



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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President and CEO of Naper Settlement to make the case for museums on Capitol Hill

*Local museum leader to join hundreds of citizen-lobbyists
from across the country Feb. 22-23 in Washington, D.C.*

Naperville, IL — Rena Tamayo-Calabrese, President and CEO of Naper Settlement, will travel to Washington, D.C., Feb. 22-23 to petition our government and make the case for museums.

Joined by other museum leaders, she will be visiting members of Congress and their staff to make the case for federal support of America's museums. She will be among more than 200 museum professionals and supporters from across the country participating in the eighth annual Museums Advocacy Day, organized by the American Alliance of Museums.

Tamayo-Calabrese will educate elected officials and inspire support for museums, at a critical time, just as Congress begins its work for the year. Naper Settlement's programs are emblematic of the work museums of all types and sizes are doing nationally. She will be visiting members of Congress representing Illinois including Congressman Bill Foster, Congressman Randy Hultgren, Congressman Peter Roskam, Senator Dick Durbin, Senator Mark Kirk and their congressional staff.

“At Naper Settlement, we annually serve more than 140,400 visitors from around the world. That number includes more than 33,520 schoolchildren and their teachers from 365 schools in 112 Illinois school districts in 12 counties, for whom civics, the Westward expansion, science and math jump off the page of a textbook and become real-life, palpable experiences,” Tamayo-Calabrese said. “More than half the schools that visit us include a low-income population of 30 percent or greater. We are intent on making sure Congress knows about the vital work museums do, their role as an educational provider and as an economic engine for thriving cities.”

According to the American Alliance of Museums, there are more than 850 million museum visits annually in the United States — more than the attendance at all major league sporting events combined. Museums invest more than \$2 billion in educational programs each year, serving Americans of all ages and income levels, in a variety of ways. There are more than 55 million visits by schoolchildren to U.S. museums each year, and museums are among the most trusted sources of information for Americans.

Another study found that for every \$1 invested in museums and other cultural organizations, over \$5 is returned in tax revenues through cultural tourism and related economic activity.

“Museums are essential to communities everywhere, as part of our educational infrastructure, as economic engines, and as community assets that improve the overall quality of life,” said Alliance president and CEO Laura L. Lott. “We feel privileged that Rena Tamayo-Calabrese will be joining us in Washington for Museums Advocacy Day. Naper Settlement is doing extraordinary work in Naperville and the members of Congress from Illinois need to hear from constituents about how the museum serves its community.”

For more information on museums and their impact on communities nationally, visit www.aam-us.org.

About Naper Settlement and the Naperville Heritage Society

Naper Settlement is a nationally accredited, award-winning outdoor museum set on 12 magnificent acres in the heart of Naperville, where history comes to play and community comes to connect. The Naperville Heritage Society is the administrator of Naper Settlement. With a commitment to the community and a focus to the future, the mission of the Naperville Heritage Society is to collect, document, preserve and support the history of Naperville, Illinois, past and present. For more information, visit www.napersettlement.org or call (630) 420-6010.