



new exhibit

A CALUMET TAPESTRY

ARTISTIC VIEWS OF THE REGION



MUSE *news* APR-JUN 2022

from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

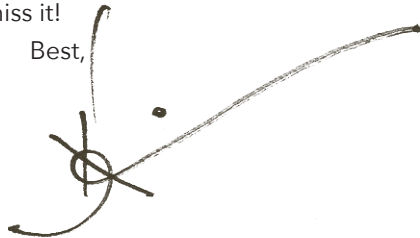
This upcoming quarter at the PoCo Muse is shaping up to be one for the local history books! We are not only reopening our museum in its fourth official home since 1916, but we are doing so in grand fashion thanks to a collaboration with the Field Museum and other regional partners.

There have never been more ways to connect with Porter County history than what's available over the next three months. Pencil us in your planners to attend one of our outdoor micro tours in April, celebrate our grand reopening with a glimpse of *A Calumet Tapestry: Artistic Views of the Region* in May, and book your spot on a behind-the-scenes tour in June to see the incredible advances we have made in our care of artifacts.

Too busy for a visit? Enjoy Issue No. 3 of *PoCo Muse Magazine*, the self-guided Fire History Tour publication, and our architectural scavenger hunt at your leisure.

As always, I extend my gratitude to our members and donors for helping transform the PoCo Muse from county attic to award-winning institution. I look forward to thanking you in person at our VIP event on May 19. You won't want to miss it!

Best,



Kevin Matthew Pazour

Executive Director • PoCo Muse

P. S. – Be sure to say hello to our old tenant in their new location. Aster & Gray made their own history in our building for nearly five years and have now started their next chapter at 118 Lincolnway. Henry Sievers originally built the structure in 1896, and some of the great historical interior detail lives on in the present.

ABOUT THE IMAGES

Cover • *“Steel I (detail),”* by Helena Hernmarck. Wool, 1973. Courtesy of Northwest Indiana Steel Heritage Project.

This detail of a large, photorealistic tapestry created by the Swedish fiber artist Helena Hernmarck depicts the Basic Oxygen Furnace at the Burns Harbor Steel Facility. This amazing tapestry, commissioned by Bethlehem Steel and completed in 1973, serves as a centerpiece for the new exhibition, *A Calumet Tapestry: Artistic Views of the Region*.

Right • *Photograph of Wendell’s Marathon* filling station at the southwest corner of Franklin Street and Indiana Avenue, circa 1970.

This image of Wendell’s Marathon filling station at the southwest corner of Franklin Street and Indiana Avenue marks the footprint of the new home of the PoCo Muse at 20 Indiana Avenue. The partially-obscured sign that reads “Auto Supplies” above the pickup truck on the back wall can still be found near its original location, displayed in the staff offices of the PoCo Muse.



POCO MUSE REOPENING AT 20 INDIANA AVE

For the third time in our institution's 105-year history, the Porter County Museum is moving. Our new home at 20 Indiana Avenue in Valparaiso is the first location to provide a climate-controlled, ADA-accessible museum experience for our visitors. We will unveil the new facility on May 20 with the exhibition, *A Calumet Tapestry: Artistic Views of the Region*. This exhibit will occupy all three galleries and will run through October 2, 2022 (see page 6 for more details).

The following is a short summary of how we plan to use the building after the inaugural exhibit:

Main Gallery

This gallery will be used for a semi-permanent, artifact-focused exhibit we have tentatively titled, *Porter County: A to Z*. We plan to change out artifacts on a regular basis, but the overall theme will remain for an extended period. This exhibit will tell Porter County stories through artifacts in our collection and is scheduled to open in November 2022.

Cain Gallery

The Cain Gallery will showcase local artwork from our permanent collection and rotate on a semi-regular basis. Named in honor of longtime Valparaiso High School art teacher and artist Robert Cain, this gallery will open with an exhibit of Cain's work in mid-October 2022.

Montague/Urschel Gallery

Our featured exhibit gallery will retain the Montague/Urschel Gallery name. This space will host a history-focused exhibit for approximately eight months and an art-focused exhibit for approximately four months of a calendar year. A photography-focused featured exhibit is being developed for December 2022.

Collection/Art Storage

We have developed a high-density shelving solution to store most of our collection when it is not on display. This area will not be

accessible to the general public during regular hours, but we plan to showcase it on special ticketed behind-the-scenes tours.

MAY 20

PUBLIC REOPENING

Friday, May 20, 11a

PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana

The PoCo Muse reopens to the public on Friday, May 20, maintaining free admission and resuming its regular hours of Tuesday through Sunday, 11a to 4p. Come see the brand new exhibition, *A Calumet Tapestry: Artistic Views of the Region*, on view through October 2, 2022.

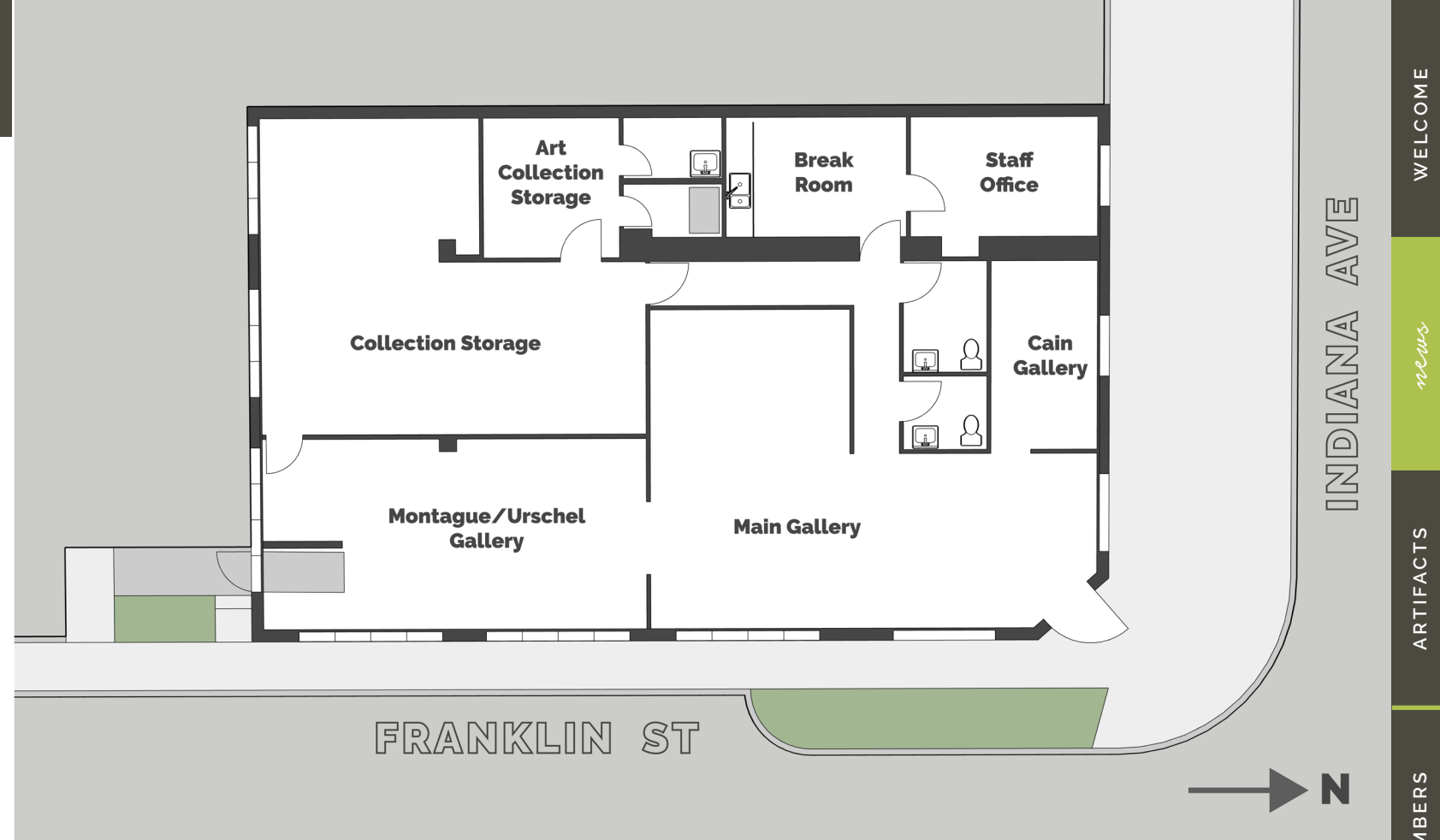


Image • Floor plan of PoCo Muse at 20 Indiana Avenue

A CALUMET TAPESTRY: ARTISTIC VIEWS OF THE REGION

For the past four years, members of the PoCo Muse have been collaborating with 18 other local museums and history centers, along with the Field Museum in Chicago, to present a four-part exhibit series across the Calumet Region. This series, called *Calumet Voices, National Stories*, gives voice to the national significance of this unique region along the southern tip of Lake Michigan. Through the stories of selected objects and images, these exhibitions show how this landscape's natural resources made its transformation into an industrial powerhouse possible, and how thousands of diverse people came to call this region home in the process.

The first exhibition was hosted in the summer and fall of 2019 at the Visitor Information Center for the Historic Pullman Foundation and Pullman National Monument. The second exhibition is currently on display through April at the Gary Public Library and Cultural Center.

The PoCo Muse is proud to host the third exhibition in our brand new exhibit space at 20 Indiana Avenue from May 19 through October 2, 2022.

This third exhibition, *A Calumet Tapestry: Artistic Views of the Region*, leans on the visual arts to explore the unique cultural heritage of the Calumet Region—a place of juxtapositions where nature, industry, and culture live uncommonly close together—where perceiving the full picture can be difficult. Artists are uniquely equipped to explore rich tensions and varying perspectives, challenge assumptions, and encourage the imagination and empathy necessary to reach across differences.

The culminating exhibition of *Calumet Voices, National Stories* will open in November 2022 at the Field Museum in Chicago and will feature all exhibition partners and Field Museum collections from the Calumet Region.

MAY 19

MEMBERS' PREVIEW OF A CALUMET TAPESTRY EXHIBIT

Thursday, May 19, 4-7p
PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue

Join other PoCo Muse members, partners and curators from the *Calumet Voices, National Stories* exhibit series, and other special guests for an exhibit preview of *A Calumet Tapestry: Artistic Views of the Region*. Stop by anytime during the open house to enjoy light refreshments and preview the resulting exhibition of this exciting partnership. In addition to the exhibition, be the first to experience the newly-imagined home of the PoCo Muse at 20 Indiana Avenue.



Image • Cassandra Cannon at the opening of the second installment of the Calumet Voices, National Stories exhibit series at the Gary Public Library and Cultural Center. Courtesy of David McCoy, 2020.

APRIL

MICRO TOURS OF DOWNTOWN VALPARAISO

Saturday, April 9, 2p
Napoleon & Lincolnway

Saturday, April 23, 2p
Washington & Lincolnway

Saturday, April 30, 2p
Franklin & Indiana

Join PoCo Muse Executive Director Kevin Pazour for three short tours that expand on the success of our ongoing Scavenger Hunt about Downtown Valpo Architecture. On three afternoons in April, meet Kevin at the intersections listed above to learn more about their history. And who knows? The engaging conversation about downtown Valpo might just extend to a nearby tavern.

MAY

WEEKLY GUIDED TOURS OF THE POCO MUSE

**Every Saturday at Noon
starting May 21, 2022**
PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue

As the PoCo Muse eagerly anticipates its reopening in a new space, it is excited to establish a free weekly guided tour of the exhibits every Saturday at 12p. Looking to supplement your visit to the museum with a little more insight and detail? Stop by on Saturdays for a 30-minute tour of the PoCo Muse. Tour guides and themes will change regularly, so stop by often!

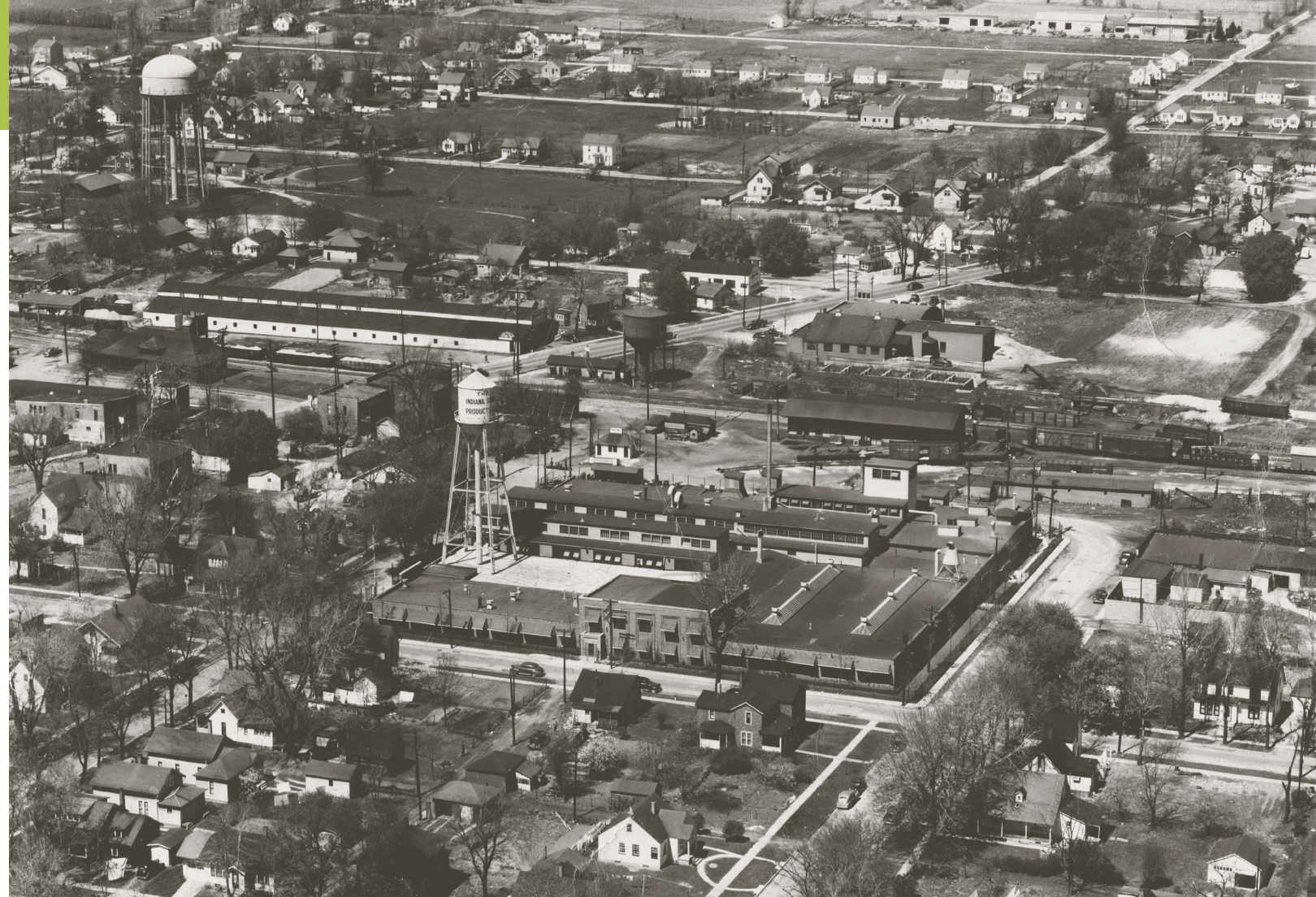
JUNE

BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOUR OF THE POCO MUSE

Friday, June 10, 7p
Saturday, June 11, 10a
Sunday, June 12, 2p
PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue

The new location of the PoCo Muse contains much more than just its three public exhibit galleries. For the first time in its history, the PoCo Muse is fully accessible, and its artifacts are in a suitable climate-controlled environment. We've created three timeslots (morning, afternoon, and evening) during the weekend to accommodate your schedule for this private behind-the-scenes tour.

This event is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. A reservation is required, as space is very limited.



EDNA AGAR WATERCOLORS

Steven Shook, Associate Dean at the University of Idaho and Porter County historian, recently donated four Edna Agar watercolors to the museum. These four pieces, two of which are pictured here, are a great addition to our collection of Edna Agar artwork, which now numbers over thirty. If you'd like to learn more about Edna and other Porter County artists, take a look at our second issue of the *PoCo Muse Magazine*.

Do you have any Edna Agar paintings that you would like to donate? Email Asa Kerr at asa@pocomuse.org.



PHOTOGRAPHS FROM INDIANA STEEL PRODUCTS COMPANY

Valparaiso resident Melvin A. Bohlmann recently donated a number of photographs and other artifacts related to the magnet factory that once occupied the structures on Elm and Poplar Streets, near the Grand Trunk Railroad. Mel worked in the research laboratory of the magnet manufacturing concern for 34 years. Indiana Steel Products, later renamed Indiana General, produced permanent magnets at 405 Elm Street from 1910 to 2005. For a time, the magnet factory was known as the world's largest permanent magnet producer—different companies used its magnets in cars, clocks, telephones, radios and a wide array of other electronic applications.

Aerial Photograph of Indiana Steel Products Company

Page 9 • Circa 1948

This aerial image was made sometime before 1948. It offers a complete view of the magnet factory, then named Indiana Steel Products Company, at 405 Elm Street, north of downtown Valparaiso. Calumet Avenue cuts diagonally across the center of the image. Notice the eponymous water tower in the top left corner, now surrounded by Tower Park. This image displays how sparsely populated the area north of the Grand Trunk Railroad was during this time.

Aerial Photograph of Indiana General Corporation

Right • Circa 1960

Another aerial image, this one made around 1960, shows the magnet factory on Elm Street after it had changed names to Indiana General Corporation. The red coloration on the roof of the facility is evidence of production of the Indox ceramic magnet, used in DC motors and other devices. The red dust is actually iron oxide, or rust, which vented out onto the roof of the facility as part of the Indox production process, which the company later moved out to their Evans Avenue facilities. A few other interesting points in this image: the white structure located at the top of the "T" intersection was Valparaiso's first Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise, and the shadow of the giant water tower is visible stretching over the baseball diamond at Tower Park in the upper-left corner.





Employee Photograph, Indiana Steel Products • This detail from one of the earliest existing images of the magnet factory shows some employees wearing heavy aprons and coveralls, necessary protective clothing in their work of binding steel bars to produce large U-shaped iron-alloy magnets.

MEMBERSHIP *benefits*

Individual	Dual	Household
\$40/yr \$3.50/mo	\$75/yr \$6.50/mo	\$125/yr \$10.75/mo

How Does Membership Support the PoCo Muse?

Our members make visits to the PoCo Muse free of admission, enable us to share Porter County history online and through our publications, and help us care for thousands of objects, images, and documents.

Membership offers a variety of opportunities to interact with our award-winning staff and other people who appreciate the history of Porter County.

If you are able, please consider making a gift of \$250 or more by joining the Founders' Society of our annual fund.

Subscription to <i>PoCo Muse Magazine</i>
Seasonal subscription to the <i>Muse News</i> newsletter
<i>Musings</i> e-mail updates and members-only digital content
Discounts on select events, programs, and tours
Exclusive members-only hours to view exhibits
Invitation to exhibit preview receptions
10% Discount in the PoCo Muse Store
Access to the museum's archives via staff help
Complimentary membership to the <i>Time Travelers</i> reciprocal membership network

general INFORMATION

POCO MUSE

pocomuse.org

The award-winning PoCo Muse maintains free general admission as this area's oldest institution devoted to the history and culture of Porter County.

**20 Indiana Ave, Valparaiso, IN 46383
(219) 510.1836**

Visit our newly-imagined and fully-accessible building—the fourth home of the Porter County Museum since 1916.

**Hours: Reopening May 20, 2022
Tuesday-Sunday, 11a-4p**

1871 PORTER COUNTY JAIL

**153 S Franklin St, Valparaiso, IN 46383
(219) 465.3595**

The 1871 Porter County Jail is one of the oldest structures in downtown Valparaiso. This historic site operated by the PoCo Muse will be home to the first and only exhibit telling the story of the old jail.

Hours: Currently closed to the public

MISSION

We engage Porter County's rich past with its evolving present to educate, enrich, and inspire our communities.

RECOGNITION OF SUPPORT

The PoCo Muse is generously supported by its Board of Trustees; Porter County Government; members and donors; private and family foundations, including the John W. Anderson Foundation; and by Indiana Dunes Tourism.

POCO MUSE FOUNDATION

(219) 510.1916, mypoco.org/about

The PoCo Muse Foundation is a recognized 501(c)3 organization that that supports the operation of the PoCo Muse.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Joanne Urschel, *Chair*; Ellen Kapitan, *Secretary*; Kathryn McMillan, *Treasurer*; Brandi Anstine; Gretchen Buggeln; Kathleen Evans; Ruth Johnston; Kevin Kerr; and Carlos Rivero

VOLUNTEER

Would you like to volunteer at the PoCo Muse? Email your interests and availability to Quinn Albert at quinn@pocomuse.org.

DONATE AN ARTIFACT

Start the process of donating an artifact by visiting pocomuse.org/donate-an-artifact. Email Asa Kerr at asa@pocomuse.org with any questions.

WHY CONTRIBUTE?

Monetary gifts made to the PoCo Muse Foundation enable our employees to create mission-driven programs and exhibits, preserve our vast collection of artifacts, and engage the public in ways that makes our museum exceptional.

MAKE A GIFT

Visit pocomuse.org/donate to make a gift online, or mail a check to the PoCo Muse Foundation.

