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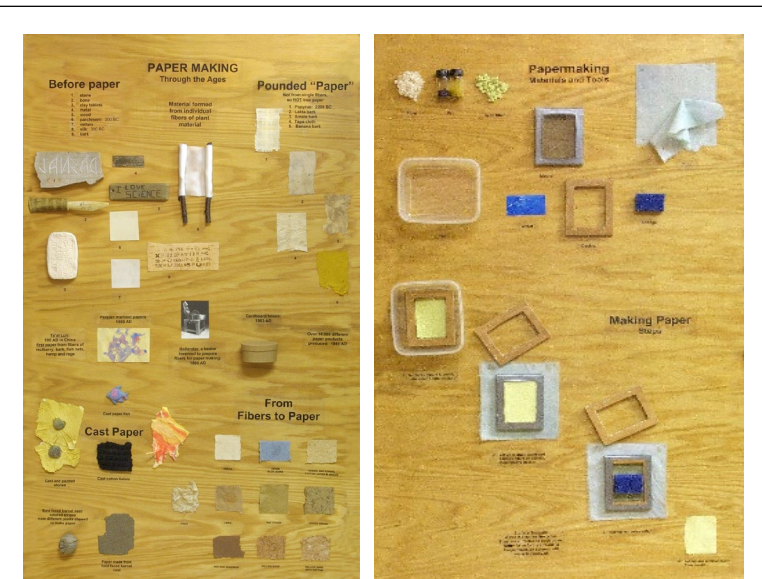
Raven Hill Discovery Center, incorporated in 1991, is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

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

To: Friends and Family everywhere
 From: Cheri and Raven Hill
 Date: October 30, 2021
 Re: Weekly update

Greetings, Everyone!

The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) recently took action on grant requests for fiscal year 2022. Raven Hill Discovery Center received \$16,250 in operational support from MCACA and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The award provides funding for administrative costs, marketing, publicity and promotion, artistic and/or other expenses. This is the twenty-second year that the Center has received support from MCACA and the NEA. As always, a grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs requires a 1:1 match, so Raven Hill must raise \$16,250 in either cash or in-kind donations to match the grant and receive full funding. You are part of Raven Hill’s support system. To facilitate lifelong learning that connects science, history and the arts, please make a contribution to the MCACA 2022 matching grant challenge soon.



Participants used blue jean denim, oat straw and other fibers to make paper following the steps shown above. The Papermaking Connections Box can be found in the Art Corridor at Raven Hill.

For 22 consecutive years, MCACA grant awards have helped Raven Hill with projects and operations. The first three awards were in 2001, 2002 and 2003. The MCACA **Connections** grant awards focused on different art mediums and the science & history behind the art. For one week an artist-in-residence worked with 10 different middle and high school art classes. Students completed a small art project and learned a related science concept used in the art, such as the ductility of wire or the tensile strength of fiber. The Connections awards also brought the artists back in the summer for a week to work with teachers & college students, who experienced the entire art process from beginning to end. Finally, a Connections exhibit of 12 different art mediums show the science and history, as well as a step by step “how to” of each art medium. The Connections boxes are on display in Christopher’s Art Corridor at Raven Hill.

In 2004, 2007 and 2011, the MCACA grant awards allowed Center to develop an outdoor walkway called **Exploring Beyond Jurassic Park**. The path features the Earth's geologic history from the time our solar system was formed through modern man. Jurassic Park contains real rocks, trees and fossils, as well as sculptures of extinct species. Textural signs and more sculptures were added in 2007 and the coral reef was installed in 2011.

The MCACA grant awards of 2005 and 2006 brought artists-in-residence back to work with teachers and students. **Art Across the Ages (AAA)** and **Ancient Techniques and Technologies (ATT)** allowed everyone an opportunity to experience how art and science were done in the past. Participants built and fired Greek and Roman style kilns; designed and created indigo bandanas; made paper and other art objects. They made copper tools and used them to drill holes in sandstone, just as the Egyptians did, when shaping the blocks and building the pyramids.

The **Treehouse** was the focus of the 2008 MCACA award. It was inspired by Richard Louv's book, Last Child in the Woods, a book documenting the decreased exposure of children to nature. What better way to get children into the woods than to build a treehouse and combat nature-deficit disorder?

In 2009, Raven Hill received funding from MCACA to build the **Earth Tones Music Garden**. Musician Tom Kaufmann created tuned musical instruments from wood, metal and stone for the music garden. It is a favorite first stop outside for visitors.

Art and Architecture was Raven Hill's 2010 MCACA award. Artists of all ages were invited to build miniature houses as examples of different architectural styles. The group of houses became known as Smallville. There is an Earl Young mushroom house; stained glass house, Copper Harbor lighthouse, Smurf house and more. For many years, the houses were displayed outside along the parking lot, but weather was taking its toll on the houses, so they are now on display in the front entryway of the Center.

In 2012, **Blurred Boundaries** explored the idea that history is often preserved as art. Professional and student artists participated in creating sculptures for the Center's Ancient World. The sphinx, pyramid and Roman arch were designed and built by professional artists. Over 175 mini-sculptures were submitted by middle school students, with three—stone throne, twin towers and sleeping bear—being chosen by a jury and recreated as full-size sculptures by Dave Wilson of Northern Monument & Laser Engraving.

Since 2013, the MCACA grant awards have focused on operations, rather than projects, although some of the funding each year is used for exhibits and programs. In 2014-15, MCACA funds helped with the **Evolving Technology (ET) Building**. In 2018, the Smithsonian **Water/Ways** exhibit was supported in part by MCACA and the NEA. In 2019, with help from MCACA, Raven Hill installed the **Steppes** as a better approach to the Center, making the Fiber Studio and Picnic Pavilion more accessible. In 2020 and 2021, MCACA & NEA funds supported the Center during COVID, as well as helping with the **Labor Days History of Work** exhibit and the **Connections Trail**. Who knows what Raven Hill can accomplish with financial assistance from the 2022 MCACA award and donor matches!



Bill Allen welded a six foot Pteranodon for Jurassic Park.



Bead making was popular part of Art Across the Ages in 2005.



Student art adorns some of the Treehouse panels.



The lithophone in the Music Garden is made from granite counter top.



Earl Young Mushroom House is part of Smallville (population 451)



The Stone Throne is great fun, no matter how you approach it!



Be sure to stop in and see the Smithsonian ***Labor Days: History of Work*** exhibit. Raven Hill collaborated with the Smithsonian and many local historical societies and museums to make this exhibition come together. The exhibit remains open on weekends and by appointment. Groups of ten or more, such as school groups and service organizations, are encouraged to make reservations to view this unique look into northern Michigan's work history. Call 231.536.3369 or email info@miravenhill.org

to set a date and time for your group to visit the ***Labor Days*** exhibit.

As always, for the sake of the children for whom vaccinations have not yet received final approval, we ask everyone to mask up while inside Raven Hill.

Hope to see you soon,

Cheri