



The Kutsche Chronicle

www.gvsu.edu/kutsche

Fall 2015

In this Issue

Nuestra Comunidad (Holland)

“Walking Beyond Our Ancestors’ Footsteps” Exhibit

7th Annual Local History Roundtable

1st Annual African American Art and Music Celebration

Membership Campaign

Photo credit: Bri Luginbill

Nuestra Comunidad Hispana Launches in Holland



Nuestra Comunidad Hispana started as an initiative to share the stories of Hispanic Americans who came to Holland and settled in the community.

"We wanted to celebrate the contribution of those Hispanic Americans who first came to Holland," says Esther Fifelski, Human/International Relations Manager. However, the partners started to talk about how to launch this initiative it was apparent the project had a larger scope than anticipated.

"This became the perfect opportunity to draw on the expertise of my Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies colleague, Melanie Shell-Weiss and the capabilities of the Kutsche Office of Local History," says Lisa Miller, Director of the Meijer Campus in Holland.

The Kutsche Office of Local History has played an important role in helping people and communities preserve their history. The stories were collected between August and October when the community will celebrate its rich Hispanic heritage. The portraits and stories collected as part of this initiative are the subject of a bi-lingual exhibit that will be on display at the Herrick District Library, 300 S. River Ave., in Holland, during November 2015.

The City of Holland, Herrick District Library, Grand Valley State University's Meijer Campus in Holland (GVSU), Latin Americans United for Progress (LAUP) and St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, and Grand Valley State University's Kutsche Office of Local History are collaborating on this initiative.



Kutsche Office Fall Interns

Crisol Beliz



Crisols' name means the melting pot in Spanish. She is a senior liberal studies major studying systems of oppression. She is a McNair scholar and has done two summers of research; first on Chicano poetry, and then on Latino-police relations in Chicago. The president of Advocates for

Immigration Reform, Crisol hopes to earn a PhD in Latin@ studies. She enjoys volunteering in the community, and tries to be as involved as possible with Latinos in West Michigan.

Kassie O'Brien



Kassie O'Brien is a senior at Grand Valley with a double major in Spanish and International Relations and a minor in International Business. Last fall semester, she studied abroad in Quito, Ecuador, where she got firsthand experience in the Latin American culture and language that she loves so much. Kassie is pursuing her

dream career in Spanish interpretation and translation, and in her free time she loves to travel, play volleyball, cook, and read.

Upcoming Events

Walking beyond Our Ancestors' Footsteps: An Urban Native Experience

Tuesday, November 3, 6pm — Exhibit Opening
Wednesday, November 18, 6pm — Campus Dialogue
Mary Idema Pew Library Multipurpose Room and Exhibition Space

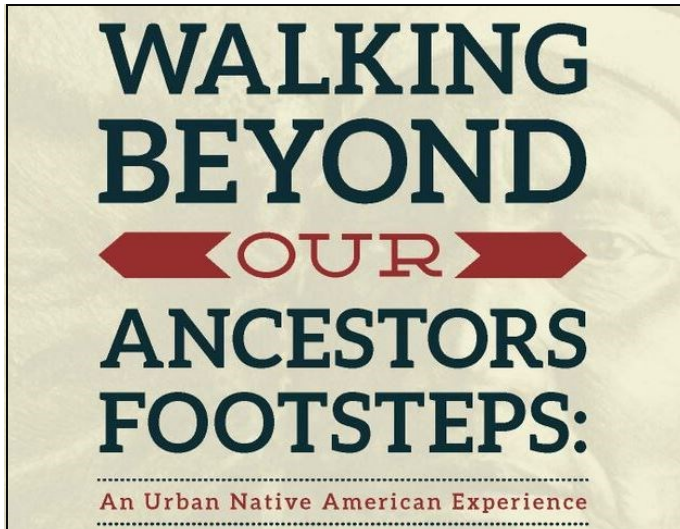
Nuestra Comunidad Public Reception

Monday, December 7, time TBA
Herrick District Library, 300 S. River St., Holland
visit www.gvsu.edu/kutsche for more information and time

7th Annual Local History Roundtable

Thursday, March 24, 2016
Mary Idema Pew Library Multipurpose Room
visit www.gvsu.edu/kutsche for more information

Grand Rapids Native American Community Exhibition Part of GVSU during Native American Heritage Month



ALLENDALE, MICHIGAN — Grand Valley State University's Kutsche Office of Local History will host an exhibition, *"Walking beyond Our Ancestors' Footsteps: An Urban Native Experience,"* beginning November 3 at the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons on the Allendale Campus.

"Walking beyond Our Ancestors' Footsteps: An Urban Native Experience" will be part of several events planned to celebrate Native American Heritage Month during November at Grand Valley. The exhibition will conclude with a campus dialogue on November 18.

The new exhibition is beginning of a series that will highlight Native Americans living in the Grand Rapids area during the last half-century. It is a small portion of the work completed in conjunction with the *"Gi-gikinomaage-min (We are all teachers): Defend Our History, Unlock Your Spirit"* project that kicked off last fall by the Kutsche Office of Local History.

Levi Rickert, a tribal citizen of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, was among the planners of the exhibition.

"The exhibit is truly a collaborative effort of the whole community that Grand Rapids can take considerable pride" Rickert said, "The exhibition shows the strength and resiliency of our local Native community that can trace our ancestry back hundreds of years to where Grand Valley's Allendale campus is today."

The exhibition contains historic documents and objects made by local Native Americans during the past several decades.

After the exhibition ends at Grand Valley, it will travel to the Grand Rapids Public Library in January.



The exhibition collaborators are the Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Public Library, and Grand Valley's Kutsche Office of Local History, Native American Advisory Board, Office of Multicultural Affairs, and Special Collections & Archives.



7th Annual Local History Roundtable

Thursday, March 24, 2016

Mary Idema Pew Library, GVSU Allendale Campus

Registration opens in November. Please join us.

Focused on "Changing Communities" the meeting will explore how West Michigan cities like Grand Rapids, Holland, and Muskegon have transformed over the past century and more.

Highlights include a keynote address by Professor Todd Robinson, author of *A City Within a City: The Black Freedom Struggle in Grand Rapids*. Professor Robinson is a specialist in urban and African-American history. He is currently an Associate Professor of History at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. Panel discussions on the annual theme and a dinner business meeting for museums, library/archives, and historical society staff are other highlights of this year's meeting.

Friends of the Kutsche Office always receive free admission to the Roundtable among other benefits.





1st Annual African American Art and Music Celebration

by George Bayard III

During the first weekend of Grand Rapids ArtPrize this year, the 1st annual African American Art and Music Celebration was born. Members of the African American community and ArtPrize wanted to find a means of bringing more diversity to the world's largest art competition. 3rd ward city commissioners Lenear and Lumpkins along with businessman Don Everette and Museum Director and Kutsche Local History Councilmember George Bayard III came together with the city of Grand Rapids to create this Celebration of art and music during ArtPrize7. The weekend offered jazz, reggae, and rhythm and blues music; food from Jamaica, Ethiopia and backyard barbeque. The Celebration gave artists an opportunity to sell their creations and African artifacts were sold all while enjoying the ArtPrize pieces in Calder Plaza.

The Grand Rapids African American Museum and Archives, a co-sponsor of the event, used the opportunity to launch the "Grandma's Voices" Oral History Project by interviewing 5 generations of one family, live on stage. The Michigan Humanities Council funded project was assisted by Grand Valley State University's Kutsche Office which provided equipment and expertise to the interview. The Craft family explored their southern roots and migration to West Michigan. The 30+ Grandma's Voices interviews will be a center point of GRAAMA once it opens next year. When the audience experienced the history of this family, many signed up to have their loved ones recorded. GRAAMA is extremely grateful to the Kutsche Office for helping this project get off to a roaring start.

Membership Campaign

Grand Valley State University is Proud to Announce the Kutsche Office Membership Campaign!

The Kutsche Office of Local History is home to the Local History Roundtable as well as different projects helping local groups and people preserve, protect and retain history that is important to them. This is accomplished through oral histories, supervised internships and fellowships, faculty directed projects and the work of experts in their specific fields.

Together these programs support the mission of the Kutsche Office in fostering an appreciation of the common challenges, common destiny, and common humanity of all of us. This is accomplished in part by bringing members of the West Michigan community, students and faculty together to share knowledge and resources about topics of common interest, building an understanding of history that is both exciting and relevant in today's challenging times.

You can be a part of this exciting initiative by becoming a Friend of the Kutsche Office of Local History by making a gift of \$45. Your gift will allow you discounts to future programs (see [previous page for upcoming events]).

To make your gift online, please go to www.gvsu.edu/giving/givenow. Or you may mail a check to:

**Grand Valley State University,
Kutsche Office of Local History
PO Box 2005
Grand Rapids MI 49501-2005**

You will receive an acknowledgement and receipt for your gift as your gift helps to preserve local history in our communities.

