



## Presenter Biographies

**Serena Ard** was born and raised in the Calumet Region but never knew much of its history until becoming the curator of the Westchester Township History Museum in 2011. She received her B.A. from Concordia University in Austin, Texas, and taught for 8 years before attending graduate school at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. After earning her M.A. in history, she moved back to The Region and began working at the museum. Now she can't get enough of this area's history. She is fascinated by people's stories and feels that a local history museum should represent those stories as accurately and as broadly as possible. Her friends and family would say she is incredibly nosey, but it's really just intellectual curiosity.

**Mark Bouman** is a member of the board of directors of the Calumet Heritage Partnership. His association with the Calumet Heritage Partnership dates to the opening presentation he gave at the first Calumet Heritage Conference in 1999, although it was not until 2005 that he joined the board when CHP became formally affiliated with Chicago's Steel Heritage Project. Between 2007 and 2017, he served as CHP's President. Mark has been closely involved with several Calumet regional efforts, including the Lake Calumet Ecosystem Partnership, Calumet Stewardship Initiative, and the Calumet Environmental Resource Center at Chicago State University. He was the Project Director for a widely distributed map of the Calumet region that originally appeared in the Spring, 2009 issue of Chicago Wilderness magazine. Mark's association with the Calumet region dates to his undergraduate days at Valparaiso University, where the classic geomorphology field trip from the Kankakee Sand Islands, across the Valparaiso Moraine, and to the lakefront at Mt. Baldy set the hook for a professional lifetime in geography, and, as it turns out, the Calumet region. Mark's graduate work in geography at the University of Minnesota focused on the relationship between cities and technology, and his work in that area has appeared in the Journal of Urban History, the Journal of American History, and The Cities and Technology Reader. He was a Professor of Geography at Chicago State University from 1984 to 2012. Since 2012, he is the Chicago Region Program Director in the Division of Environment, Culture, and Conservation at The Field Museum.

**Kevin Brown** is the Illinois Vice President of the Calumet Heritage Partnership (CHP). He is a lifelong resident of the Calumet Region, both in Illinois & Northwest Indiana, and co-owns a marketing & communications firm with his wife Sara. In his hometown of Blue Island, Illinois, he serves as Executive Director of the Blue Island Historical Society, Chairman of the Blue Island Arts Alliance, and Secretary of Blue Island's Historic Preservation Commission. He and his wife also produce an award-winning documentary series on Blue Island -- My B.I. -- a video portrait of the people, places, and stories that make their city so special.

· DISCOVER THE UNEXPECTED ·

The Calumet Heritage Conference is a program of the



The Calumet Heritage Partnership is a bi-state non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the unique heritage of the Calumet region. The Calumet Collaborative and the Field Museum are partners in the Calumet Heritage Partnership. Together, they further the development of the Calumet Heritage Area and lead the creation of a Calumet National Heritage Area.



The Field Museum gratefully acknowledges the following partner for their support of programs in the Calumet region:



**Karen Brozynski** is President of the Southeast Chicago Historical Museum board, the President of the Calumet Heritage Partnership, and co-chair of the Calumet Heritage Area Coordinating Committee. A lifelong resident of the Calumet, she has been a volunteer at the Southeast Chicago Historical Museum since 2014. She served for 24 years and retired as a Sergeant of the Chicago Police Department after completing a Bachelor of Arts in History at Chicago State University. Karen was involved in Group One of the Calumet Voices, National Stories Exhibit at Pullman and recently participated in the move of the Acme Collection from Pullman to Portage, Indiana.

**Cassandra Cannon** is the Founder and CEO of the 501c3 non-profit United Urban Network, Inc., from Gary, Indiana. United Urban Network Inc. is a grassroots, community, socio-educational outreach organization with many programs that serve various communities across state lines and international borders. She has been a member of Calumet Outdoors since 2008. She sits on the advisory board of the Center for Environmental Ethics and Law (CEEL) and has been a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 2011.

**Renee M. Conroy** is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Purdue University Northwest and a Fulbright Scholar. Her published writing focuses on issues at the intersection of aesthetics, ethics, and metaphysics, with special attention given to the arts of dance. She is particularly interested in questions about the nature and value of revisiting the past through activities such as the creation of dance work reconstructions, the appreciation of ruined structures, and the development of "living museums." Conroy's work has appeared in multiple periodicals and anthologies, including the Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism; Ethics, Place, and Environment: A Journal of Philosophy and Geography; Midwest Studies in Philosophy; The Bloomsbury Companion to Aesthetics; and Philosophical Perspectives on Ruins, Monuments, and Memorials.

**Terra "Poetry'N'Motion" Cooks** is musician, poet, author, and advocate, and hosts Open-Mics nights in Gary. She has organized events, including Veteran's Valentine's, at the Northwest Indiana Veterans Village and is a co-host of Uncle Buck Speaks on WVGE, 88.7FM.

**David Klein** attended the first meeting of the Calumet Heritage Partnership when it was founded twenty years ago. He has been a Board member since 2005, serving as treasurer. For most of his career, David has worked in theater as a stagehand in Chicago, including a twenty-year stint at Lyric Opera. Although, his career path has taken a couple of detours through the Calumet Region. In Northwest Indiana, he served for three years as Executive Director of the Calumet Project, a labor-community-religious coalition that worked on social, economic, and environmental justice issues. Following this, he spent a decade with the Service Employees International Union local based in Gary, where he worked as a researcher, organizer, union rep, and finally as the administrative manager for the Local's health and welfare fund. Career shifting again, recently he has returned to theater work and is currently the shop carpenter for the Joffrey Ballet. David is a member of the Board and Treasurer of the League of Women Voters of the Calumet Area. He is also a member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. In his spare time, he takes full advantage of the Calumet Region's recreational natural

.....  
. DISCOVER THE UNEXPECTED .  
.....

The Calumet Heritage Conference  
is a program of the



The Calumet Heritage Partnership is a bi-state non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the unique heritage of the Calumet region. The Calumet Collaborative and the Field Museum are partners in the Calumet Heritage Partnership. Together, they further the development of the Calumet Heritage Area and lead the creation of a Calumet National Heritage Area.



The Field Museum gratefully acknowledges the following partner  
for their support of programs in the Calumet region:



resources as a cyclist, boater, and kayaker. David lives in Whiting with his spouse Susan Duncan, a researcher in global health, and a number of cats that may slightly exceed what's permitted by city ordinance.

**Samuel Love** is the editor of *The Gary Anthology* (Belt, 2020). He is a social and civic practice artist who organizes public projects that connect communities to their cultural and ecological histories through publishing, multi-media installations, and performance. Past engagements include the Gary Poetry Project (2017), the Gary Nature Project (2018), the Lockport Poetry Project (2018), and the Carroll County Poetry Project (2019/20). He was a 2019/20 Indiana Arts Commission on Ramp fellow and Individual Advancement Program grant recipient.

**Kym Mazelle** was born and raised in Gary, Indiana and is regarded as one of the pioneers of House Music. Credited as "The First Lady of House Music," she is a graduate of Columbia College Chicago. She helped shape and pioneer House Music after starting a small label, House To House Records, with two partners and releasing her first single, "Taste My Love." This single, part of the Chicago House Music explosion, was exported to London via various DJs. This new form of music contributed to the birth and growth of Rave, Dance, Club Culture, Pirate Radio and the birth of the Celebrity DJ across Europe and the UK. Kym was relocated to the UK by her record label EMI Worldwide in the early 90's to begin a life's adventure. To date, Kym has graced the stage and worked with such luminaries as: Sir Mick Jagger, Chaka Khan, Baz Lurhman, Grace Jones, Naomi Campbell, Frankie Knuckles, Pete Tong OBE, JazzieB OBE, Maceo Parker, Soul2Soul, David Guetta, Simon Cowell, Jocelyn Brown, and many more. Kym has also appeared on countless BBC and ITV television shows. Her musical theatre credits include the West End production of "Thriller Live" and a tour production of Ray Charles' "I Can't Stop Loving You" and "Smokey Joe's Café". She also leads workshops on education and public speaking at universities and high schools in the USA and the UK. She splits her time between London and Gary, Indiana.

**Brad Miller** is a member of the board of directors of the Calumet Heritage Partnership. He is the Director of Indiana Landmarks Northwest Field Office. As Director, he assists communities, local governments, and property owners in preserving historic buildings and places across Lake, Porter, Jasper, and Newton Counties. Brad grew up in central Pennsylvania where he attended Gettysburg College, earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History. He then headed south to earn his M.A. in Public History from Middle Tennessee State University, where he focused his studies on historic preservation and African American history. His thesis focused on 19th and 20th century African American funeral homes in Tennessee as windows into southern death culture, black entrepreneurship, and spatial segregation. Previously, Brad has served as a graduate assistant with the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, preservation planner intern with the Somerville, MA, Historic Preservation Commission, and community preservation specialist with Indiana Landmarks Northern Regional Office in South Bend. Brad resides in Gary's Miller Beach community with his partner Emily and their rescue pup, Delta.

. DISCOVER THE UNEXPECTED .

The Calumet Heritage Conference  
is a program of the



The Calumet Heritage Partnership is a bi-state non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the unique heritage of the Calumet region. The Calumet Collaborative and the Field Museum are partners in the Calumet Heritage Partnership. Together, they further the development of the Calumet Heritage Area and lead the creation of a Calumet National Heritage Area.



The Field Museum gratefully acknowledges the following partner  
for their support of programs in the Calumet region:



**Emily Parr** has been making exhibitions come to life at the Field Museum for the past 11 years, first as a Media Producer and now as a Project Manager. She uses her love of spreadsheets and colored post-its to keep project teams on schedule and on budget and enjoys shepherding all different kinds of teams through the process of exhibition creation.

**Diane Pugh**, MLS is a long-time Calumet Heritage Partnership board member, and was involved as an assistant archivist in the Donnelley grant work for CHP. Prior to her work on CHP's archives, Diane served as an archivist with the Chicago Historical Society, the national archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Rush University Archives. She also completed archives consulting work with Harris Bank, Chicago, The Gerber/Hart Gay and Lesbian Library and Archives, the Berwyn Historical Society, Sisters of the Living Word Archives, and the archives of A Girl's Best Friend Foundation. For 11 years (2001-2012), Diane worked for the preservation program of the American Theological Library Association in Chicago, eventually becoming the Manager of Preservation Projects for that department. From 2015 to 2017 she also served as a project archivist for a grant at the Southeast Chicago Historical Museum at the Calumet Field House. Diane lives with her partner and son in Homewood, Illinois, where they have lived for the past 12 years.

**Rod Sellers** taught American History, Chicago History, and Law at Bowen High School and Washington High School in Chicago. He retired in 2002 after a 34-year career with the Chicago Public Schools. He holds a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Illinois, a master's degree in Urban Studies, and a master's degree in Public Service, both from Governors State University. Rod has a special interest in local history and coordinated a Museology program for high school gifted students. The program, which began in 1990, met in the Southeast Chicago Historical Museum. Rod is the co-author of Chicago's Southeast Side and the author of Chicago's Southeast Side Revisited, pictorial histories of the community and both published by Arcadia Publishing. Rod is a former member of the board of directors of the Calumet Heritage Partnership.

**Madeleine Tudor** is Senior Environmental Social Scientist in the Field Museum's Keller Science Action Center. Struck by the majestic complexity of the Calumet region during a visit to Pullman in the 1990s, she has been hooked ever since. She applies her training in urban anthropology and museum practice to understand and share this unique region's rich cultural, industrial, and natural heritage with local residents and broad audiences. Current projects include the Calumet Voices, National Stories exhibition initiative and working toward federal designation of the region as the Calumet National Heritage Area.

**Kay Westhues** is an artist and folklorist whose work is concerned with rural practices and places. Her work encompasses the fields of photography, videography, audio and ethnography. As a 2019-2020 Sustainability Fellow with the Center for a Sustainable Future at IU South Bend, Kay is currently conducting an oral history project about a roadside spring in Gary, Indiana, which is funded through Indiana Humanities and supported by the Calumet Heritage Partnership.

. DISCOVER THE UNEXPECTED .

The Calumet Heritage Conference is a program of the



The Calumet Heritage Partnership is a bi-state non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the unique heritage of the Calumet region. The Calumet Collaborative and the Field Museum are partners in the Calumet Heritage Partnership. Together, they further the development of the Calumet Heritage Area and lead the creation of a Calumet National Heritage Area.



The Field Museum gratefully acknowledges the following partner for their support of programs in the Calumet region:



**Meredith Whitfield** is an exhibition developer—a professional storyteller—at the Field Museum in Chicago. Most recently, she led the development of Apsáalooke Women and Warriors, and current projects include several community-curated stories in the Field Museum's reimagined Native North American Hall and a traveling exhibition on the matter and meaning of death. She holds an MA in Museum Studies from the University of Manchester, and she has published research on meming and identity and archiving spontaneous memorials.

**Alva Krystal Wilson**, known professionally as The Gem of Shaolin, is an African American/Afro Dominican rapper, poet, singer, song writer, director, writer and activist. Her content brilliantly touches on a combination of cerebral, enigmatic, yet earnest subject matter.

.....  
. DISCOVER THE UNEXPECTED .  
.....

The Calumet Heritage Conference  
is a program of the



The Field Museum gratefully acknowledges the following partner  
for their support of programs in the Calumet region:

