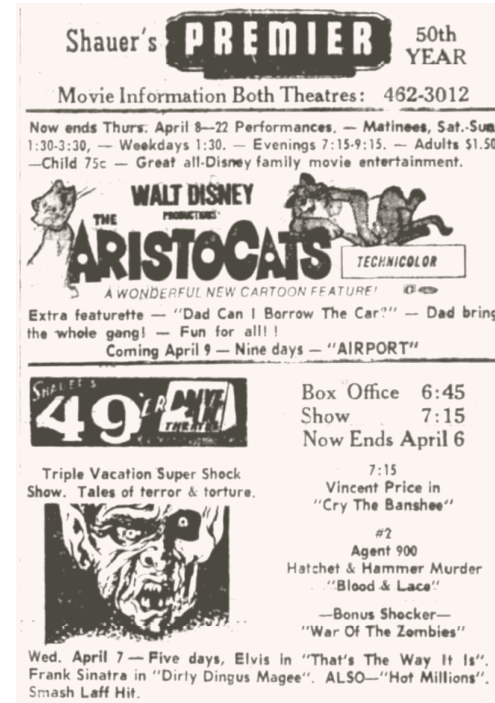


Image • Advertisement for the Premier Theatre and 49er Drive In from The Vidette-Messenger. March 1971.

MEMBERSHIP *benefits*

Number of people receiving benefits at each level:

	1 \$40	2 \$75	4 \$125	1 \$36	2 \$64	4 \$110
Subscription to <i>PoCo Muse Magazine</i>	PRINT			DIGITAL		
Bimonthly subscription to the <i>PoCo Muse News</i> newsletter	PRINT			DIGITAL		
<i>PoCo Musings</i> e-mail updates and members-only digital content	●	●	●	●	●	●
Discounts on select events, programs, and tours	●	●	●	●	●	●
Exclusive members-only hours to view exhibits	●	●	●	●	●	●
Invitation to exhibit preview receptions*	●	●	●	●	●	●
Use of the <i>Slagle Members' Lounge</i> during visits*	●	●	●	●	●	●
Access to the museum’s archives via staff help	●	●	●	●	●	●
Complimentary membership to the <i>Time Travelers</i> reciprocal membership network	●	●	●	●	●	●
	STANDARD			DIGITAL		

*This benefit is not currently available due to the pandemic.

general INFORMATION

POCO MUSE

www.pocomuse.org

The award-winning PoCo Muse maintains free general admission (when not amidst a worldwide pandemic) as this area's oldest institution devoted to the history and culture of Porter County.

1871 PORTER COUNTY JAIL & SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE

**153 S Franklin Street, Valparaiso, IN 46383
(219) 465.3595**

Home to PoCo Muse artifacts and exhibits since 1975, the 1871 Porter County Jail and the c. 1860 residence are two of the oldest structures in downtown Valparaiso.

MONTAGUE/URSCHEL GALLERY

**20 Indiana Avenue, Valparaiso, IN 46383
(219) 510.1836**

Accessible by a door on the south façade, the Montague/Urschel Gallery is where all PoCo Muse public programming happens.

MISSION

We engage Porter County's rich past with its evolving present to educate, enrich, and inspire our communities.

RECOGNITION OF SUPPORT

Our institution would not exist without the ongoing support of the Porter County Commissioners and Porter County Council.

POCO MUSE FOUNDATION

**20 Indiana Avenue, Valparaiso, IN 46383
(219) 510.1916**

Established in 2010, the PoCo Muse Foundation is a recognized 501(c)3 organization that supports the PoCo Muse.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Joanne Urschel, Chair; Ellen Kapitan, Secretary; Kathryn McMillan, Interim Treasurer; Brandi Anstine; Gretchen Buggeln; Kathleen Evans; Ruth Johnston; Kevin Kerr; Carlos Rivero; and G. A. Ronneau

VOLUNTEER

Would you like to volunteer at the PoCo Muse? Email your interests and availability to Quinn Albert at quinn@pocomuse.org.

DONATE AN ARTIFACT

Start the process of donating an artifact by visiting pocomuse.org/donate-an-artifact. Email Asa Kerr at asa@pocomuse.org with any questions.

WHY CONTRIBUTE?

Monetary gifts made to the PoCo Muse Foundation enable our employees to create mission-driven programs and exhibits, preserve our vast collection of artifacts, and engage the public in ways that make the PoCo Muse an award-winning institution.

MAKE A GIFT

Visit pocomuse.org/donate to make a gift online or mail a check to the PoCo Muse Foundation.

