

WHERE **SCIENCE****HISTORY****AND****ART** CONNECT

To: Raven Hill friends
From: Cheri
Date: June 1, 2024
Re: *Under Michigan & Beyond*

Raven Hill Discovery Center's **Under Michigan & Beyond** exhibit opened on Saturday, May 25th with the official ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, May 28. Sharing this ritual with more than 40 fourth graders from Harbor Springs Elementary School made the event even more memorable. It was wonderful to have East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce, Harbor Springs Area Chamber, Boyne Area Chamber, Charlevoix Chamber, Charlevoix County Community Foundation, members of Raven Hill's board, and everyone else here to celebrate this long-anticipated exhibit.



*Opening weekend found lots of families exploring **Under Michigan & Beyond**. If you are a lover of rocks & fossils, this exhibit is for you!*



*Harbor Springs fourth graders participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for **Under Michigan & Beyond** and then explored the exhibit before heading back to school.*

-photo by Boyne City Chamber of Commerce

Under Michigan & Beyond plays a vital role in educating visitors about the importance of Michigan's and Earth's natural resources, the processes involved in their extraction and use. This underscores the need for sustainable practices to ensure the health of our planet and the well-being of future generations. The exhibit provides visitors with a better understanding of our geological resources, including their formation, types, and distribution. Visitors can gain a new appreciation for the resources that we often take for granted and better understand the need for innovations that support research in conserving those resources.

The interdisciplinary nature of Earth's resources is highlighted in **Under Michigan & Beyond**, including resource uses in sciences of chemistry, physics, biology and geology. The exhibit also underscores the history of human development from the Stone Age to the Industrial Revolution to our own Information Age, including the historical inventions and innovations important in excavating and utilizing our natural resources. Additionally, there are displays showcasing the use of natural resources in creating visual arts, like pigments from minerals used for paints and stone sculptures carved from a variety of stones.

Under Michigan & Beyond encourages creative and critical thinking about the numerous ways of combining scientific research with historical analysis and artistic expression, exemplifying Raven Hill's mission to connect science, history and the arts. By emphasizing these connections, we can foster a deeper understanding of the integral role natural resources play in shaping our world across multiple dimensions. This comprehensive approach can inspire more informed thoughts about sustainable practices and the future of our planet.



Eyes Only AND Please Touch signs are strategically placed throughout the exhibit, alerting visitors to certain tactile experiences.



Volunteer Dave Clapp mounts a map highlighting the locations and types of geological resources found in Michigan. -map made by Ted Hindbaugh -granite plugs representing resources donated by Petoskey Granite & Quartz Countertops



Visit often and explore this captivating and ever-evolving exhibit that just "scratches the surface" of the geological wonders found in Michigan and in our Earth.

Raven Hill is open weekdays from 10am to 4pm, Saturdays from noon to 4pm and Sundays from 2pm to 4pm, as well as other times by appointment. We look forward to seeing you here to explore both indoors and outside.

Cheri