

CALUMET
NHERITAGE
CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 12-16, 2021

PLACE making taking keeping sharing









PLACE IN THE CALUMET: A RESOURCE GUIDE















INTRODUCTION

Each year, the Calumet Heritage Partnership (CHP) leads the charge to explore, explain, and showcase what makes the Calumet region like no other place in the nation. Through their signature Calumet Heritage Conference, CHP, in partnership with the Calumet National Heritage Area initiative, brings together stewards, scholars, artists, activists, practitioners and storytellers to reflect on and celebrate the Calumet region's remarkable ecological, cultural, and industrial heritage, resilient communities, and bright future.

An essential idea underlying much of what happens at the Calumet Heritage Conference is that of PLACE: the Calumet region is a unique location with a nationally important story to tell. Those who preserve its heritage and forge its future are themselves stewards of the region's resources. Indirectly or directly, everyone participating in the Conference is involved in shaping the place identity of the Calumet, and thus has a role to

play in how people feel attached, or connected, to this unique place.

The concept of placemaking--and related ideas of placekeeping, placetaking, and placesharing--will be explored through conference sessions. These perspectives revolve around the core concept of place. The ways in which communities, urban planners, and heritage stewards may use these perspectives to guide their work toward vibrant, inclusive places has very real, onthe-ground relevance.

This resource guide is intended to provide a brief introduction to the concepts of placemaking, placekeeping, placetaking, and placesharing, and give context for how these ideas take root in the Calumet region. It is not intended as a comprehensive exploration of these ideas, which are overlapping and contested, nor does it claim any final say in the definitions of place terminology, which are shifting.

We hope this document sparks conversation among changemakers in the Calumet, and encourages a conscientious, collective envisioning of the region's future among the people who know it best.

As you explore this guide, consider what places in the Calumet region are important to you, and what future you envision for them. How would monetary, artistic, and human resources enable the construction of that future?

Cover image credits: Top row, Decay Devils, Laura Milkert, National Park Service; middle row, C. Livingston, Indiana Dunes Tourism; third row, Field Museum, Matthew Kaplan; bottom row, Matthew Kaplan, Field Museum.

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 a Calumet National Heritage Area.













Selected academic works that have been made accessible to the public are linked and summarized below, with particular attention to the relevance of their conclusions to placekeeping in the Calumet region.

<u>Creative Placemaking by Ann Markuson and Anne Gadwa, A White Paper for The Mayors' Institute on City Design with the National Endowment for the Arts</u>

SUMMARY:

- According to the authors' definition, creative placemaking entails partners from public, private, non-profit, and community sectors strategically shaping the physical and social character of a neighborhood, town, city, or region around arts and cultural activities. Creative placemaking animates public and private spaces, rejuvenates structures and streetscapes, improves local business viability and public safety, and brings diverse people together to celebrate, inspire, and be inspired.
- Here, the authors examine case studies of creative placemaking in several cities, with special attention to data about where placekeeping initiatives have succeeded.
- The research reported here indicates that a new policy platform could link creative actors from multiple sectors, local agency missions, and levels of government in a visible and concerted initiative to encourage creative placemaking and cultural industry innovation.

RELEVANCE TO THE CALUMET:

- The elements of creative placemaking discussed in this report could be activated through the designation of the Calumet region as a National Heritage Area; many are already in motion in the Calumet Heritage Area effort.
- The arts are key to the Calumet region's history, present, and future, and projects to preserve our artistic heritage and forge new artistic paths are essential to the work of the folks gathered here today.
- Important artistic placekeeping projects underway in the Calumet include the work of Terra
 "Poetry N' Motion" Cooks to foster open mic nights in Gary, Indiana, the presence of
 community-created murals in across the Calumet, and the preservation of essential artistic
 heritage (such as the unique architecture of the Pullman National Monument and State
 Historic Site) through public history and guided tours.

<u>Annihilation of Both Place and Sense of Place: The Experience of the Cheslatta T'En Canadian First Nation within the Context of Large-Scale Environmental Projects by J. E. Windsor and J. A. Mcvey in The Geographical Journal</u>

SUMMARY:

- This source examines the impact of the construction of a hydroelectric dam on sense of place among the Cheslatta T'En, who were forcibly removed in order to clear space for the dam project, and speculates more generally about the impact of major environmental projects on Indigenous people.
- It focuses in particular on the mental and physical impacts of losing place and sense of place. Ultimately, the authors argue that loss of place is more devastating for Indigenous people than for Europeans. According to Windsor and Mcvey, the importance of place and sense of place "cannot be overstated" (148). They write that place "becomes a focus of human emotion, sentiment attachment, and experience" and that loss of sense of place is a "devastating disruption" (148;151).

RELEVANCE TO THE CALUMET:

The paper provides an interesting framework for thinking about how environmental
destruction impacts communities, something that is certainly important to consider in the
context of the Calumet, where industry and ways of life have been enabled by human
development.

<u>Water-Based Spatial Anchors as Loci of Attachment, by Hope Hui Rising in Landscape Journal: design, planning, and management of the land</u>

SUMMARY:

- Here, Rising focuses on the relationship between aquaphilia, or innate attachment to water, and a water-based sense of place and tests both a social-psychological model based on familiarity and comfort and an environmental-psyschological model (based on place identity and place dependence.
- The paper ultimately concludes that a model incorporating both social and environmental elements is most effective. The paper is dense, but usefully conceptualizes the sense of attachment people have to bodies of water and the comfort drawn from proximity to a body of water to which one is attached.

RELEVANCE TO THE CALUMET:

- This article tackles aquaphilia, or innate attachment to water—an interesting topic for the Calumet, which rests alongside a Great Lake and is threaded with rivers and smaller inland lakes.
- Importantly, however, Rising's study focuses only on Europoean city-dwellers, with no
 attention to ancestral attachment to water or to the disproportionately threatened sense of
 place of already-marginalized groups. This paper has interesting parallels to the water-filled
 Calumet region, and could be used to inform educational materials and events focused on
 bringing people together around water and exploring social and environmental attachments
 to water in the region.

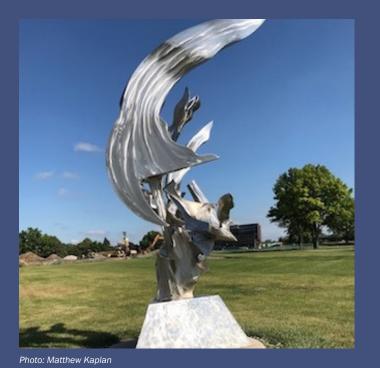
The Influence of Place Attachment on Pro-Environmental Behaviors: The Moderating Effect of Social Media by Jian Xu & Ruixia Han in the International journal of environmental research and public health

SUMMARY:

- In this study, a survey of 550 Chinese citizens shows that place attachment and social media usage for environmental information acquisition have positive correlations with proenvironmental behaviors.
- The results suggest that social media usage for environmental information acquisition moderates the relationship between place attachment and pro-environmental behaviors.
 Further, the authors argue that social media play a more important role than traditional media in influencing pro-environmental behaviors.
- The paper focuses on on emotional involvement with the environment, inviting consideration of place attachment mediated by digital environs.

RELEVANCE TO THE CALUMET

- In applying these findings to the Calumet Heritage Area (CHA), we might conclude that the CHA has to exist in a digital space for it to be real to people in the area--that is, in a world split between the physical and digital, where place attachment is formed in both meatspace and cyberspace, heritage areas need to have a digital component. In order to encourage the formation of both digital and in-person place attachment, we should consider giving people pro-environmental "action items" to support the CHA.
- This research underscores the importance of a comprehensive social media plan for placekeepers in the Calumet: Social media is a part of placekeeping in the 21st century.



SPOTLIGHT: CREATIVE PLACEMAKING IN THE CALUMET

The Calumet is a rich site of creative heritage. Think of sculptures like the one at right, created by Chicago-born artist Richard Hunt and displayed at Valparaiso University, and of the unique architecture in the historic Pullman neighborhood, where visitors can learn about the region's heritage on walking tours. Communities in the Calumet invent and celebrate the artistic identity of the region with creation and preservation efforts.

People may not always know the complexities of how the government is run, or how things are done, but the people could do a better job of resolving community problems if governments would involve them more in that process.

-CASSANDRA CANNON

Cassandra Cannon is an organizer and community advocate from the Calumet region. She is the founder and CEO of United Urban Network, a 501c3 nonprofit that brings together over 80 organizations to serve communities across state lines and internationally. The creative placekeeping projects Cassandra has been involved with include Gary's Steel City Renaissance and direct partnership with local and non-local artistic talents to generate positive change within the Gary community.

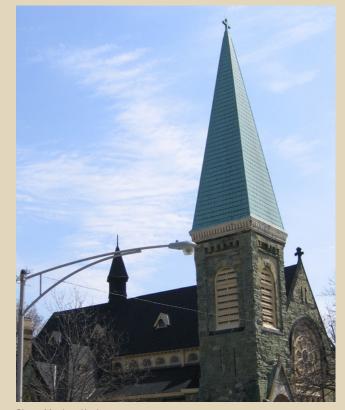


Photo: Matthew Kaplar



Photo: Field Museum



SPOTLIGHT: UNIQUE ECOSYSTEMS IN THE CALUMET

The Calumet is home to unique ecosystems, including those found in the Indiana Dunes National Park. According to the National Park Service, Indiana Dunes is the fourth most biodiverse national park, home to 46 species of mammals, 18 species of amphibians, 23 species of reptiles, 71 species of fish, 60 species of butterflies, and 60 species of dragonflies and damselflies.

The next step is to take the Calumet's vast knowledge of what it's like to be an industrial community, and what it's like to be an environmental justice community. And use that to lead the way for the nation.

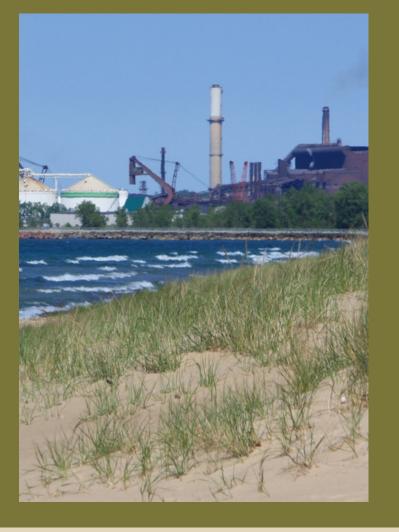
-ALISON ANASTASIO

Alison Anastasio is an urban ecologist and an instructor in the University of Chicago's Program on the Global Environment. She is a long-time steward at Rainbow Beach Dunes, has organized conference sessions on the history of ecology, and botanizes regularly in the Calumet Region.





hotos: Field Museum



SPOTLIGHT: INDUSTRY & ECONOMY IN THE CALUMET

The Calumet is a hearth of American industry: Many towns in the Calumet were founded as company towns around steel mills, meat-packing plants, refineries, or another industrial location. The remoteness of the region's ecosystems invited nuisance industries, and brought workers from around the world to the Calumet. But as industrial pollution accumulated in the region, many companies forsake the area, leaving behind company towns without companies to support them. The region faced depopulation and environmental health hazards, but continued to produce key elements of American industry. Today, community members work to bring sustainable, supportive jobs to the Calumet.

Northwestern Indiana has touched lives in ways people don't notice or appreciate...it's helped build the infrastructure of people's daily lives around the country.

-JOSEPH PETE

Joseph S. Pete is a Lisagor Award-winning business reporter who covers steel, industry, unions, the ports, retail, banking and more. The Indiana University grad has been with The Times since 2013 and blogs about craft beer, culture and the military.





Photo credits top to bottom: Herb Barghusen, Calumet Collaborative, Field Museum.