

You are cordially invited

Unveiling of the History of Industry Sculptures

Friday, September 21, 2018

Opening Ceremony ~ 5:30-5:45 p.m.

Washington Ave Park at S. 11th Ave.

**Ride your bicycle or take a brisk walk along the
Alpena Bi-Path between locations from 5:45 and 6:15 p.m.**

Parking available at both locations for those driving between sites.

Concluding Ceremony ~ 6:15-7:00 p.m.

Van Lare Hall (east lawn near pavilion)

Alpena Community College

Light Refreshments Served

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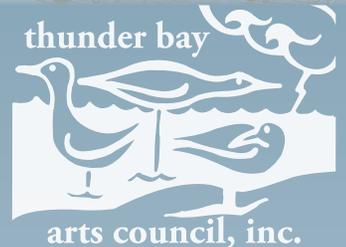
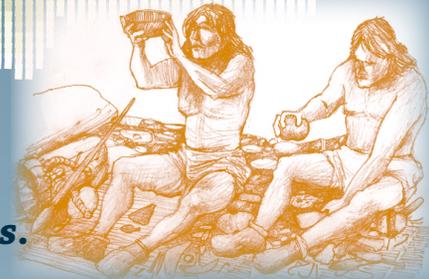
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The History of Industry As Told by the Alpena Bi-Path Sculptures

Sculpture 1 – Native American Copper Processing

Mike Lempinen of Negaunee, Michigan

Bas-relief of Native Americans processing copper; Bronze

Sculpture height 2' – width 3'

Stone height 6' – width 7' – weight approximately 7-8 tons

Located on the campus of Alpena Community College

Writer Solstice Sunrise – 131° (Azimuth)

This relief sculpture of two Native Americans titled, *Indigenous Copper Workers*, captures the industry and ingenuity of native peoples who first lived and worked these lands. Tools, weapons and ornaments were fashioned on this very site thousands of years ago and along the Thunder Bay River with copper transported from numerous copper mines throughout Michigan. Artifacts from the era and this very site are on exhibit at the Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan.

Sculpture 2 – Fisheries, Hunting and Farming

Ann Gildner of Iron One Studio, Onaway, Michigan

Collage of indigenous fish; Steel stainless steel, copper, brass

Sculpture height 4' – width 3'

Stone height 6.5' – width 6' – weight approximately 7-8 tons

Located on the campus of Alpena Community College

Directional South

This diverse school of fish made of various metals represents the importance of fishing, hunting and living off the land through the bounty of nature. Both ancient and modern people have used various natural resources to sustain life with nourishment and for enhancing ways of life with trade, recreation and sport. While farming and hunting are equally pivotal to the sustainability of populations and economy throughout the region over time, the importance of sustaining healthy eco-systems and a pristine Sanctuary of the Great Lakes is best represented by this school of fish (Trout, Bluegill, Perch and Crappie) from the fresh waters of the Thunder Bay River and Lake Huron.

Sculpture 3 – Forestry, Timber, Lumber and Paper

Sharon Smithem of Charlevoix, Michigan

Mosaic of white pines along the Thunder Bay River; Clay tile

Thomas Harmon of Alpena, Michigan (Frame; Cedar)

Sculpture height 4' – width 3'

Stone height 9.5' – width 4' – weight approximately 7-8 tons

Located on the campus of Alpena Community College

Writer Solstice Sunset – 245° (Azimuth)

Timber, lumber, and paper production played a significant role in Alpena's economic development from the mid to late 19th Century and into the present, morphing as required to meet market demands. The forests of Northeast Michigan helped build numerous communities, including Detroit and Chicago, and still provide lucrative raw material and recreational opportunities for locals and tourists alike. These 36 tiles in one mosaic represent the forestry, timber, lumber, and paper industries emerging from the forests of the region and how lumbering, water, transportation, and industry are integrally intertwined in an ever-evolving economy with firm foundation in the woods of Northeast Michigan. The White Pine, the Thunder Bay River, and Lake Huron are iconic images of interrelated economies of past, present, and future.

Sculpture 4 – Concrete Technologies

Timothy M. Kuehnlein, Jr. and Jean Stewart

(Alpena Community College and Thunder Bay Arts Council, Inc.)

Kevin Curtis, Brian Siegert, Brandon Ciupka,

and Candie Dombroski (Besser Company)

Collage of original Besser Block-Machine gears and cams

Sculpture height 5' – width 4'

Stone height 5.5' – width 8' – weight approximately 7-8 tons

Located on the campus of Alpena Community College

Directional West

Limestone, cement, and concrete industries have been a mainstay for local economic and educational development since the evolution of the lumber industry in the early 1900s. As the timber resources exhausted, market demand for new technology and economic growth increased. Alpena and all of Northeast Michigan embraced industrial reforms and diversification by virtue of ingenuity and steadfast initiative. The region's presence on the Great Lakes would prove to be a vital component of global trade and transport, ensuring an effective shift towards the cement and concrete markets. Limestone would opportunistically prove to be the true "salt of the earth" for future economic development in the region.

Besser Company's rich history in the concrete industry is humbly reflected in the limestone pillars at the center of the entire History of Industry Sculpture Series. The sculptural collection of Besser block machine gears and cams (circa 1929) is representative of the heart and mechanics of closely interrelated technologies and industries that have sustained this community's economy in its most modern manifestations, propelling the region to global relevance.

Lest we forget other economic contributions made by Jesse Besser, the Sculpture Series has been aptly placed on the very spot where the Besser-Churchill Company, a sawmill producing wooden shingles and barrel staves, once stood. A bronze plaque now reclaimed for this installation commemorates Jesse Besser and his contributions to the community and specifically the creation of the original Besser Block Machine.

Sculpture 5 – Healthcare and Education

Scott Stevens of Alpena, Michigan

(Stevens Custom Fabrication)

Relief of helping hands; Aluminum

Sculpture height 5' – width 4'

Stone height 5.5' – width 8' – weight approximately 7-8 tons

Located on the campus of Alpena Community College

Summer Solstice Sunset – 313° (Azimuth)

This silhouette of helping hands represents the fortitude of communities building support structures that enhance strength, creativity, and productivity to make individuals and communities healthy, wealthy, wise, and sustainable. Healthcare and education are pillars supporting community viability and are a legacy of overall economic and community development. They are undercurrents of timeless necessity for a vibrant society/community and comprise the foundation for modern economic and community prosperity. Alpena and Northeast Michigan have a rich history of providing local access to superior healthcare and education, including higher education, for their citizens.

Sculpture 6 – Recreation and Tourism

Jacob Idema of Alpena, Michigan

Hand forged historic high-wheel bicycle; Steel and copper

Sculpture height 6' – width 4'

Stone height 7' – width 5' – weight approximately 4 tons

Located at Washington Avenue Park, corner of Washington Avenue and S 11th Avenue

This sculpture represents the importance of recreation and tourism in Alpena and Northeast Michigan. It celebrates the timeless value of such activities for overall economic and community development, health and prosperity, especially in a modern economy. Hand forged to represent an historic high-wheel bicycle, this sculpture is life size. The representation of an historic bicycle evokes the original spirit of the Alpena Bi-Path as the "Alpena Sculptured Walkway/Bikeway," a project commemorating our nation's Bicentennial celebration in 1976. The bicycle is placed leaning against a pillar of limestone as if someone had been riding along the "Sculptured" Bi-Path and decided to stop and take a leisurely swim in the Thunder Bay River and the wildlife sanctuary at the heart of the City of Alpena.