Welcome to the November 2026 edition of the *Tribal Relations Roundup*—your source for the latest news and updates from WisHistory. We appreciate the ongoing collaboration on various projects, initiatives and programs, and we value our relationships with First Nations in Wisconsin and throughout Turtle Island.

Celebrating Native Creativity, Culture, and Craftsmanship at the Wisconsin History Center

Progress on the Wisconsin History Center continues as the landmark history destination's 2028 opening draws closer each day. Several construction milestones were checked off this fall including completed exterior masonry, drywall installation on level two, and painting on level six. WisHistory staff and collaborating partners are also making progress behind the scenes, but we need your help to keep the project moving forward!

Do you know an artist, maker or musician who would be interested in having their creative work featured at the Wisconsin History Center? We are seeking submissions for Native American Powwow, Drum and Dance songs to be included in a permanent gallery as well as makers who are interested in having their merchandise available at the center's retail store. Click on the links below

for more information and to share your submission!

- Call for Native American Powwow, Drum and Dance Songs (due Nov. 30)
- Call for Artists & Makers

A Cherished Heirloom Highlights Native Craftmanship

Ho-Chunk Elder Elaine Buchanan created a traditional blouse from velveteen, adorned with German silver brooches and moiré ribbon, a beautifully crafted piece that will be on display in the Wisconsin Universe gallery at the history center. Elaine began sewing and beading at age 13, teaching herself by taking apart clothing to learn how it was made. Later, at the Institute of American Indian Arts, she studied appliqué, moccasin-making, and beading with Traditional Techniques teacher Josephine Wapp.

Elaine sees traditional clothing and beadwork as expressions of generations of Native women's artistry and knowledge. As she explains, "Tradition is more than language

and ceremony. As Native women, through generations, we have been the original artists.” The blouse features a cherished medallion passed down by her Konika (grandmother), Stella Blowsnake Whitepine Stacy, also known as Mountain Wolf Woman. Elaine included the heirloom so her grandmother’s family and relatives could appreciate her legacy. The blouse and adornments will be stewarded by the Wisconsin Historical Society for future generations.

Woodland Artistry and a Legacy of Service

Traditional dancer and veteran John Teller, Jr., who is Menominee and Oneida and of the Eagle Clan, contributed his veteran’s regalia for display in the Hello Wisconsin gallery at the history center. Also known by his traditional name, Okimaseāēh (Young Chief), his handmade Woodland-style outfit honors the Indigenous peoples and ancestors of the Great Lakes region through traditional floral designs and colors. It includes an otter fur turban, beaded moccasins, leggings featuring Woodland floral patterns, a necklace with replica bear claws and glass trade beads, and a yarn belt made by Menominee Tribal Elder Rose Wayka.

At the heart of the outfit is John’s Marine Corps dress blues coat, awarded to him as Marine of the Quarter at Camp Foster in Okinawa, Japan, in 2000, along with a meritorious promotion to the non-commissioned officer rank of corporal. John honors the long tradition of Native veterans with his contribution to the history center, explaining “I am proud to carry on this tradition of service, hoping to inspire our next generations of warriors and protectors of our traditional ways." Through his regalia and dancing at powwows throughout the Great Lakes region, he serves as an ambassador for veterans and Woodland dance traditions.

Out and About and Other Happenings

Explore selected highlights from recent First Nations community engagements:

Sept. 16 & 17: Michael Witgen, Columbia University professor and citizen of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, offered a thought-provoking examination of the colonial beginnings of the United States at WisHistory’s annual James Madison Lecture Series. More than 400 people attended lectures hosted in Green Bay and Madison, an opportunity to reflect on an important aspect of history as the nation marks the 250th year since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Watch the recording.

Left: attendees view artifacts before the James Madison Lecture. Right: Dr. Carol Cornelius (Oneida) gets her book signed by Michael Witgen (Red Cliff).

Sept. 26: After being launched on Lake Superior on Aug. 22, a birchbark canoe constructed at Madeline Island Museum traveled to the third annual Neshnabék Wigwas Thiman Mawtheshnëwen (Birch Bark Canoe Gathering) at Devil's Lake in Crandon before returning to Madeline Island for the annual 1854 Treaty Commemoration on Mooningwanekaaning (home of the golden-breasted flicker). The canoe building project was led by Red Cliff Elder and master canoe maker Marvin DeFoe. The canoe is now at the State Archive Preservation Facility (SAPF) in Madison, where it will be securely stored until it is placed on public display at the Wisconsin History Center.

Top left: Makers work on canoe construction at Madeline Island Museum. Bottom left: Birch bark canoe gathering at Devil's Lake in Crandon, WI. Right: WisHistory staff with the canoe at SAPF.

Sept. 30: The annual commemoration of the signing of the 1854 Treaty on Mooningwanekaaning (Madeline Island) took place. The morning began with a Pipe Ceremony followed by a community feast and panel discussion. The focus of the discussion was on the historical and ongoing efforts to protect treaty rights as well as the importance of mentoring the next generation of leaders. WisHistory staff were present for the commemoration and to continue learning about the significance of the Treaty and its ongoing connections for the Ojibwe and to the state.

Oct. 5: H.H. Bennett Studio in Wisconsin Dells, a WisHistory site, welcomed Molli Pauliot (Ho-Chunk) as its new site director. Molli is currently finishing her doctorate in Cultural Anthropology with a minor in Photography at UW-Madison, focusing her research on Native American communities in the Great Lakes Region and incorporating research on the Bennett collection and his history

interacting with Ho-Chunk communities in the Dells area.

Molli Pauliot, new director at H.H. Bennett Studio.

Oct. 17: The Methodist Episcopal Church state historical marker was officially unveiled at an event with Congressman Grothman, Brothertown Indian Nation Tribal leaders and members, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Courtney Gerzetich, and community members. Amy Medford and the Calumet and Cross Heritage Society helped lead the project, and the marker received support from William G. Pomeroy Foundation. The marker is number 647 in the state's historical marker program and is located at the Brothertown Cultural Center in Chilton, Wisconsin.

The Methodist Episcopal Church state historical marker dedication event. Photo courtesy of Raven DeLange.

Oct. 26: Retired Ho-Chunk Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Bill Quackenbush and Wisconsin State Archaeologist Amy L. Rosebrough presented on the Teejop Canoes at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., celebrating an exhibition of Ho-Chunk artist Truman Lowe: "Water's Edge." Despite inclement weather, more than 90 people attended. The exhibition's next stop is Milwaukee, bringing "Water's Edge" to Wisconsin!

Retired Ho-Chunk Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Bill Quackenbush and Wisconsin State Archaeologist Amy L. Rosebrough at Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

Upcoming Events

Let's Eat! Tracing and Preserving Family Food History
Saturday, Nov. 7 (Virtual Event)

There are many ways to explore the past—and yet nothing connects us to our families, histories and cultural roots quite like food. From recipes and ingredients to the stories behind them, food reminds us of who and where we came from. Celebrating family food history and creating new traditions can foster a greater sense of belonging and build shared memories. Explore your own familial and cultural foodways during this unique webinar. Click here to register.

Teejop & Beyond: Reading and Author Talk with Sherman Funmaker
Saturday, Nov. 21 (Meadowridge Library, Madison)

There Join Ho-Chunk elder and writer, Sherman Funmaker, as he presents his original poetry and stories from his book published this year by the Wisconsin Historical Society, “Bear Tracks: Memories of a Ho-Chunk Elder.” After the reading, Funmaker will welcome questions about his work. Click here for more information.

Know someone who might be interested in receiving the Tribal Relations Roundup? Share this link to sign up!

MORE TO EXPLORE

DONATE **MEMBERSHIP**

SOCIETY PRESS **EVENTS**

HISTORICAL SITES **SHOP**

Wisconsin Historical Foundation, Inc.
816 State St Madison, WI 53706