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**Cedar Lake Historical Association's 9th Annual Vera Dines-Whitlow Community Art Show
awarded an Indiana Arts Commission Arts Project Support Grant**

CEDAR LAKE, Indiana – Cedar Lake's cultural heritage attraction, The Museum at Lassen's Resort, will host its 9th Annual Vera Dines-Whitlow Community Art Show on July 26-28, 2024. The Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) has awarded the Cedar Lake Historical Association (CLHA) with a grant of \$4,000 to offer three art classes, two community art projects, produce a documentary, and host special guest artists from the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians. Activities are made possible in part by South Shore Arts and the Indiana Arts Commission, which receives support from the State of Indiana and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Vera Dines-Whitlow was a Cedar Lake citizen and the creative force who envisioned a non-competitive, community-focused art show for artists of all ages and skill levels. "We continue to be inspired by Vera's spirit and passion," explained Julie Zasada, executive director of the Association. Dines-Whitlow also served as an Association board member until her passing in 2019. "She would be thrilled with this grant award and the creative programs that we are going to be able to offer this year to make art accessible, from the novice to the professional."

On July 18, 2024, guest instructor and talented artist, Tom Liubakka of Liubakka Studio in Crown Point, will offer three classes entitled "Finding Your Place in Cedar Lake History." There will be one class each for adults, youth (ages 11-18), and children (ages 5-10). Participants will utilize colored pencils or acrylics to depict themselves in a historic Cedar Lake setting under Liubakka's guidance. Advance registration is required. Participants will be invited to display their work in the show.

Through two grants from Indiana Humanities this spring, CLHA has presented programs and is developing a new permanent exhibition centered on Potawatomi culture and will unveil a land acknowledgment. Enhancing the synergy, the IAC grant is funding the exhibition of a variety of artwork created by citizens of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and curated by Jennifer Marcussen, Archivist & Curator at the Potawatomi Center of History & Culture in Dowagiac, MI.



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The grant includes documenting the art show and the life of Vera Dines Whitlow, which will showcase Vera's many forms of art, from painting to gardening to culinary creations, and more. "Vera is the reason I became involved at the Association," remembers Jennifer Russell, CLHA Board President. "She was very special to many of the volunteers and I look forward to how we will preserve her talent and make her legacy a permanent part of our Cedar Lake storytelling history."

During the show weekend, Liubakka will return to the museum to oversee two community art projects. He will sketch a mural of an iconic Cedar Lake site: a Monon Railroad steam engine at the Cedar Lake Depot on the shore of the lake. Consisting of three large canvases, the mural will be filled in by visitors to the art show throughout the weekend. Guests will follow Liubakka's paint-by-color outline design and the mural will be a permanent installation at the museum after the show. Liubakka will also outline thematic, expressive 3-D chalk art projects on the sidewalk of the museum garden and use the same paint-by-color technique to allow art show attendees to participate in the creative process with him.

"I'm so pleased with how this year's show has come together," shared Zasada. Registration for artists closed on July 1st. However, artists wishing to enter up to three pieces for display should contact the museum immediately to inquire about any remaining exhibition space.

The Museum at Lassen's Resort will host an artist reception on Friday, July 26th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Registration is free but required on the museum website. The exhibition will be viewable on Saturday and Sunday, July 27th & 28th, from 2:00 – 6:00 PM at no cost. Liubakka's community art projects will also be open for participation throughout the weekend. For more information, please call 219-390-9423 or visit www.lassensresort.org

About Cedar Lake Historical Association

The Cedar Lake Historical Association presents the relevance of Cedar Lake History through the operation of The Museum at Lassen's Resort and the Dewey Line resort history cruises. www.lassensresort.org

About South Shore Arts

South Shore Arts transforms the South Shore through the arts and envisions a progressive region that employs the arts to transform lives and strengthens communities. South Shore Arts programs are provided with support from the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts. www.southshoreartsonline.org

About Indiana Arts Commission

The Indiana Arts Commission is an agency of State Government funded by the Indiana General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. www.in.gov/arts

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