

## Donate



### ISMHS Update

This winter, the Harmonist Labyrinth has been shining bright at night to guide visitors through its hedges. For decades now, people have walked around the path of this replica Harmonist labyrinth to achieve a thoughtful, ponderous state leading to clarity and discovery. Read more on how the community came together to light the labyrinth

### James A. Sanders Spring '23 Fellowship

As the Spring James A. Sanders fellow, Al Sheets will organize and curate shows in the Back Gallery Projects' space at New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art. The current display in the Back Gallery Projects is *Hodge Podge*, an exhibition highlighting the diversity of work brought together by members of the USI Art Club Learn more about the exhibition

DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023 Edition



### Interim Assistant Director's Update

For those of you that have been reading this newsletter from the beginning, you might remember an article I wrote for the very first edition in June 2020 about our very own history mystery. After two years the mystery is (kind of) solved! Read more from Claire

### NHGCA Update

*Revelations*, a solo exhibition featuring Chicago-based artist Cass Davis, has closed and two new exhibitions have opened! Learn more about these new exhibitions

### Christmas in New Harmony

Believe it or not, the holiday season is here. Throughout town, businesses are preparing for one of our biggest weekends of the year: Christmas in New Harmony. Read how Historic New Harmony is participating in the festivities

### Three New Harmony Properties Sold

On Thursday, November 3, the University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees approved the sale of three properties in New Harmony. [Learn more about these sales](#)

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## NOVEMBER 2022 Edition



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## SEPTEMBER 2022 Edition



### **Interim Assistant Director's Update**

Last fall at a Historic New Harmony Advisory Board meeting, Provost Khayum



forward to raising my family here. Already, you may have seen me with my husband, James, and my two kids, Eric (5 years) and Claire (10 months), enjoying the amenities the town has to offer. We have played at Murphy's Park, explored the Harmonist Labyrinth and hiked the trail by the Wabash River. We are thrilled to be here and look forward to being part of this town's rich history and innovative future.

DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023



### **Claire Eagle, Interim Assistant Director**

Every December, the Historic New Harmony (HNH) team takes some time to think about everything we accomplished throughout the year—all the programs, grant applications, maintenance work and community partnerships. This year, with a bit more focus on behind the scenes work, there weren't as many public-facing programs for us, but that doesn't mean we didn't document everything we accomplished this year and took even more photos of the beautiful landscape of New Harmony. So, instead of writing a long article, I thought I'd share a gallery of some of the hundreds of photos we took. Please enjoy the gallery below. We look forward to another exciting year at HNH and wish you a safe, healthy and happy holiday and New Year.



diversity of work brought together by members of the USI Art Club. I am thrilled to be a part of the process of facilitating this show and looking forward to sharing this collection with the public. At USI, I am currently studying art (with emphases on both illustration and graphic design) and exploring the world of gallery management, curation and conservation. My work typically uses charcoal, soft pastel, colored pencil and digital software. In the past, my work has explored the topic of human connection through physicality, gender identity and sexuality. Recently, my work explores the passage of time and the expectations we set for ourselves vs. the expectations of others. I

anticipate incorporating these ideas as I curate two exhibitions for BG Projects, one later this Spring after *Hodge Podge* and one at the beginning of the Fall Semester.

DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023



### **Iris Williamson**

We did a lot in 2022. While the world has changed since COVID-19 hit and there is still much to do, we have been gradually improving processes, strengthening

exhibitions and taking on new programs. We're proud to look back at some of our exhibition highlights, to reflect and be inspired for the next year.

As far as our main exhibition series goes, New Harmony Gallery of



Contemporary Art (NHGCA) started 2022 with a solo show from Chicago-based Puerto Rican artist Vanessa Viruet. In *PAÑUELXS*, Viruet utilized materials such as bandanas, hoop earrings, cars, and found objects to investigate gender roles, cultural identity and socioeconomic experiences. As part of the exhibition we hosted a temporary public art piece across the street from the Gallery in MacClure Square—a huge bandana-printed car cover over a vehicle, which spoke to car culture and machismo in Latino culture.

After multiple Covid-related delays, Indianapolis' Big Car Collaborative presented the Social Alchemy Symposium, a multi-day gathering around design, art, architecture, community and "world-building." As part of this program, NHGCA hosted an exhibition and artist talk examining themes around the search for utopia. For us, this was a specific time to address the questions: "What is this search for utopia, and who is it for?"

Later in the spring we presented Residence VI, our annual exhibition showcasing artists from New Harmony Clay Project. Nine residents presented their works, exploring different processes and concepts through the medium of ceramics. Chicago-based artist Modou Dieng Yacine's exhibition was our first show after some major gallery improvements including new lighting. Dieng Yacine's Utopia Land featured brightly colored paintings built on architectural imagery from New Orleans and his hometown of Saint-Louis, Senegal. Cass Davis' Revelations featured sculpture, textile, painting, and video works that reflected on the complexities of their own small-town, midwestern roots. Materials such as corn, hay and the roadside billboard—and an installation of a revival tent on the gallery's second floor—were combined with woven textiles depicting archival imagery. While familiar and nostalgic, Davis encourages audiences to look deeper and layered into the histories of a place.



Our most recent exhibition was Filled Up 3, a juried ceramic cup show that we presented in partnership with our friends at New Harmony Clay Project. We were

thrilled to bring Malcolm Mobutu Smith to town to be the exhibition's juror, and to present an artist's talk about his amazing work.

In addition to our core exhibitions, we have been gradually building out additional programs. New Harmony Second Saturdays, occurring in New Harmony every second Saturday from March–November, has grown in participation and popularity since its launch last fall. New Harmony Second Saturdays is a great way to draw out-of-town guests through a variety of events, sales and special projects.

We hosted three exhibitions in BG Projects, our student-led exhibition space. We began with a group exhibition curated by Chey Miller, then a solo exhibition by recent USI alum Ally Hinton, and, most recently, an exhibition of ceramic lamps by USI Ceramic II students activated our back gallery space.

The Gallery Shop is a great way for us to celebrate the artists in the region, and in 2022 we've brought in many new artists and artworks. There's always something interesting and unique to discover in our Gallery Shop.

After an active 2022, we are in a wonderful position to present exciting exhibitions and programs in the new year. On Saturday, January 21 we'll open our next exhibition with sculptures and drawings by Melanie Cooper Pennington and a student exhibition with USI's Art Club. We look forward to seeing you at New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art in 2023!

November 2022



### **Iris Williamson**

*Revelations*, a solo exhibition featuring Chicago-based artist Cass Davis, has closed. During Davis' two visits to New Harmony, they embraced a deep dive into the New Harmony archive, engaged with USI students and faculty through an artist talk on campus, and screened their video works in New Harmony at Working Men's Institute. It was great to see Davis respond to the town's history and architecture through their exhibition and an activation of the second floor of the gallery—an installation of *Tabernacle*, a hand-made revival tent.



# Historic New Harmony News



- [Assistant Director's Update](#)
- [NHGCA Update](#)
- [Indiana State Museum Update](#)
- [Historic New Harmony News](#)
- [History Lesson](#)
- [Advisory Board Spotlight](#)

## Subscribe



## Events



## FEBRUARY 2023

### Atheneum Update

Claire Eagle, Community Engagement Manager

The Atheneum reopens on March 1 after a very busy off season. In addition to the Atheneum roof tiles being replaced, the wooden floors were refinished, drywall repairs were completed and paint touch ups are happening as I type this. Before the reopening, we'll also be stocking the Museum Shop with new and returning favorites including redware by Bee Tree Pottery, historic toys like Jacob's ladder and new jewelry designs. All that's missing at the Atheneum is you! The Atheneum will be open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. We're excited to welcome you back and hope you'll visit soon.

DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023



### A Look Ahead

Leslie Townsend, Director of Community Engagement and Historic New Harmony  
This time of year provides an opportunity to reflect on the past 12 months, but to also look ahead to what the new year will bring. For Historic New Harmony, 2023 will bring some changes to our team.



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Our search for the Experience Coordinator is currently underway. This position is responsible for hiring, training and supervising the staff at the Atheneum Visitors Center, including the tour guides, and scheduling special group tours and field trips. In addition, they are also in charge of our property rentals. If you know anyone who would be interested, please refer them the University of Southern Indiana Employment Opportunities page or you can find the job posting here:

<https://usi.peopleadmin.com/postings/10401>

I am also pleased to announce that Diane Sanders has accepted the Assistant Director position and will be starting in her new role this winter. Diane has an MFA in Museum Exhibition Planning and Design from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and a BS in Historic Preservation and Human Environmental Studies from Southeast Missouri State. She worked at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center for the past 10 years where her most recent role was Exhibits Specialist. Prior to that she worked as a Senior Exhibit Designer for the Missouri Historical Society/Missouri History Museum. Diane also completed an internship at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC, while in graduate school.

After the first of the year, Claire Eagle will resume her role as Community Engagement Manager and will continue to work on developing programs and exploring ways to increase USI faculty and student involvement in New Harmony. I can't thank Claire enough for the excellent job she has done as Interim Assistant Director for the past year and a half. Her work ethic, creativity and dedication have been instrumental to us during this time.

In addition to staff changes, the New Year will also see the long-awaited return of one of our most beloved programs. We are happy to announce that Heritage Artisans Days will be in person this year for the first time in three years. It was canceled in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic and we went virtual in 2021 and 2022. This year we are ready to welcome schoolchildren, teachers and parents from all over the tri-state to see what life was like in the early 1800s. Many of our most popular artisans will be returning for live demonstrations and we are also planning

some new additions this year. The dates are April 12 – 14 and more information will be available soon.

These are just a few things we are looking ahead to in the New Year. I wish everyone the happiest of holidays and best wishes for a happy, safe and healthy 2023.

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### **2022 Historic New Harmony Advisory Board Accomplishments**

Katie Waters, Board Chair

The members of Historic New Harmony’s Advisory Board are passionate about New Harmony—its history as a utopian community and its contemporary role in preserving that legacy and serving as a forward-thinking site for education and innovation. In 2022, the Advisory Board played an active role in assisting, initiating and implementing projects in support of this very special place. Here are some of the events that the HNH Advisory Board was involved with.

#### Spring – International Student Dinner

Spring is a lovely season in New Harmony. The Advisory Board created an Easter Experience for 21



international students who remained on the University of Southern Indiana (USI) campus during the break. The students took a tour of sites that reflected New Harmony's spiritual history and enjoyed a classic Easter dinner in Community House No. 2, prepared and served by an ad hoc group of Advisory Board members. After dinner, students discussed Easter and spring traditions in their countries and learned about the United States'. It was a great way to connect with USI students that was enjoyed by all.

#### Summer - Summer Hat Luncheon

Our June project was a festive fundraiser in the New Harmony Granary—The Summer Hat Luncheon. The sold-out event featured a delicious lunch, music and prizes for the best and most creative hats. Historic New Harmony Board members on the Special Events Committee worked hard to plan, decorate and facilitate the luncheon, and several also participated as table servers. The luncheon celebrated the 200th anniversary of the Door of Promise, the original entry to the Harmonist Church, and featured the Golden Rose, found on its pediment, as the luncheon's motif.



Fall – USI  
Freshman  
New  
Harmony.  
Experience  
Fall ushered in the most ambitious project of the year: the USI Freshmen Student

New Harmony Experience. On September 13, over 1,000 USI first-years were transported to New Harmony, where they experienced its history and culture and learned about educational and internship opportunities there. They also discovered USI is the only state university in Indiana to have stewardship of such special historic sites. The three 3-hour sessions also allowed students time to independently explore the historic properties, nature trails, shops and restaurants. This was a major undertaking and USI faculty, administration and staff, and Historic New Harmony staff and Advisory Board members all worked tirelessly to make the day a great success.

#### Winter – New Harmony Holiday House tour

Lastly, December brings holiday celebrations, and Historic New Harmony joined with the New Harmony Business Associates, the Indiana State Museum and the Working Men’s Institute in an annual weekend-long series of events that opened the holiday season December 2 - 4. Historic New Harmony Board members served as tour guides for the Double Log Cabin, one of the homes on the 2022 Holiday House tour. Over 200 visitors learned how pioneers celebrated Christmas in the 1800s. The members of the Historic New Harmony Advisory Board are to be commended warmly for their active and dedicated service. The Board looks forward to continuing its work to advance the Utopian legacy of New Harmony in 2023. Best wishes for a peaceful and joyous holiday season!

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#### **Small World Connections: Stories That Unite Us**

Heidi Doss, Historic New Harmony Advisory Board Member and Interpreter

In a time when the world’s problems seem bigger than life and frustratingly insurmountable, the small world connections we make with others and the world around us bring hope for solutions and a brighter future. When we take the time to talk, share and listen, it’s the encounters we create that bring us together and help us realize it is a small world after all.

On any given day at the Atheneum visitor center in New Harmony, people walk through the doors hoping to find a bathroom, rent a golf cart or get advice on how to make the most of their time in this little town along the Wabash River. Conversations

range from where to get a bite to eat, how to explore the town, why the bridge closed and what exactly is a labyrinth. There is usually a lot of pointing, looking at brochures and maps, and then folks are on their way to a New Harmony adventure. These interactions have the potential to offer more if extra effort is taken.

On occasion, and I believe with increasing frequency, are the conversations that can lead to deeper personal connections. This happens because visitors are drawn to New Harmony and have often gone out of their way to visit. Maybe they are in search of their own utopia, new philosophies, ideas and ways of societal living or just someone to talk to. Whatever the case, they are ready to engage and with a willing participant, conversations begin and connections are made. Let me share a few examples.

The most obvious connections in the Atheneum center around an interest and love for all things New Harmony. My tours are often two hours long so when a visitor chooses to join me, I believe there must be a true appreciation and interest in the history I will share and the philosophical discussions that may take place. One such connection was made about a year ago. These visitors enjoyed the tour and were inspired to go beyond and explore more deeply. By the time they returned to Chicago, they were hooked. This year, I was pleasantly surprised when they returned to seek me out and do it all over again. I believe their connection to New Harmony was strengthened by our friendship and they will return time and again to fill their hearts and minds.

Asking a guest where they are from is not just a way for us to gauge Historic New Harmony's reach into the world but also a gateway to connecting with them on a more personal level. Recently while escorting a gentleman up to see the introductory film, I asked him where he called home. He replied Minnesota, but then looked at me with a smile and said but my roots are in Indiana. Mine too, I said. Where in Indiana? Rushville, he replied. Do you know where that is? Why yes of course, I do. I grew up there and my dad and sister still live in Rushville. What is your name, I asked? Phillip Willkie was his reply. Oh my gosh, you mean the Wendell Willkie? With another smile, yes, he said, I am his grandson. The Wendel

Willkie who ran for president in 1940. A week before meeting Phillip, I had been discussing with my parents the fact my mother taught some of Wendell Willkie's grandchildren how to swim. It turns out, Phillip was not one of them, but a connection had already been made. The conversation continued, and the connections grew in number from relatives who live in the Minneapolis area to a mutual connection with Northland College in Wisconsin. By the time we said goodbye, Phillip and I felt like long lost friends.

If I sense or know a visitor has been traveling, asking where and why is another way to connect. As a former National Park Interpretive ranger, I have an intimate relationship with National Parks. When somebody indicates they have been visiting one, a connection is instantly made and a conversation ensues. Often there is mutual respect for the natural world and sometimes a link with a specific park. This summer a young family traveling across the country visiting various parks and historic sites spent time in New Harmony. In short order, I found out they were park rangers currently working for Yellowstone National Park. We chatted about mutual friends, our jobs with the Park and of course a shared love for Yellowstone. We also discovered both our families homeschooled and had a strong environmental ethic. They too were worried about the future of our planet and their children. Our shared time made it easier for me to personalize their visit to New Harmony. Before we said goodbye, phone numbers and hugs were exchanged, maybe never to be used or shared again but a forever connection was made.

My life has been made richer after meeting these New Harmony visitors, and others, whose stories are now told here. Chance encounters, yes, or maybe not. Open minds and open hearts lead us to make connections with people and places that have long lasting impacts on our future selves. And realize it is a small world after all.

NOVEMBER 2022



### **Christmas in New Harmony**

Claire Eagle, Interim Assistant Director

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NOVEMBER 2022



**Jess McPherson, New Harmony State Historic Site Coordinator**

Every year, New Harmony turns into a Hallmark movie during the first weekend of December. The town held its famous annual festival, Christmas in New Harmony, December 2-4 and it was a blast. This was my second time working and attending the weekend festivities and if you haven't made it out to see it for yourself, you really should next year. This was also the second year the Indiana State Museum opened the doors of Community House No. 2 for artisan vendors. We also provided space for the Children's Center for Dance Education to host their performance of "The Nutcracker." In addition to these events, New Harmony also offers a tree lighting ceremony, a pub crawl, horse-drawn carriage rides, a gnome scavenger hunt and many more fun activities for visitors and families to enjoy. The town is filled with music, laughter and the enchanting smell of fresh kettle corn and hot chocolate. I wasn't exaggerating when I said the town turns into a Hallmark movie. It really does feel like you're escaping from a bustling, over-worked life into the quiet magic of a small-town Christmas. It was especially my pleasure to decorate and assist in the Community House artisan sales this year. Not only were the artisans all lovely to

speaking with,  
but they  
also  
brought  
such a  
variety of  
handmade  
crafts.  
Vendors  
brought  
everything  
from  
homemade  
tea to 3D-  
printed  
Christmas  
ornaments,



each item made from a labor of love. As always, I am already excited for next year's Christmas in New Harmony. If you're interested in making your way to town for the next first weekend of December, I suggest looking into booking a stay now. The town fills up quickly with visitors coming to enjoy the weekend!

NOVEMBER 2022



### **Jess McPherson, New Harmony State Historic Site Coordinator**

This year, it was my pleasure to prep and plan a spooky program for the New Harmony State Historic Site to host in October. I decided I wanted to try to put on a murder mystery party. To make this event special, I chose to write the mystery myself. This was an ambitious experiment on my part, but I am happy to say that we sold out our tickets and had an amazing time!