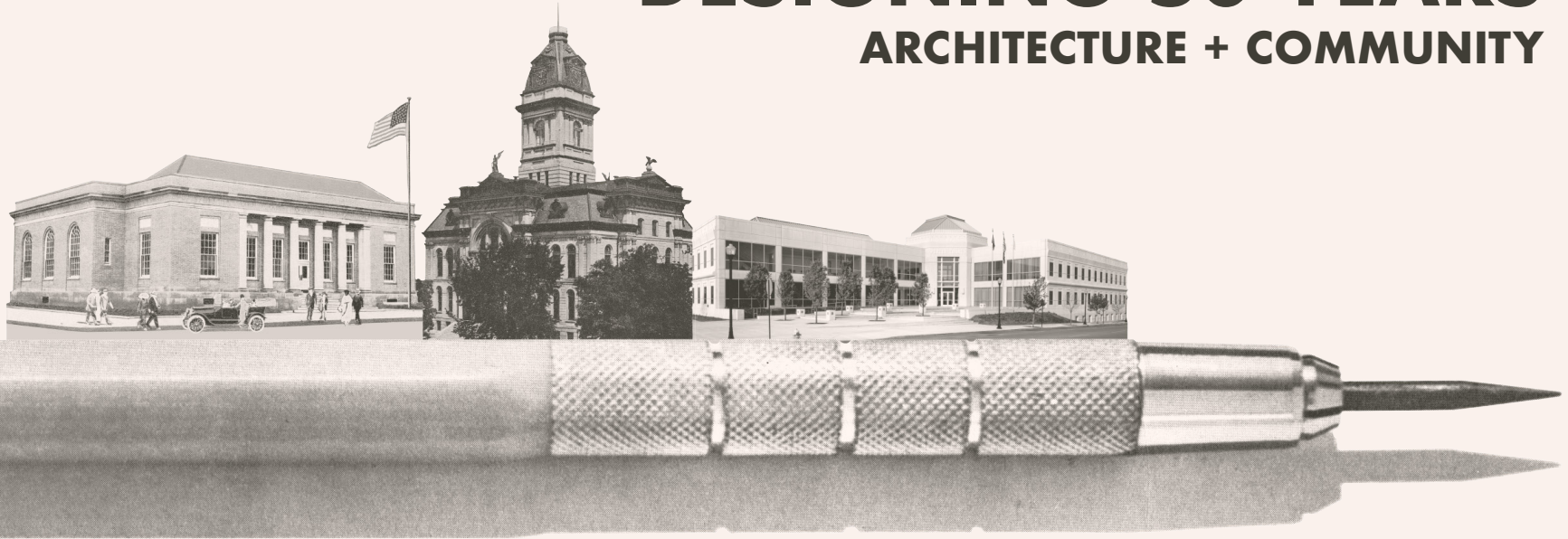


exhibit now open

DESIGNING 50 YEARS

ARCHITECTURE + COMMUNITY



MUSE *news* JAN-MAR 2022

from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It doesn't seem real that January 2022 marks my twentieth anniversary of involvement at the PoCo Muse. We were still known as the Old Jail Museum in 2002, and I was simply a volunteer in my junior year at Washington Township High School. Quite a bit has happened in the last two decades, but one thing is resoundingly true. We are – and will continue to be – a great local museum.

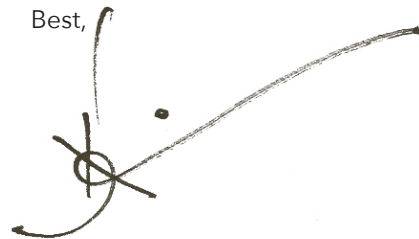
This New Year presents a laundry list of opportunities to become a more responsive and responsible institution. Our foundation is working closely with the Porter County Commissioners to establish a public-private memorandum of understanding to legally solidify a partnership that has unofficially existed since the 1930s.

Staff and trustees are looking very closely at what it will take to make the long-term care of our collection a top priority in the next few months. This includes a physical assessment of the thousands of artifacts we harbor and a refinement of our collecting policies.

Most importantly, we want to improve our relationship with you, our members and donors, who are the reason we have achieved the level of success in all we do. We plan to reach out individually to get an understanding of what you like, dislike, and how we can improve your experience into the future.

Time certainly flies no matter what, but I'm excited to say the best is yet to come.

Best,



Kevin Matthew Pazour

Executive Director • PoCo Muse

P. S. – If you haven't visited *Designing 50 Years*, don't wait! We've expanded our public hours so you have a chance to see the exhibit before it closes forever on March 6.

ABOUT THE IMAGES

Pages 3-5 • *The Academy of Music Block, February 19, 1926*

The following historical images from the PoCo Muse photograph archive show the Academy of Music Block after a fire ravaged the structure in February 1926. At the time, the Academy Block was one of the largest structures in Porter County. It anchored the northwest corner of the courthouse square in Valparaiso, sitting at the intersection of Lincolnway and Washington Street (the current site of Fifth Third Bank). Learn more about this costly blaze in our newsletter spotlight on the next page. For more information on this fire, and other notable fires in downtown Valparaiso, take part in the PoCo Muse self-guided Fire History Tour (see page 10 for more info).



THE FEBRUARY 1926 FIRE AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC BLOCK

The Academy of Music Block stood for sixty years at the southwest corner of Lincolnway and Washington Street on the courthouse square in downtown Valparaiso.

On a cold February night in 1926, an overheated furnace unleashed a fire that quickly engulfed the building. Firefighters rushed to save the four-story brick and stone structure, coming from neighboring towns as far as Gary. The flames, a beacon visible five miles away, attracted other people to the heart of the county seat – some stood in awe while others rushed to action. One such person, Robert Bartholomew, who worked for the Northern Indiana Telephone Company, died trapped beneath the fallen walls of a neighboring building. Representatives of the Lowenstine's Department Store supplied mittens to those working to extinguish the blaze. Electricians rushed to the scene

in order to secure fallen live wires. Shop owners and some who lived close by provided hot coffee to the firefighters. Hundreds looked on as the fire fiend gutted a gem of the downtown.

By morning, the blaze had consumed the available fuel within the Academy of Music Block, and the firefighters had battled whipping wind to prevent the flames from spreading to nearby buildings. Two firefighters had died – Robert, a citizen, and Harry McNamara, a seasoned veteran from the Gary station. More were injured. The Academy of Music Block still stood, though now hollowed, burned black, and adorned with columns of ice, like mighty stalactites drooping down from the ceiling of a cave.



NEW EXHIBIT “DESIGNING 50 YEARS” EXPLORES LOCAL ARCHITECTURAL FIRM

Designing 50 Years: Architecture + Community is a retrospective exhibit about architectural firm Design Organization (DO) from its 1971 founding in Valparaiso to its present operation as part of Shive-Hattery.

Peruse artifacts from DO’s early history while learning what architecture, unified with interior design, can accomplish. The exhibit also features numerous images of the interiors and exteriors of many of the buildings the firm designed over its fifty-year history.

Learn how DO gained renown for designing community mental health centers for the state of Indiana – in this effort, as in many others, the firm understood that a structure’s interior and exterior design should work together to serve the purpose of the people who use it every day.

Explore how DO adapted to technological changes in the field of architecture, from manual drafting to digital rendering software. You can even tour the interior of some of the firm’s most recent projects using virtual reality technology.

Discover DO’s commitment to Valparaiso and Porter County, not just through its architectural and design work, but through the civic engagement of its staff.

Reflect on the impact of architecture on community. How does architecture, both historical and contemporary, affect our daily lives and our perceptions of home?

The exhibit will be open through Sunday, March 6, 2022.

FEB 19

**CURATOR TOUR WITH
DESIGN ORGANIZATION
FOUNDER DOUG PIERCE**

Saturday, February 19, 10a

Montague/Urschel Gallery

Take a tour of *Designing 50 Years* with Design Organization founder Doug Pierce. Hear some of the behind-the-scenes stories that helped shape the firm and the county that it called home.

This event is free for all PoCo Muse members and \$10 for non-members. A reservation is required, and space is very limited.



Image • Installation view of a display case from Designing 50 Years: Architecture + Community featuring a selection of invitations to Design Organization’s annual Open House.

THIRD ISSUE OF POCO MUSE MAGAZINE

In conjunction with our newest exhibit, *Designing 50 Years: Architecture + Community*, the third issue of the *PoCo Muse Magazine* will focus on Porter County architecture and architects. In this issue's feature article, you will learn more about the life and works of Charles Lembke, one of Porter County's most prolific architects. By the time he died at the age of fifty-eight, Lembke, the son of German immigrants, had left an immeasurable impact on the built environment of Porter County. How many of the structures that Lembke designed or built still remain? Did he really win an award for his work on country school design at the Exposition Universelle – the 1900 Paris World's Fair?

This issue will also provide a history on some of Valparaiso's most distinguished historical buildings, focusing on the public and private structures of Washington and Franklin Streets. As we look forward to another historical home tour in the coming year, we hope that you can use this magazine as an impromptu guide to explore Valparaiso's historical architecture (from the outside). From our film critic corner, Jeff Schultz will offer a brief history of the Premier Theatre and other Porter County movie theaters.



Above • The front cover of the third edition of the *PoCo Muse Magazine*

Right • Photograph of Lembke Hotel in Valparaiso, circa 1924



JANUARY

KIDS ACTIVITY: "IMAGINE YOU'RE AN ARCHITECT"

Ongoing, beginning January 4
Montague/Urschel Gallery

Beginning in January, the PoCo Muse will offer a free, kid-friendly scavenger hunt activity! Put on your architect/designer cap and answer questions hidden throughout the exhibit to unlock a hidden message and claim your prize. Stop by the Montague/Urschel Gallery anytime during our open hours (Tuesday-Sunday, 11a-4p) to pick up a packet and get started!

FEBRUARY

SELF-GUIDED TOUR: FIRE HISTORY TOUR

Ongoing, beginning February 1
Pick up materials at the Montague/
Urschel Gallery

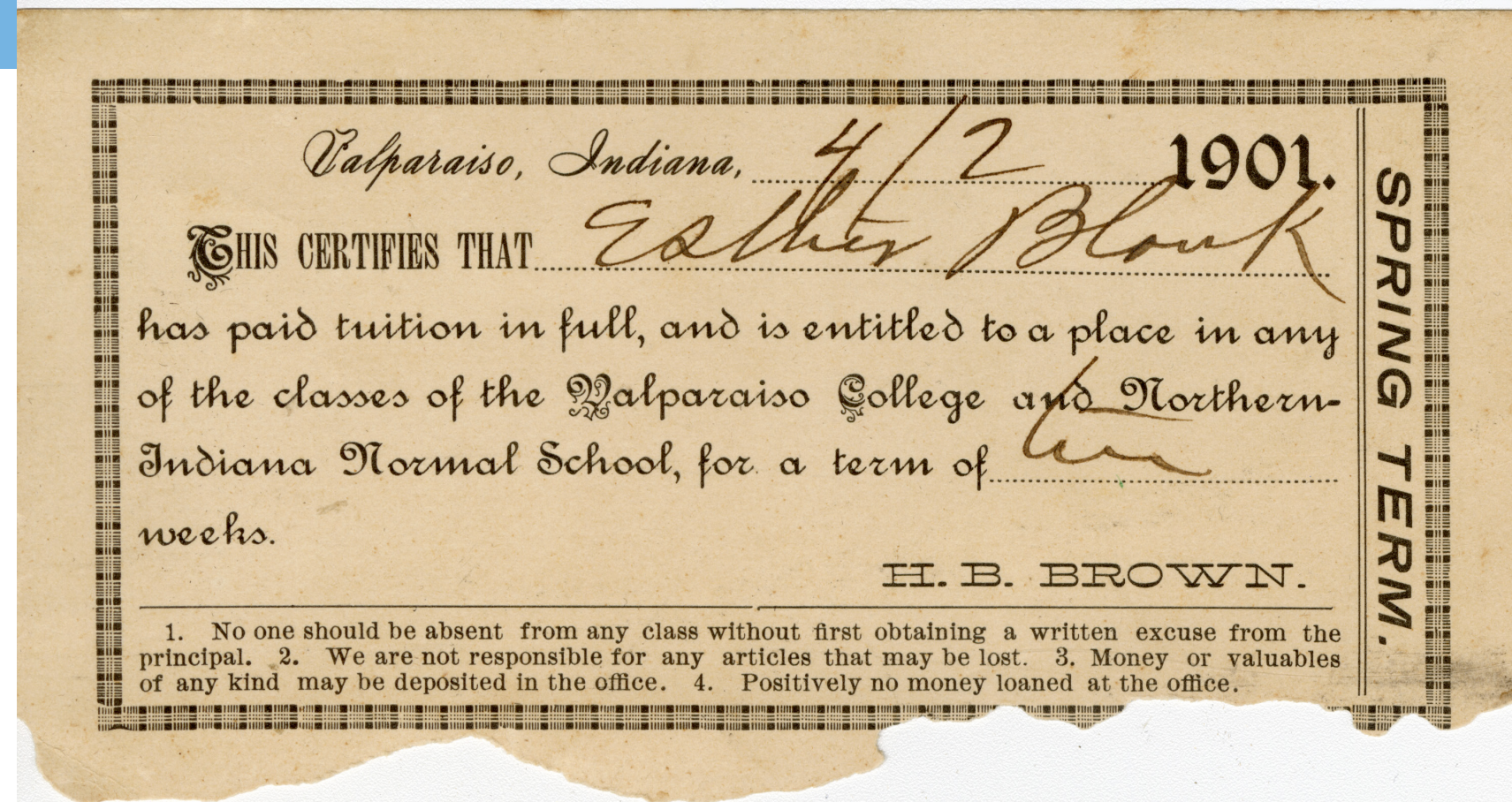
This February, the PoCo Muse will offer a free self-guided tour highlighting historical fires in downtown Valparaiso. Using the self-guided tour booklet, learn how fire has shaped the history of the downtown's architecture.

MARCH

SCAVENGER HUNT: DOWNTOWN VALPARAISO ARCHITECTURE

Ongoing, beginning March 1
Pick up materials at the Montague/
Urschel Gallery

Starting in March, the PoCo Muse will offer a free self-guided historical scavenger hunt that will take you throughout downtown Valparaiso. What's the oldest building on Valparaiso's square? Which block has changed the most? Which one has stayed the same?



LOOKING BACK AT A FEW ACQUISITIONS TO THE COLLECTION IN 2021

The PoCo Muse Collection expands each year. If you have an item related to Porter County history, be it a photograph, letter, object, or something else, and would like to donate it, reach out to Collections Manager Asa Kerr by e-mail at asa@pocomuse.org. In this section, take a closer look at some of the items that were donated to our Collection this past year.

Tuition Receipt from Valparaiso College

Page 9 • Tuition receipt, 1901

A donor recently dropped off this tuition receipt, certifying that Esther Blank had paid for Spring Term classes at Valparaiso College. This receipt is a remnant of the brief period between 1900 and 1906 when the institution was known as the "Valparaiso College." Henry Baker Brown, whose name marks the bottom right corner of the receipt, founded the Northern Indiana Normal School in 1873. Brown's institution, though, was really a revival of the Valparaiso Male and Female college, founded by Methodists in 1859 and closed in 1871. In 1900, the school changed its name to the Valparaiso College before quickly rechartering as Valparaiso University in 1906. This receipt also lists the Normal School name, possibly to ease the transition between titles, and to avoid confusion. When Brown revived the institution of higher learning, it gained the label "poor man's Harvard" for the value and quality of

its education. It should be noted, though, that the coeducational history of the institution, dating back to its founding as a Male and Female College, invited Esther's attendance.

Allen Jacobs' Boxing Gloves

Right • Boxing gloves, circa 1961

These Trio Hollander Boxing Gloves are a record of Allen Jacobs' service in the US Navy. Jacobs, an interior communication electrician and fireman, served on the USS Coral Sea, an aircraft carrier named after the WWII naval battle between the US and Japan. According to the donor, boxing was a popular activity on the carrier. After serving, Jacobs brought these gloves home with him to Porter County. On a tangential note, David Dixon Porter, son of Porter County namesake David Porter, first introduced boxing at the Naval Academy in Annapolis in 1865.



new **ACQUISITIONS**

Photograph of the Overflow at Sager's Lake

Right • Photograph at Sager's Lake, circa 1910

This photograph, which shows a family taking in the view at the overflow at Sager's Lake, recently entered our Collection as a digital donation. In cases where donors would like to keep the physical copy of a photograph or other two-dimensional item but want the museum to be able to share the image for educational and research purposes, they complete a digital donation. In a simple process, donors drop off the item(s) they wish to donate, which we then scan using our high-quality image scanner. After that, we add the files to our database and return the physical original to the digital donor.

Notes from Asa: "I love this photograph – look at the different expressions on the faces of each member of this family. I wonder what brought them to Sager's Lake that day."



MEMBERSHIP *benefits*

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

<p>How Does Membership Support the PoCo Muse?</p> <p>Our members make visits to the Montague/Urschel Gallery free of admission, enable us to share Porter County history online and through our publications, and help us care for thousands of significant historical objects, images, and documents.</p> <p>Membership offers a variety of opportunities to interact with our award-winning staff and other people who appreciate the history of Porter County.</p> <p>Simply put, we thrive with your support. If you are able, please consider making a gift of \$250 or more by joining the Founders' Society of our annual fund.</p>	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 (Returning in mid-2022)
	Access to the museum's archives via staff help
Complimentary membership to the <i>Time Travelers</i> reciprocal membership network	

general INFORMATION

POCO MUSE

The award-winning PoCo Muse is this area's oldest institution devoted to the history and culture of Porter County.

MONTAGUE/URSCHEL GALLERY (MUG)

20 Indiana Avenue, Valparaiso, IN 46383
(219) 510.1836, pocomuse.org

Accessible by door on the south facade, the Montague/Urschel Gallery (MUG) is the exhibit and gallery space of the PoCo Muse.

Hours:

Tuesday-Sunday, 11a-4p

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; members and donors; private and family foundations, including the John W. Anderson Foundation; and by Porter County Government.

POCO MUSE FOUNDATION

20 Indiana Avenue, Valparaiso, IN 46383
(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.

