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Contact:

Abbey K. Bobzin, 630.305.5250
bobzina@naperville.il.us

“Celebrate Naperville” at Naper Settlement showcases a diverse local community

NAPERVILLE, IL —Naper Settlement announces its inaugural “Celebrate Naperville”, an annual event that will rotate its offerings to feature different elements of Naperville’s rich story, complementing Naper Settlement’s flagship exhibit of that year. This year’s programming coincides with the museum’s 2018 signature exhibits, “ME=WE” and “Come As You Are”, which share the rich story of Naperville’s burgeoning Asian-American community. The event will showcase local residents and artisans of music, craft, dance, art, and more, highlighting all that the City has to offer.

“Working with Naperville’s Asian-American communities is a delight. There is such richness and depth to the City’s immigration story and to be able to add to the 19th and early 20th century narratives with stories of Naperville’s new immigrants, and subsequently, first and second-generation Asian-American histories, is enriching the museum’s public programming and creates a reflection of Naperville today. This event is a springboard for so much more,” stated Donna Sack, vice president for community engagement and audience.

In its first year, “Celebrate Naperville” will feature arts and culture in the Chinese-American and Indian-American community, including presentations on Martial Arts, dance, music, art, film, and the sport of cricket as well as turban tying, mehndi, and more. Local restaurant Cuisine of India will be selling authentic offerings for patrons to enjoy. The museum will offer curator-led tours of the featured exhibits and collect oral histories for the permanent collection.

As the fastest growing demographic in the City of Naperville, participants stress the importance of sharing their culture with the community. Event participant Neha Patodia, who owns local Indian craft school Om by Neha, is eager to share her culture with all of Naperville. “Every person belongs to a different region in Asia. I belong to India and every state, every city, has a different culture, color, dress code, language, food, climate, geography, etc., so imagine the diversity in one country! I want the community to learn about those hidden treasures of Asia through us— the community people,” said Patodia.

“Celebrate Naperville” will take place on September 16, from 1 to 4 p.m. The event is free with general admission. Naperville residents, members, and children under 4 receive free admission.

About Naper Settlement

Naper Settlement is a nationally accredited, award-winning outdoor museum set on 13 magnificent acres in the heart of Naperville. Located 30 miles from Chicago, the museum is home to 21 historical structures dating back as early as the 1830s. Featuring exhibits, special events, educational programming and more, Naper Settlement is where history comes to play and the community comes to connect. For more information, visit www.napersettlement.org or call (630) 420-6010.