



# OCEAN



# BOUND!

Ocean Bound! takes you on an exploration through our watersheds, oceans, aquatic animals, and the ecosystems that depend on them. This interactive exhibit shows us how our everyday actions on land affect our environment.

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Due to the COVID-19 crisis the Museum is temporarily  
**CLOSED**  
until Fall 2020  
Please check  
[kalamazoomuseum.org](http://kalamazoomuseum.org)  
for updates

# From the Director



Bill McElhone

The COVID-19 crisis will forever be a part of our collective story. In March, the Museum temporarily closed as part of a national response to the pandemic. During this closure, the Museum's Collections staff put out a call for stories and pictures that document the crisis as it unfolds locally. I'm also asking readers to share stories and be part of the historical record on the response to COVID-19. See page 17 for

details about how you can share your stories of everyday life while "sheltering in place."

During the closure, Museum staff continue to work hard from home to develop new online experiences that will be rolled out in the coming months. Please visit [kalamazoomuseum.org](http://kalamazoomuseum.org) to take a virtual tour, check out the online Collections database featuring over 21,000 searchable records, and sign up to get the latest about "What's new at the Museum!"

Plans for reopening call for a phased-in approach that will have staff returning this summer to prepare for a gradual reopening to the public by the end of summer or early fall. Like everyone, we do miss the daily face-to-face interactions, but until then, please continue to be safe and healthy. Know that the museum founded in 1927 will come back stronger and with more innovative programming and experiences. Moving forward knowing that we are all in this together will make our journey that much better.

When our doors reopen, the Museum will take a dive into several exhibits related to rivers, lakes, and oceans. In addition, through the lens of WWMT, meteorologists, and personal accounts, we are looking back 40 years at the Kalamazoo tornado. The Museum is also stepping into the ring with a new exhibit to shine a light on the little-known story of the Kalamazoo Boxing Academy.

The Forgotten Fighters of the Kalamazoo Boxing Academy opens through January 24, 2021, featuring images, videos, and artifacts exploring the gym's legacy. The late Dacia Bridges did most of the heavy lifting in gathering research, conducting interviews, and rallying interest in completing her vision to share this amazing story. For more information, see pages 4 – 5.

When the Museum reopens, please consider sharing your talents by volunteering. Please visit the website or call to learn how to get involved, and for more details about our online programs and other activities.

Make it a wonderful summer full of fun and living well. museON, everyone!



# museON

summer**2020**

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# museON

summer**2020**

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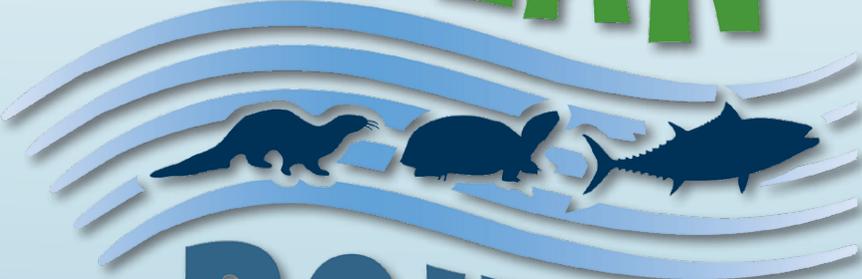
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# OCEAN BOUND!



This fall, the Kalamazoo Valley Museum will host the traveling exhibit Ocean Bound! Watch for confirmed dates as the Museum's schedule is set after reopening. Ocean Bound! uses interactive displays to help visitors understand watersheds, recognize threats to watersheds, find solutions, and implement change. Visitors embark on a journey through watersheds to see how people's actions on land affect oceans. Ocean Bound! presents fun environmental science for the whole family.

Four themed exhibit clusters invite visitors to learn about watersheds and the ocean, and the aquatic animals and ecosystems that depend on them:

**Using Science to Understand Watersheds** introduces the exhibition. Here, visitors move a rain cloud over a 3-D terrain model to see how water cascades down mountains, collects in rivers, and flows out to the ocean. Interact with a large backlit map to find out where our watershed is in North America and where it flows. Flip five clear tubes to learn how different substances and pollutants in water travel to sea. Then pilot a life-size submersible from a mountain stream to the ocean, discovering aquatic life and habitats along the way. Spin the dial for eye-popping HD underwater footage, frame-by-frame, slow motion, or super-fast speed. Be a biologist and discover fun facts about more than 65 aquatic life forms encountered on your watershed journey.

**Recognizing Threats to Watersheds:** No matter where we reside, we all depend on our ocean and its resources for medicine, jobs, oxygen, and much more. Find out the importance of a healthy ocean as you watch videos of marine life. An eight-station interactive ball machine represents how water and pollutants flow down storm drains and into waterways. As colored balls cascade

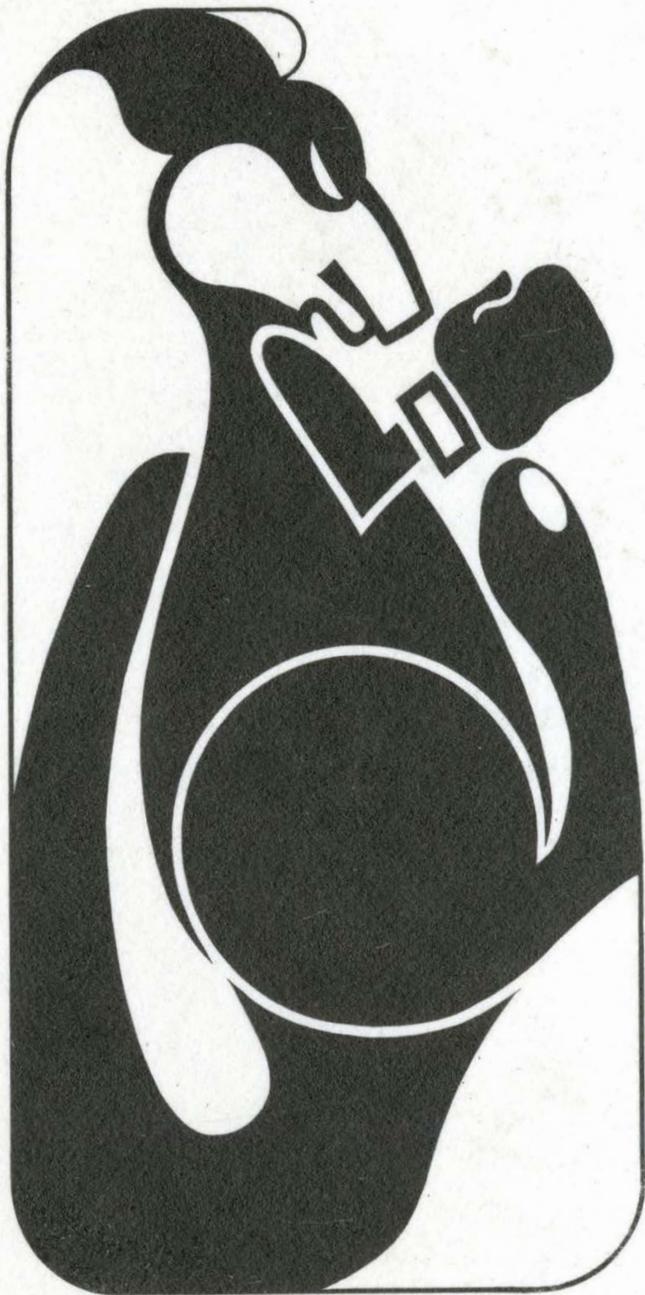
rapidly from a storm drain at the top, spin knobs and flip paddles to divert pollutants and let clean water travel to the ocean. How much fresh water do you use? Stack color-coded bags representing different types of water usage on a large, interactive scale to show your water consumption. Can you balance your fresh water use with what's needed in nature? Then guide water safely to sea through a maze on its journey from land to ocean—but beware of hazards like mined metals, oil, fertilizer, and animal waste.

**Finding Solutions:** Visitors may be surprised to learn that otters nearly vanished from their natural habitat. After waterways were cleaned up, the otters made a comeback. Watch a video showing otters eating and romping in snow and then learn how biologists captured, examined, and reintroduced otters to their original habitat in this success story of watershed recovery. Did you know that ocean dead zones are actually reversible, and that you can help save marine animals and birds by changing your habits on land? Find some empowering solutions here!

**Implementing Change:** Duck inside a Riverside Clubhouse and use a kid-friendly touchscreen showing both helpful and harmful behaviors that affect the watershed—spot the polluters and be a Watershed Warrior. Families can curl up in the Clubhouse and enjoy illustrated books about watersheds, aquatic animals, and conservation. At Stop! Think!, watch videos connecting human actions with environmental impact: bad habits lead to polluted environments, and good habits sustain healthy environments. Ocean Bound! drives home the fact that we can help lots of animals and the watershed just by changing our behaviors.

*The exhibition was created by the Sciencenter of Ithaca, New York, with funding from NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association.*

# The Forgotten Fighters of the **KALAMAZOO BOXING ACADEMY**



## **The Kalamazoo Boxing Academy**

America's love affair with sports is an ever-changing reflection of the times. Boxing hit its peak popularity in the mid-1800s. A hundred years later, the advent of the television led to a rebirth of the sport for both fans and athletes. Names like Joe Louis, Ray Robinson, Rocky Marciano, and Muhammad Ali became larger than life and inspired a new generation of local talent right here in Kalamazoo.

A new exhibit, *The Forgotten Fighters of the Kalamazoo Boxing Academy*, explores the story of a local boxing gym cultivated by manager and promoter Henry Grooms and trainer Eddy Bridges during the sport's resurgence from the 1960s to 80s.

The two men, both former athletes, were not local to Kalamazoo and yet became as committed to the community as they were to winning tournaments. After retiring as a professional football player, Henry Grooms began a career in law enforcement, which landed him in Kalamazoo in 1963. Around the same time, Edward "Eddy" Bridges transferred to Kalamazoo from a General Motors plant in Flint. An ex-boxer of notable talent, Bridges partnered with Grooms to create a boxing program for youths in the Lincoln School gymnasium on the North Side of Kalamazoo.

As the fledgling program grew, Henry Grooms made it his mission to establish an independent, state-of-the-art gym. He hoped that it would become a place where at-risk youth would find mentorship and achieve personal growth through the sport of boxing. He sought out Ted Parfet, then the CEO of The Upjohn Company, to ask for financial assistance. Touched by Grooms' vision and devotion to the young men of Kalamazoo, the Parfet family and other local donors generously provided the funds necessary to buy a building on North Burdick Street where the Museum's planetarium sits today. The Kalamazoo Boxing Academy (KBA) was born.

Although the KBA went on to cater to renowned professionals such as Muhammad Ali, Leon Spinks, and Floyd Mayweather Sr., its true impact on the community was its continued commitment to young, local sparrers. In 1978, two of the highest ranked amateur boxers in the nation were KBA fighters Shawn Thomas and Eddie B. Stokes. To this day, Eddie Stokes attributes his boxing success to the devoted trainers and community atmosphere provided by the Kalamazoo Boxing Academy. He describes Henry Grooms and Eddy Bridges as "father figures." Oliver Lewis, a middleweight who won three Golden Gloves Tournaments when he was in high school,

credits the Kalamazoo Boxing Academy with helping him stay out of trouble as a teen and providing him with a deep sense of purpose. The KBA folded in the mid-1980s, following Grooms' departure, but during its two-decade run, Bridges made a name for himself as one of the area's top trainers, producing dozens of state champions plus Golden Gloves and Toughman Contest winners along the way.

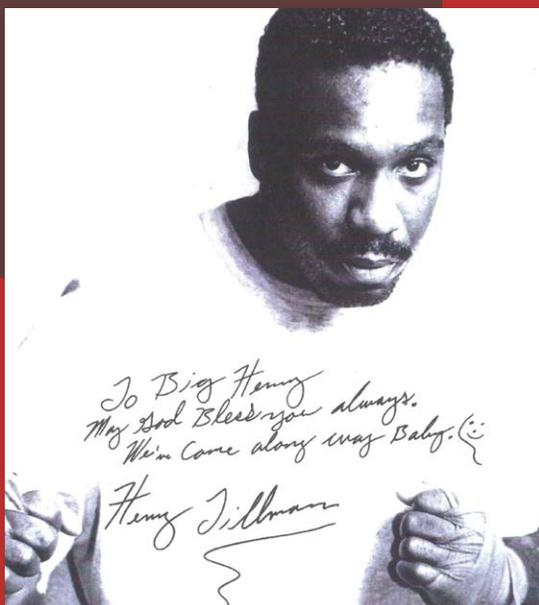
Broken into 10 "rounds" in tribute to the structure of a boxing match, the exhibit will trace the history of the organization while focusing on fighters who recount their personal experiences at the KBA. Details about the gym and the communal living space at the house will be uncovered, along with stories about the fighting techniques and philosophies of the trainers that made the gym in Kalamazoo unique and successful. Coverage by the Kalamazoo Gazette will also be highlighted.

Dacia Bridges, the granddaughter of Eddy Bridges, conducted dozens of recorded interviews with many of those involved at the KBA. She was in the process of completing a documentary on the subject when she passed away suddenly in 2019. Friends at Kalamazoo's Lawrence Productions studio are completing her project, which includes a series of video clips that make up the foundation of the exhibit.

**After reopening, the Museum will host a public reception related to the exhibit. Alumni of the KBA will gather, and the feature documentary will premiere in the Mary Jane Stryker Theater. The remaining musicians from the local band The Dacia Bridges Project, including Cori Somers, Carolyn Koebel, and Sarah Fuerst, will pay tribute to Dacia's work during a special performance. Check [kalamazoomuseum.org](http://kalamazoomuseum.org) for updates on all upcoming programs.**



*Henry Tillman, winner of the 1984 Olympic gold medal for heavyweight boxing, trained under Henry Grooms. Photo c. 1980s*



*Henry Grooms in his office at the KBA gym, c. 1970s*



*Boxing rings used for training at the KBA gym, c. 1970s*

# BIG ASTRONOMY: A NEW PLANETARIUM ADVENTURE AT THE KVM

Join us on Saturday, September 26th, for the global premiere of *Big Astronomy: People, Places & Discoveries* and a tour of the sky seen overhead in the Southern Hemisphere between 2 and 5 p.m. **FREE**

In the 400 plus years since Galileo first turned his simple telescope toward the night sky, the ability of humans to comprehend the universe and the processes that govern it have grown dramatically. This remarkable progression is a result of subsequent generations of people from many parts of the world who have brought diverse skills, new patterns of thinking, and technologies to bear. Over the years, continued innovation has led to the construction of larger and more varied observatories in many parts of the world. Along with advances in imaging that sample different wavelengths of light, this innovation pushed the limits of traditional film photography and created the ancestors of the digital cameras of today.

The seeds of innovation, the placement of the next generation of telescopes, and the people who are collectively probing the secrets of the universe are the topic of a new planetarium show this fall at the KVM planetarium. *Big Astronomy: People, Places & Discoveries* takes people to the Southern Hemisphere, specifically Chile, where the night sky contains stars and constellations that are not visible from Michigan. There, viewers will learn about different types of observatories, recent discoveries, and the questions that people hope to answer.

Funded by the National Science Foundation, *Big Astronomy: People, Places & Discoveries* came about because of the collective energies

of several planetarians who were part of the Astronomy in Chile Educator Ambassadors Program (ACEAP) and wanted to explore a new model of making planetarium shows. One of their chief goals was to help young people and general audiences understand that the operation of a modern astronomical facility requires a team of individuals with diverse skills and careers who can perform different tasks. Another important goal of the project was to help young people envision themselves in a science-related field and acknowledge that it often takes a team of people to make big things happen.

We hope that you will take in one of our showings of *Big Astronomy: People, Places & Discoveries* this fall and check out the KVM's social media site for additional information and opportunities related to this new and exciting production.



JUST ADD WATER:

# *Kalamazoo Folding Boat Company*

Need a boat that is both easy to carry and easy to store? For decades in Kalamazoo, one company had what you needed—The Kalamazoo Folding Boat Company. As early as the 1870s, Charles W. King was designing folding boats, and by 1886, King worked out of his residence on South Rose Street as a “canvass [sic] boat manufacturer.” At the same time, George H. Winans and A. L. Pratt manufactured buggies, surries, wagons, and more at Winans, Pratt & Co. In the late 1880s, King sold his designs to Winans, who began manufacturing under the name King Folding Boat Company on West North Street in 1889.

While the name of the company changed over the years, the main tenets of the products remained—producing collapsible canvas boats. At first, the boats were sold mainly to hunters and fishers. Charles King and George Winans both hauled boats to Canada and Alaska, marketing them to gold seekers heading north. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police ordered a few each year, and during WWI, the Russian navy purchased four to use as landing boats on their warships. They were utilized during WWII for river crossings. Following George Winan’s death in 1927, wife Pauline S. Winans helmed the business until son Paul took over.

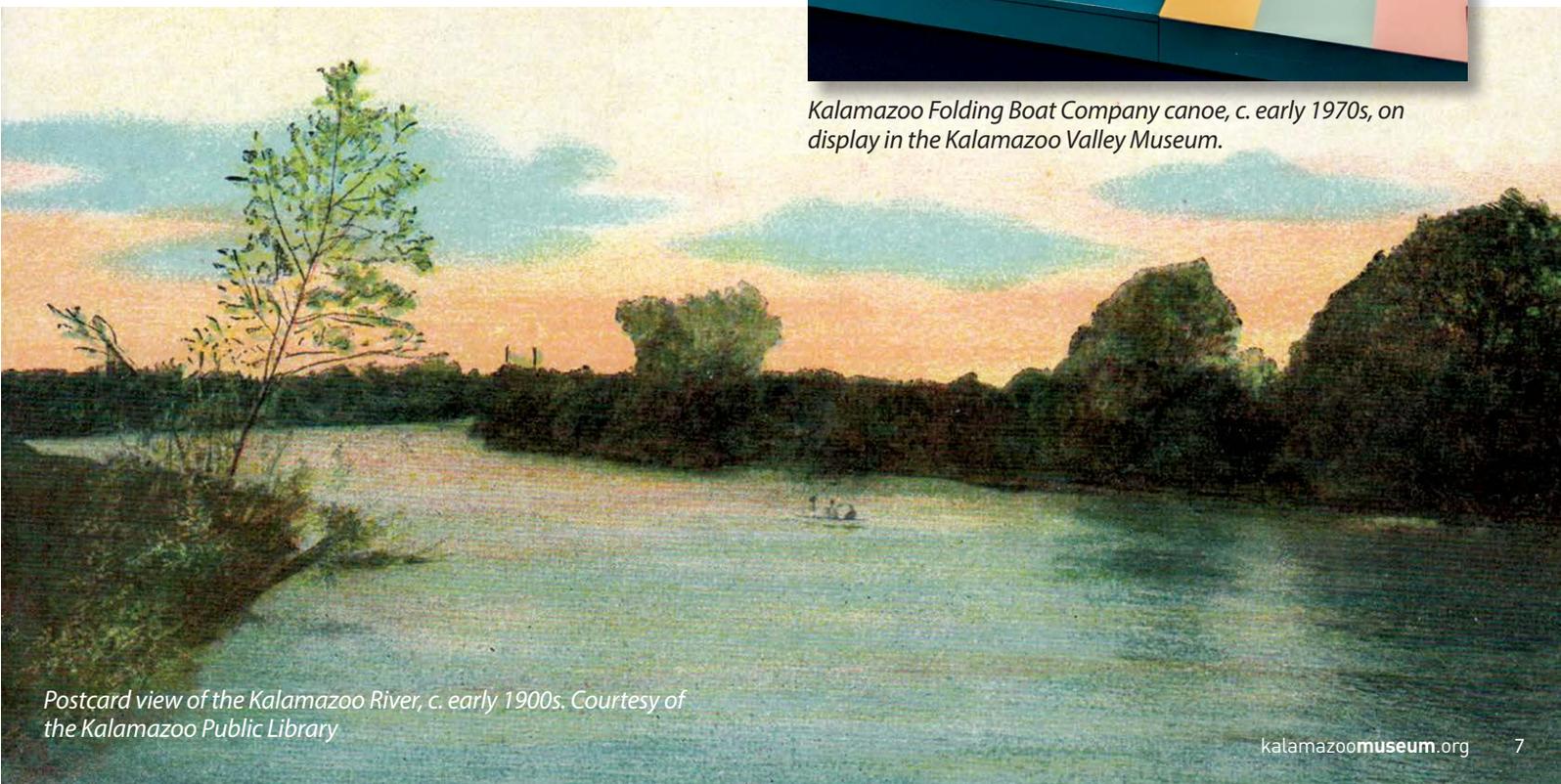
The boats collapsed to one or two bundles at most, none longer than 5 ½ feet, weighing at most 85 pounds, and came with a patch kit. The general design remained the same throughout the

company’s history, with some minor modifications to allow for the mounting of an outboard motor—5 horsepower at most. Their cost in the mid-1960s ranged from \$90 to \$250, and by the 1980s it was \$350 to \$1,000 each. Today, that translates to an average of \$800 to \$2,500.

In 1974, Jim Ash began buying the business, with the patterns and rights still held by Winans. Ash started modernizing, swapping wooden ribs for spring steel and wooden keel for lighter aluminum tubing, along with polyurethane foam for seats. While off to a promising start, Ash ran into many issues starting five years later, when snow collapsed the roof of the 90-year-old manufacturing home of the company. By 1991, the company moved to Second Street and was in a rebuilding process that never really got off the ground. Because of the hardiness of the boats, it is possible that a fastidious caretaker could still be using their folding boat to this day.



*Kalamazoo Folding Boat Company canoe, c. early 1970s, on display in the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.*



*Postcard view of the Kalamazoo River, c. early 1900s. Courtesy of the Kalamazoo Public Library*

# PEACE

## THE END OF WWII

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, we are highlighting a great collection of artifacts at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. Donated in 2012 by his daughter, Eugene VanCleave's collection of nearly 40 items covers his experience both during and post-service.

Eugene was born in 1924 to Walter and Florence VanCleave. He lived his early life in the North Vernon, Indiana, area, and in June of 1942, at age 18, he registered for the draft. Just three months later, he married Margaret E. Hale while stationed at Camp San Luis Obispo in California. Eugene VanCleave served as a liaison and scout with the 97th Infantry, 922 Division, in both the European and Pacific Theaters. While in this Division, he delivered messages between units, operating a variety of vehicles. He was also responsible for the repair and maintenance of those vehicles.

The objects in this collection help tell the story of his deployment. Uniform, coat, and field cap are complete, along with a mess kit in its storage bag, and the field trench still has its canvas cover. A well-worn 1944 map of France includes additional circles in pen, possibly highlighting areas Eugene



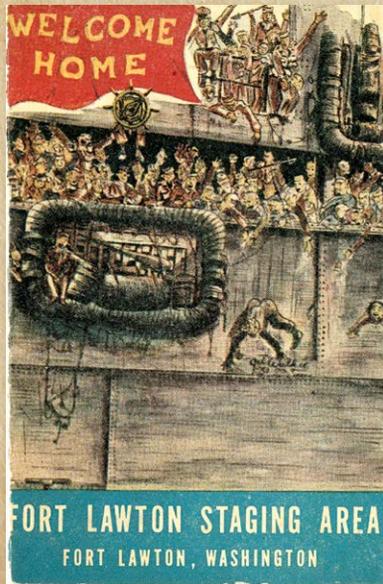
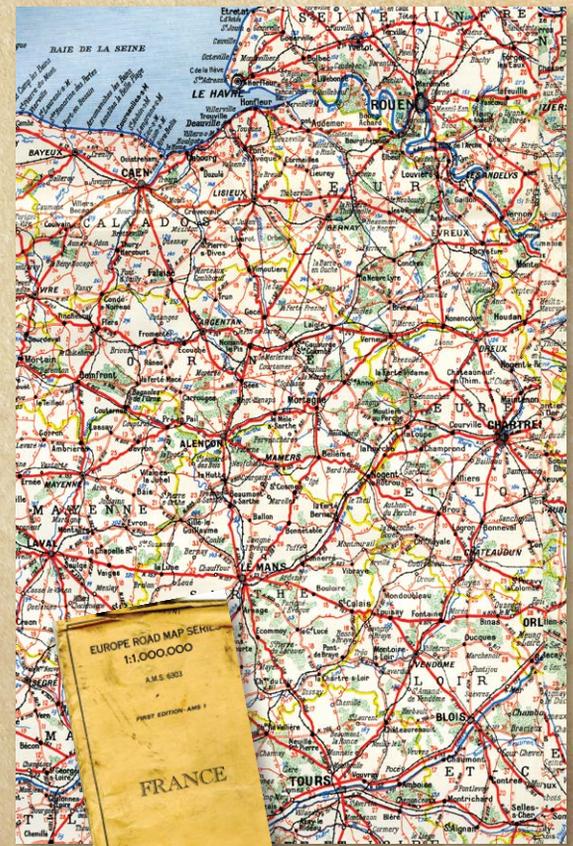
passed through on his message deliveries. Found hidden in a side pouch inside the haversack while Museum staff carefully examined each object was a harmonica made in Western Germany.

Communication with family and loved ones at home was important for both soldiers and family members. Two Victory mail, or "V-mail," messages to his wife, Margaret, were saved, commemorating holidays with cartoons and rhymes. Margaret's ration book is among the ephemera, along with newsletters from the 97th Infantry and a booklet recounting the triumphs of the Division during its service.

Eugene served a little over two years and was honorably discharged in March of 1946. Booklets titled "Going Home" and "Welcome Home" included helpful suggestions for soldiers as they made their way back to the United States. Eugene

completed an M.A. in Education at Ball State University and was a teacher in the Battle Creek Public Schools for 18 years and principal at Ann J. Kellogg School for 10 years. Margaret also studied at Ball State University and was a teacher in the Battle Creek Public Schools for 24 years. Margaret passed away in 2006, and Eugene passed in 2011.

Eugene VanCleave's uniform pieces and equipment from his time serving during his deployment.



V-Mail, sent from Eugene to wife Margaret, postmarked 12/19/1945.

# TRACING THE PATH: THE 1980 TORNADO

Forty years ago, on May 13, 1980, at 4:09 p.m., a tornado bore down on Kalamazoo. The storm jumped through the area, leaving devastation in its wake throughout the city and surrounding neighborhoods. In just 16 short minutes, the tornado left a path of destruction totaling 11 miles long, killed five people, seriously injured 79, displaced over 1,200 people from their homes or workplaces, and caused over \$50 million in damage.

It all began with a tornado watch issued for southwest Michigan at 1:30 p.m. Within the hour, a funnel cloud was spotted in Van Buren County near the Bangor and Glendale areas. Around 3:50 p.m., reports of severe storm damage had reached newscasters, who began to make their way out to cover the story just 14 miles west of Kalamazoo. At 4 p.m., tornado sirens blared, announcing a tornado warning for Kalamazoo and surrounding neighborhoods. Soon, a large funnel cloud could be seen along the western sky, dark and ominous as it moved eastward towards the city.

The tornado touched down at 4:09 p.m. near the western edge of the city limits, striking the neighborhoods along the West Main corridor and continuing down through Mountain Home Cemetery. After tearing through the cemetery, the tornado leapt to the bottom of West Main Hill, plowing into the St. Augustine Cathedral complex on the northwest corner of West Michigan and North Westnedge Avenues. In addition to destroying the roof of the church and heavily damaging other buildings, the tornado destroyed the second story of the parish's elementary school building and gymnasium, where, just an hour earlier, nearly 325 school children had been attending classes.

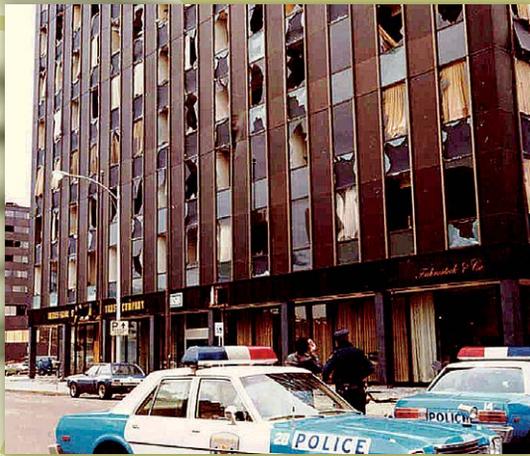
Veering right, the tornado proceeded to cause major damage around the Park Street and Michigan Avenue intersection. In 2000, Dave Hager recounted his harrowing story to the Kalamazoo Gazette, having sheltered in the basement of the Kalamazoo County Courthouse. "The air moved inside the basement, and our ears popped from the drastic air pressure change as the funnel swept by," recalled Dave, who was the Kalamazoo Gazette's court reporter in 1980. He recalled surfacing after the tornado had passed and

surveying the damage around him, seeing rescuers searching within piles of bricks and rubble. "As police, firemen, and volunteers frantically worked, they shouted, 'Talk to me... talk to me... is anybody there?'"

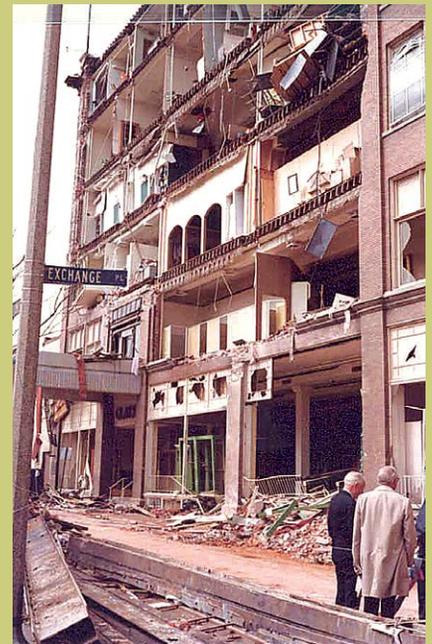
In Bronson Park, over two dozen mature trees that had stood for over 150 years were uprooted or damaged. Kalamazoo's pedestrian mall and its surrounding buildings were next along the path of destruction. The Industrial State Bank building, known as the Comerica Building today, had just four of its 116 windows left intact after the tornado passed, while the six-story Gilmore Department Store building suffered extensive roof damage, and its east wall collapsed outward, piling massive amounts of rubble into Farmer's Alley below.

Crossing Pitcher Street, the tornado damaged several business and industrial buildings along Portage Street as it travelled towards Comstock Township. It proceeded to violently rip the roof off of the European Motors facility before destroying a large section of roof and exterior wall along the fourth level of the Kalamazoo Paper Box Company, crushing automobiles in the parking lot below with falling debris. At 4:25 p.m., just 16 minutes after it had initially touched down, the tornado began to dissipate just northwest of the downtown area between King's Highway and Comstock Avenue.

Dr. Tetsuya Theodore Fujita, the developer of the Fujita scale, which classifies the severity of tornados, visited the city in June of 1980 to survey the damage in person. He reported that, based on the damage to the city and surrounding areas, the wind force presented in a counterclockwise manner with winds around 150 mph. He also deduced that if the same tornado had been in an open field, the winds would have well exceeded 200 mph, but the downtown buildings acted as a fence, reducing the wind speed and associated damage.



*Police cruisers block the road outside the Industrial State Bank at 151 South Rose Street, where over 100 windows were blown out from the force of the passing tornado.*



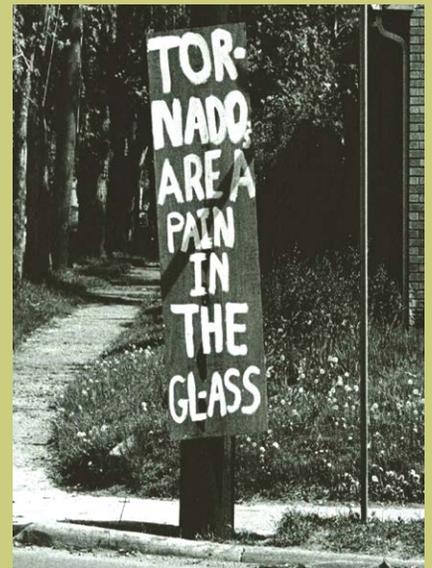
*Irving Gilmore and Ed Trenkle survey the damage done to Gilmore Brothers Department Store.*



*Over two dozen mature trees in Bronson Park were uprooted in the winds, which clocked at speeds of over 150 miles per hour.*



*The scene in a parking lot on the corner of Edwards and South Street, where cars had been tossed about and overturned in the storm.*



*A spot of humor appeared amid the destruction left in the tornado's wake at West Main and Campbell Streets.*

As we look back on the Kalamazoo tornado 40 years later, the pain felt due to the damage that was left behind and the lives that were lost can still be recalled. But they also illustrate the resilience of the city and its inhabitants. "I Survived the Kalamazoo Tornado—Let's Rebuild!" t-shirts were produced, and words of humor and encouragement were hand painted on pieces of rubble from damaged homes and business exclaiming things like, "Tornados are a Pain in the Glass" and "Yes, there STILL is a Kalamazoo!"

Upon reopening, the Kalamazoo Valley Museum will recognize the 40th anniversary of the Kalamazoo tornado in an exhibit featuring photos and artifacts, telling the story and tracing the path of the 1980 tornado. Check out our virtual exhibit now at [www.kvmexhibits.org](http://www.kvmexhibits.org)!

# NASA IMAGERY—YOUR VISION

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum will be showcasing the finalists from the 2019 CineSpace short film competition during Winter Break. Beginning on Monday, December 28, a selection of the films will be shown each day at 12:15 p.m. On Friday, January 1, the films will begin at 1:15 p.m. due to the Museum's late opening time. Join us on Saturday, January 2, at 12:15 p.m. for a screening of the five overall winners.

CineSpace, a collaboration between NASA and the Houston Cinema Arts Society, allows professional and aspiring filmmakers around the world a chance to share original works inspired by, and using, actual NASA imagery. Filmmakers are asked to create short films of 10 minutes or less, at least 10% of which must be footage from the NASA Archives. All finalists are screened at the annual Houston Cinema Arts Festival in November, and the winners are announced. Since 2015, CineSpace has awarded over \$25,000 in prizes to filmmakers every year.

*The Most Ideal Place*, winner of both the Best Film and Best Documentary awards, tells the story of the Spanish villagers who unexpectedly became an important part of the Apollo 11 mission. It was produced and directed by David Regos of Spain.

Second place went to Matthew Pomerantz of the United States for his film *The Only Home We Will Ever Know*. *Mack Minded: Humanly Possible* by Susan Carol Davis of the United States took third place.

CineSpace 2020 submissions opened in March. Visit [www.cinemahtx.org/cinespace](http://www.cinemahtx.org/cinespace) for more information.



## 2019 CineSpace Film Festival Lineup

### Monday, December 28

- The Most Ideal Place
- Homo Sapiens in Space
- Postcards from Miss Universe
- Somnium
- Space TV

### Tuesday, December 29

- The Only Home We Will Ever Know
- Apollo 11
- Somnium
- Space Orchestra
- Vindold

### Wednesday, December 30

- Mack Minded: Humanly Possible
- 7 Planets
- Dizzy
- Homo Sapiens in Space
- Lift Off

### Thursday, December 31

- NASA 1991 Youth Recruitment Reel
- Apollo 11
- Dizzy
- Space Orchestra
- Vindold

### Friday, January 1

- Nomadic Cloud
- 7 Planets
- Lift Off
- Postcards from Miss Universe
- Space TV

### Saturday, January 2

- The Most Ideal Place
- The Only Home We Will Ever Know
- Mack Minded: Humanly Possible
- NASA 1991 Youth Recruitment Reel
- Nomadic Cloud

# Children's Landscape:

## Discovery, Exploration, and Play

Children's Landscape, designed as a museum within a museum for preschoolers, serves to introduce young children to exhibit concepts at their level. Preschool groups and families with children five and under can explore three rooms full of interactive educational materials with changing themes to match current exhibits found elsewhere in the Museum. Activities using fine motor skills, imagination, pretend play, investigation, social development, math, science, and literacy invite families, teachers, and young children to learn and enjoy the Museum together.

By focusing on sensory learning and exploration, children can discover and learn at their individual ability levels. Tactile experiences using a variety of materials and textures, weighted toys, puppets, and manipulatives such as puzzles and blocks encourage exploration. A main room filled with toddler toys and a jukebox, a hands-on preschool room full of individual learning experiences, and a quiet room for puzzles with a 12-foot Velcro wall allow children to find a space to match their volume needs. Noise-canceling headphones and sensory kits are also available for use from the front desk to explore all areas of the Museum. An original mural by local artist Jungle Powell and colorful exhibits such as a bus, spaceship, and miniature Museum structure with a fiber optic planetarium provide a comforting and inviting atmosphere.

Helping preschoolers and their adults discover how to enjoy the Museum together means looking at both our permanent and traveling exhibits to identify the overarching theme of each, then learning how to teach that at an appropriate level for young ones. We remain committed to continuing this endeavor when the Museum reopens post-COVID-19. Educational materials will be created and shared to ensure that each child can reach their full potential, and families can explore exhibit themes together in the safety of their homes.

Given the nature of how young children play, Children's Landscape will remain closed until it is safe to reopen. Be sure to go to our website and sign up for our e-newsletter or follow us on Facebook to get the latest information.



*Children and adults learn together.*



*Cooperative and pretend play is essential for healthy growth and development.*



*The new Nursing & Lactation Lounge opened in the spring of 2020.*

# JUNETEENTH

## CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM

The Museum looked forward to again being the host site and a sponsor of Kalamazoo's Juneteenth Celebration of Freedom this year. For the safety of our community, the Museum building will be closed in June, but the Juneteenth celebration will be gathering the community together for a virtual experience!

On Friday, June 19, visit Kalamazoo Valley Museum and Soul Artistry LLC Facebook pages from 1 to 5 p.m. as a celebration to commemorate the history of Juneteenth features music, poetry, dance, visual art, and history from some of Kalamazoo's most prominent Black creatives.

Yolonda Lavender, CEO of Soul Artistry LLC, the organizer of this annual event, looks forward to this opportunity to lift up Black culture, amplify important contributions and accomplishments, and celebrate at a time when we need it most.

*Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to June 19, 1865, Juneteenth was established by African Americans and is observed annually in remembrance of emancipation.*

 [SoulArtistryLLC](#)



# WHAT IS IT?



**1** No digital backspace button? Use this remover to delete mistakes and the brush to sweep the rubber crumbs away. What is it?



**3** Keep your thread organized between sewing projects on this helpful holder. What is it?



**2** Popular breakfast beans can be roasted using this 1830s kitchen device. What is it?

*3. Spool Holder. This metal spool holder features an openwork design and three circular, adjustable shelves for storing spools of thread. Each shelf can hold up to 6 spools. Smaller than typically seen at the turn of the 20th century in general stores of the age, this design is a mere 6.5 inches tall and may have been used in a home or tailor's shop.*

*2. Coffee Roaster. This cast iron kitchen tool features a grill, or screen, where coffee beans would have been placed in order to batch roast them. This grill turned slowly over heat for an even roast. This roaster is said to have been brought to the Kalamazoo area by the Hamlin family in their covered wagon from Ohio prior to 1841.*

*1. Typewriter Eraser. Made with hard rubber containing abrasive material, this early typewriter eraser dating from the 1910s was the traditional way of correcting typing mistakes. These erasers were designed to be thin enough to erase individual letters. The accompanying small brush was used to sweep away the rubber eraser crumbs and paper dust. If not brushed away, debris could build up in the typewriter, causing jams.*

COVID-19

# SPARKS LOCAL DESIGN INNOVATION



Kalamazoo Valley Community College, the KVM's parent organization, has partnered with Vicksburg-based Eimo Technologies to produce face masks and shields for use by area medical professionals. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for personal protective equipment (PPE) has grown more urgent every day. As a result, Kalamazoo Valley faculty members began exploring ways to create masks and face shields using the College's CNC machines and 3D printers.

They have successfully produced both face shields and a mask with a commonly available filter material that has tested similar to the level of a N95 mask. Corresponding filter elements can be replaced, and the shell sanitized for re-use. With the aid of Eimo's production capabilities, they are now able to produce 250 masks and 400 shields per day with a group of four volunteers helping with assembly.

*For more information about the College's response to COVID-19, go to [www.kvcc.edu/coronavirus](http://www.kvcc.edu/coronavirus).*



## WHERE IS THE CALENDAR?

Because the Museum is currently closed, there is no calendar inside this issue. However, there are new digital events and special offerings being released each week! Check out [kalamazoomuseum.org](http://kalamazoomuseum.org) for more information.



# COMMUNITY RESPONSE PROJECT

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum focuses on collecting the history of Kalamazoo and Southwest Michigan, documenting the stories and realities of past life. But history is not just past—it happens every day. It is clear in our present COVID-19 pandemic that we are all living through a big historic moment. The pandemic is impacting every facet of life, and our community will be indelibly changed by it.

Our current times recall past trials faced—tuberculosis in the early 1900s, polio in the 1950s, and close parallels to the influenza pandemic of 1918 – 1919. Connections to nearly a hundred years ago and societal responses to seeing the flu change people's lives are limited. We can read reports in newspapers and may have some examples of first-hand accounts, but these are rare, leaving us to guess at how lives were altered.

These personal recollections are crucial to fully understanding the depth of impacts on communities, and our hope is to record stories of our present pandemic to

preserve our current truths for future generations. To do that, we need your help.

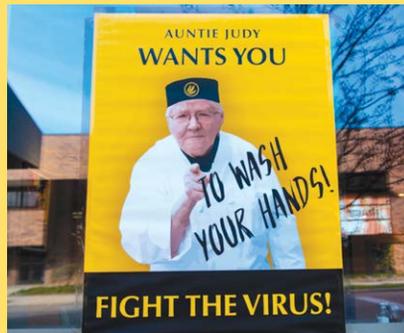
It is hard to see our everyday lives as history, but by sharing a photo or observation on your life or describing your daily routine changes in navigating teaching your children, caring for elders, or whatever the truths of life are like for you, you are thus sharing that truth with future generations. We welcome what you are willing to share with the KVM.

As we all navigate this crisis, it is understandable that thinking of sharing stories now may be overwhelming or impossible—that is ok. Reflections of experiences are as valuable today as they will be months from now. The KVM is committed to collecting complete stories of the pandemic.

Please visit [kalamazoomuseum.org/localhistory/covid-19-stories.html](http://kalamazoomuseum.org/localhistory/covid-19-stories.html) to share your story. Contact Regina Gorham, Collections Manager, with questions at [rgorham@kvcc.edu](mailto:rgorham@kvcc.edu).



*Inspirational chalk drawings cover sidewalks in Milwood. Submitted by Lindsay Baker.*



*Sign from Sarcozy Bakery. Submitted by Lee Witt.*



*Empty aisles at Meijer on West Main Street. Submitted by Bill and Leona McElhone.*



*Happy rock found on a walk in the Westwood Neighborhood. Submitted by Regina Gorham.*



*Though closed, the State Theater shows support for essential workers. Submitted by Bill and Leona McElhone.*

# New Acquisition: NAVY UNIFORM

The U.S. Naval Reserve Force (USNRF) was founded on August 29, 1916. It opened up enlistment requirements and organized Reservists into six classes based on experience, trade, and area of operability. In 1925, the USNRF was forced to cut funds and prioritize its capabilities, which led to the foundation for the modern Reserves. The force was reorganized into the United States Naval Reserve and was made up of three classes: Fleet Naval Reserve, Merchant Marine Reserve, and Volunteer Reserve.

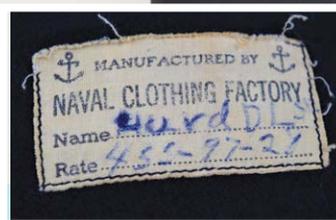
After witnessing the success of the Navy Reserve in World War II, and with an understanding of the growing threat from the Soviet Union, the Navy vigorously sought to retain trained and qualified Reservists. To support the influx of Reserve personnel, the Navy constructed 300 modern Naval Reserve Training Centers. By the mid-1950s, there were over 140,000 Reservists serving on active duty.

Post-WWII, naval uniforms effectively evolved into dress which was more closely attuned to the work environment of naval officers while still retaining its symbolism of authority. An officer's wardrobe consisted of dark navy blue and white service wear, known as "summer whites" and "winter blues" due to their material make up of breathable white knit cotton or dark blue wool. Officers were sometimes also issued khaki and gray working uniforms. Cap covers matched the uniforms, and garrison caps and tropical helmets were also prescribed as necessary.

David Lee Hurd was born on March 4, 1938. He joined the Naval Reserves in 1955 as a senior at Comstock High School. After graduation in 1956, he traveled to Chicago to complete a four-week boot camp, where he then spent an additional two weeks training in Morse code. In 1958, David married Janet Schuyler. David and Janet first met at the local Friday night square dance, where Janet's father was the dance caller.

David served as an E3 Seaman until 1963. Each year during his eight years of service, David attended a yearly two-week training at sea as well as local Reservist meetings in Comstock Township on Monday evenings wearing the required uniform of the United States Navy. For over 40 years, including during his time as a Reservist, David was employed at Merchants Publishing Company, where he worked his way up to managing the press room.

In June of 2019, two of David's Naval Reserve uniforms, including both "summer whites" and "winter blues," were donated to the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. Sadly, David passed away at the age of 81 on December 11, 2019.



*This photo of David was taken in 1957, two years into his service as a U.S. Naval Reserve Seaman.*

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum looks forward to reopening to the public. The Museum will reopen with new cleaning and safety protocols, social distancing in mind, and more digital offerings to enjoy from home than ever before. We look forward to continuing to learn, celebrate, and gather our community together in new and creative ways.

*Sign up for the Museum e-newsletter at [kalamazoomuseum.org](http://kalamazoomuseum.org) to have the latest information and digital offerings delivered directly to your inbox.*

Due to the  
COVID-19 crisis  
programs and events are

**RESCHEDULED**

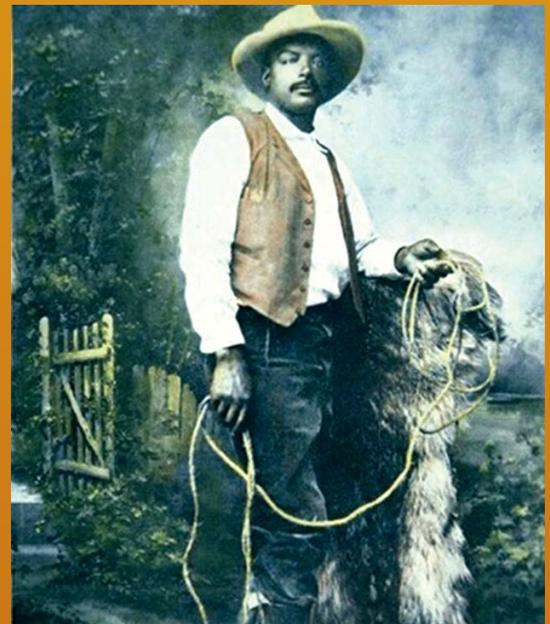
to a later date

Please check  
[kalamazoomuseum.org](http://kalamazoomuseum.org)  
for updates

## Cowboys, Carriers, and Cavalries: Blacks in the American West

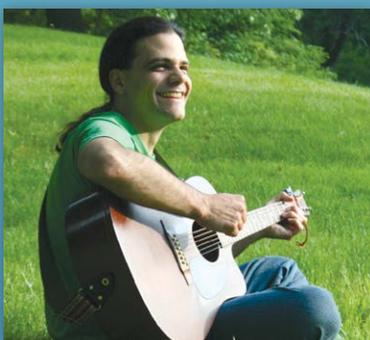
February 5 – July 4, 2021

20th century popular culture all but erased the significance of African Americans in the West, including cattle ranching, the Indian Wars, and rodeos. Using artifacts from the Murphy Darden collection, this exhibit explores the true history and present influence of those who have too long been ignored.



## SUMMER 2020

# VIRTUAL ART HOP WITH JOE REILLY FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 5 – 7 P.M. FREE



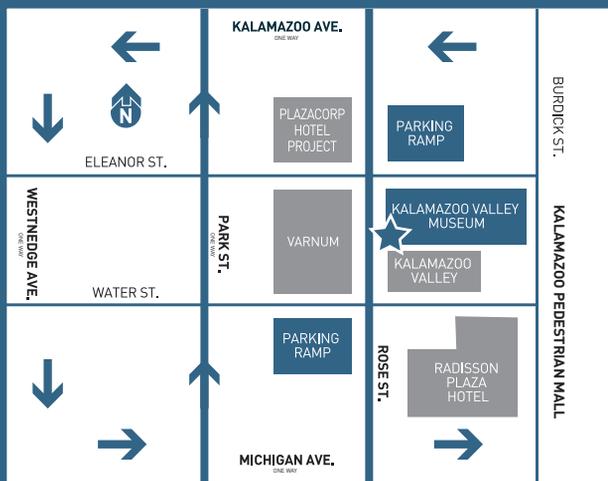
If you missed the digital June Art Hop on the Kalamazoo Valley Museum Facebook page, you can still enjoy the fun! Visit [kalamazoomuseum.org](http://kalamazoomuseum.org) for concert segments from Joe Reilly featuring his songs celebrating the Earth and Michigan's water resources. Get a peek into our new exhibit, Ocean Bound! Joe Reilly is the Official Troubadour of National Get Outdoors Day.

*Photo: Mary Kerney Photography*

**NEW!**

## Water Programs Coming Soon

Prepare for discovery, respect, and celebration of Michigan's waterways. Community guests will join the KVM in person and digitally to provide fun music, environmental science, hands-on activities for kids, Native American storytelling, Great Lakes history, fascinating lectures for adults, and more.



### FREE GENERAL ADMISSION

Monday–Saturday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Sunday + Holidays 1 p.m.–5 p.m.  
*Closed: Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas*

### Kalamazoo VALLEY Museum

230 North Rose Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

269.373.7990 | 800.772.3370

[www.kalamazoomuseum.org](http://www.kalamazoomuseum.org)

[/KalamazooValleyMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/KalamazooValleyMuseum)

[@kalamazoomuseum](https://twitter.com/kalamazoomuseum)

*Accessible environment. Sign language interpreters may be scheduled with a minimum of two weeks' notice. Assisted listening devices are available in the planetarium and Theater. Sensory tools are available at the front desk and in the planetarium.*



The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is operated by Kalamazoo Valley Community College and is governed by its Board of Trustees

