

Raven Hill

DISCOVERY CENTER

WHERE SCIENCE HISTORY AND ART CONNECT

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We are currently open noon to 4pm Saturdays and 2-4pm Sundays. Open holidays and other times by appointment.
Raven Hill Discovery Center, incorporated in 1991, is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Mission: Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

To: Raven Hill friends and supporters

From: Cheri Leach

Date: May 20, 2023

Re: Many hands make light work

Staff and volunteers from each of the six Michigan host sites gathered in Alpena this week to participate in a **Spark!** workshop to help set up the newest Smithsonian Museum on Main Street (MoMS) traveling exhibit. Assisting with the workshop were four Michigan Humanities staff, plus Terri Cobb from the Smithsonian Institution and Thomas Henthorn, state scholar from University of Michigan—Flint. This will be the first time that the “**Spark! Places of Innovation**” exhibit will be on display. **Spark!** opens this Saturday, May 20, in Alpena and on August 26 at Raven Hill Discovery Center.



Ed Strzelinski plays at being a visitor exploring the technology kiosk, after helping with its assembly. The Smithsonian just finished fabrication of **Spark!** so you might say this exhibition is “hot off the press.”.



Finally, the **Spark!** exhibit is a reality! Visitors will see social, art, technology and heritage innovations from small towns across America, as well as innovations that have and are happening right here in Michigan.



These large fire rings or Circle Gardens represent Raven Hill's focus on science, history and the arts. Alanson students prepped them for planting. The science garden will grow healthy food for the tortoises that live in the Center's Animal Room. The history garden was planted today with the Three Sisters—corn, beans and squash—which were first domesticated 10,000 years ago. The art garden will contain dye plants for coloring fiber, including marigolds and coreopsis. Summer class participants will utilize all the plants in their lessons!

National Volunteer Week is celebrated annually during the third week of April, however the third week of May tends to work better at Raven Hill, since volunteers can help get the outdoor exhibits ready for summer visitors. Alanson and Ellsworth students donated over 80 hours of hard labor this week to spruce up the Medicinal Gardens, Circle Gardens, Taxonomic Trail, Connections Trail and the Ancient World. Ellsworth students will return next week to continue their volunteer work in the Ancient World by working to restore the Zen Garden.



Ellsworth high school students work on a Roman roadway out in Raven Hill's Ancient World. Through the years, many of the exhibits there have been created by middle and high school students.



For over twenty years, Alanson students have donated a day to work at Raven Hill to help by landscaping, creating pathways, weeding, pruning and planting. This week, they cleaned up the Medicinal Gardens and the Three Circle Gardens (Science, History and Art) and pruned along the new Connections Trail, getting outdoor exhibits ready for the 2023 summer season.

Summer hours will be in effect between Memorial Day and Labor Day, when the Center is open weekdays from 10am to 4pm daily, plus its regular weekend hours. Raven Hill is open year round to the public from noon to 4pm on Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm on Sundays, plus holidays and other times by appointment. You can call 231.536.3369 or email info@miravenhill.org for more information or reservations.

Have a good weekend,

Cheri



Raven Hill Discovery Center is supported in part by the Michigan Arts & Culture Council (MACC) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) through a 2023 Operational Grant Award.