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Raven Hill Discovery Center, incorporated in 1991,  
is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Open year-round on weekends – noon to 4pm Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm Sundays.  
Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, hours expand to include weekdays from  
10am to 4pm. The Center is also open other times, including holidays, by appointment.

**MISSION:** to provide a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong  
learning for all ages by connecting science, history and the arts.

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

To: Raven Hill friends  
From: Cheri  
Date: March 23, 2024  
Re: *Here we come, New York!*

Raven Hill, along with select northern Michigan teachers and their students, is excited to be represented in an upcoming exhibit in New York City. The 7<sup>th</sup> iteration of the Cooper Hewitt Design Museum's "**Home—Smithsonian Design Triennial**" exhibition opens in November of 2024. The Smithsonian exhibit will focus on diverse contemporary perspectives of home, "exploring the multiple meanings of home, housing and habitat in our country." One section will feature a display that was part of the **Youth Innovation in Rural America (YIRA)** program hosted in 2023 by Raven Hill Discovery Center.



*Luis, East Jordan graduate & YIRA participant, shows off his favorite artworks. Luis's charcoal portraits of YIRA community participants will be part of the East Jordan display in the Smithsonian Design Triennial "Home" exhibition in New York*



*Smithsonian staffer, Sophia Gebara, follows proper curatorial procedures to protect Luis's artwork for transport to New York and the "Home—Smithsonian Design Triennial" exhibit.*

**YIRA** is a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and rural communities. It is aimed at fostering innovation, creativity, and community development among young people in rural areas. The Cooper Hewitt Design Museum in New York, as part of the Smithsonian network, plays a significant role in the **YIRA** program by providing expertise, resources, and support in creative design thinking and innovation. Raven Hill was chosen to participate in the **YIRA** program last year.

In February 2023, Smithsonian staff visited Raven Hill Discovery Center to host a **Youth Innovation in Rural America** workshop on the innovative design process for Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District teachers. The teachers then worked with their students to tackle community challenges using this process. An open house at the Center in May 2023 featured participating students' design solutions. The **YIRA** exhibit remained on display through October 2023, alongside **Spark! Places of Innovation in Rural America**, a Smithsonian Museum on Main Street traveling exhibition hosted by Raven Hill.

During their visit to Raven Hill for the open house, the Smithsonian staff was especially impressed by East Jordan teacher Angela Barrera's Advanced Spanish students, who proposed cooking classes to bridge the gap between community and school. The Smithsonian offered to fund the cooking classes. This past Sunday, museum staff members returned to Raven Hill and East Jordan to videotape interviews with participating parent chefs and students. These interviews will be featured at *New York's* Cooper Hewitt Design Museum in the 7<sup>th</sup> "**Home—Smithsonian Design Triennial**" exhibition, as one of many far-reaching themes about "home."



*Smithsonian staff visited Raven Hill on Sunday and East Jordan Schools on Monday & Tuesday to interview participants in the Advanced Spanish cooking classes.*

*(Left to right) Visiting Smithsonian staff members included Kim Robledo-Diga, Director of Learning and Audience Engagement; Xhosa Fray-Chinn, Video Producer/Filmmaker; Patrick Downer, Freelance Cinematographer/DP; and Sophia Gebara Curatorial assistant of Latino Design.*



*Raven Hill's Evolving Technology Building with its innovation and design theme was a perfect place to interview YIRA participants for the Triennial exhibit in New York City.*

The **Youth Innovation in Rural America** program brings community, connections, and collaboration together, like interwoven threads in a tapestry. Community forms the foundation, providing a shared identity and purpose. Connections are the

strands that link individuals within the community, fostering relationships and networks. Collaboration brings these connections to life, allowing people to work together towards common goals, leveraging their diverse skills and perspectives. Together, they create a vibrant atmosphere, where ideas flourish, projects thrive, and bonds strengthen. Thank you, Smithsonian and East Jordan Public Schools, for creating such a wonderful tapestry right here in northern Michigan, one that will represent us well in *New York*.

We invite you to make plans to visit Raven Hill during spring break and beyond. We are open Saturdays from noon to 4pm and Sundays from 2pm to 4pm, as well as during the week by appointment. Call 231.536.3369 or email [info@miravenhill.org](mailto:info@miravenhill.org) for information or to make reservations.

Cheri

PS: Next week's update will "update" you on all the exciting classes, events, exhibits and workshops that are in the works for this spring, summer and fall here at Raven Hill. Can't wait to share!



*Participating families gathered Sunday afternoon at Raven Hill Discovery Center to enjoy food, friends and fun, while parent chefs were interviewed and videotaped by Smithsonian staff.*