



**ADIRONDACK  
EXPERIENCE™**

*The Museum on Blue Mountain Lake*

# FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER

ADKX OVERLOOK IN FALL

## ADKX DIGITAL LEARNING LAB

**For years the ADKX School Programs team has been the Adirondacks' most prolific provider of cultural education programs for schools thanks to our exceptional, free in-class programming—all made possible with donors' support. The 2019-2020 school year was on track to continue that tradition.**

Then in March our education vans abruptly went from driving 1,000 miles to zero. Six months after that decisive moment, the museum is excited to take our next steps in reaching schools with free, museum- and curriculum-based education programs through the creation of our ADKX Digital Learning Lab, or ADKX-Lab.

We are raising almost \$150,000 to make possible this initiative—a foundation for the museum's education vision for the coming years. The project will start as a pilot partnership between the museum and four regional schools, Saranac Lake High School, L. P. Quinn Elementary School (Tupper Lake), Conkling and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary schools (both in Utica). All four schools and the museum will receive technological infrastructure improvements that

will be the core of the ADKX-Lab transformation. Should fundraising surpass our goal, we will add additional schools as partners and reach as many as 2,000 students this academic year.

Today's ADKX education space is a traditional classroom with one piece of technology—a laptop projector. With the ADKX-Lab we will build a fully-functioning, hard-wired smart classroom through which our staff can continue to immerse students in rich local heritage and diverse regional cultures. Additionally, the ADKX-Lab will better enable the museum to reach secondary school students, an age group which largely requires the use of digital technology and online research tools. And the ADKX-Lab will solve one of our School Program's teams most vexing issues—program cancellations due to



*School Programs strategy meeting with educators and diversity experts.*

the hazards of winter driving conditions. For the schools, the new hardware will serve as an upgrade for 20-year-old technology that was installed without a comprehensive strategy for the use of learning programs through which it would be most useful.

In response to COVID-19 school closures, ADKX staff quickly developed a suite of live digital programs and online learning activities. The School Programs team is transforming what they learned over these recent months to digital lessons on topics that range from Adirondack domestic life to the political history that shaped the Adirondack Park. Additionally, staff are working with experts to create programs that highlight the regional commitment to equity and inclusion and examine the diverse peoples that have made the Adirondacks home—from the indigenous Mohawk to the early 20th century Lebanese and Jewish settlers, from the abolitionist John Brown to the African American PGA golfer Dewey Brown and his son,

Tuskegee Airman Roland Brown Sr., and the many Europeans and French Canadians whose descendants represent the overwhelming majority of Adirondackers today.

The ADKX-Lab will position the museum to serve schools nationwide. Through digital technology, students around the country will be able to discover the role the Adirondack region played in national conservation policy and the groundbreaking research and medical treatment that was given here during the turn of the 20th century tuberculosis pandemic—both topics that have broad relevance outside of the Park.

Without restrictions posed by travel and weather and with content that has widespread connection to national teaching standards, the potential reach of the ADKX-Lab is exceptional.

**We look forward to making it a reality with contributions from our generous donors.**



# ADKX VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

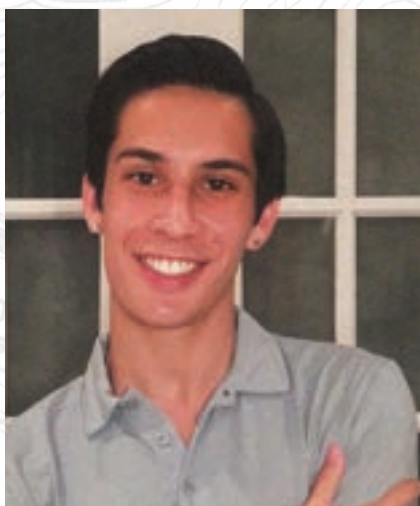
## INTRODUCING THE 2020 DIVERSITY FELLOWS

ADKX is excited to welcome its 2020 class of Museum Diversity Fellows—all working from the safety of their own homes and schools with museum staff in the Adirondacks. This program, now in its second year, offers professional experience and mentorship to students who come from communities that are underrepresented in the museum and arts fields. The decision to engage a cohort of Diversity Fellows during this challenging year exemplifies the museum's commitment to the principles of Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion.

The COVID pandemic has given these students accelerated practice with remote learning and built upon their fluency with digital technology—skills that have made the fellowship program feasible this year and that they “pay forward” to their museum staff supervisors. The creative energy and commitment demonstrated by Andrius, Charlie, Jasmyn, and Françoise bring a critical perspective to the museum's efforts to work toward the social ideals that the Adirondack Experience proudly embraces.

**This year's Diversity Fellowship program has been made possible in part through the generous support of ADKX donor Annette Merle-Smith.**

## THIS YEAR'S FELLOWS ARE:



### Andrius Alvarez-Backus

Fine Arts student at The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York City. Andrius' fellowship project is developing staff training materials to strengthen the ability to engage with the museum's many audiences.



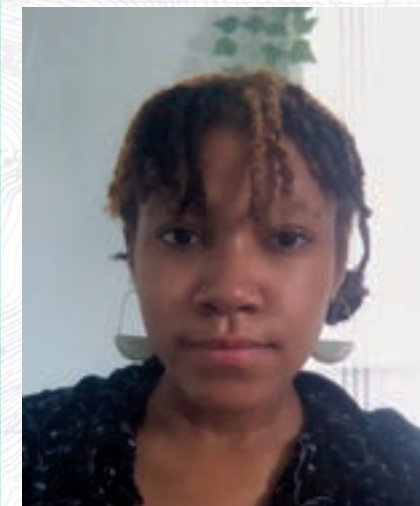
### Charlie Catacalos

Senior graduating this year from Temple University in Philadelphia with a degree in Anthropology. Charlie is helping to produce an online exhibition focused on the experiences of diverse hiking enthusiasts who recreate in the Adirondacks.



### Jasmyn Choi

Junior at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT majoring in East Asian Studies with a minor in Integrated Design, Engineering, and Applied Sciences. Jasmyn is creating programs for schools that speak to racial injustice and contemporary social issues.

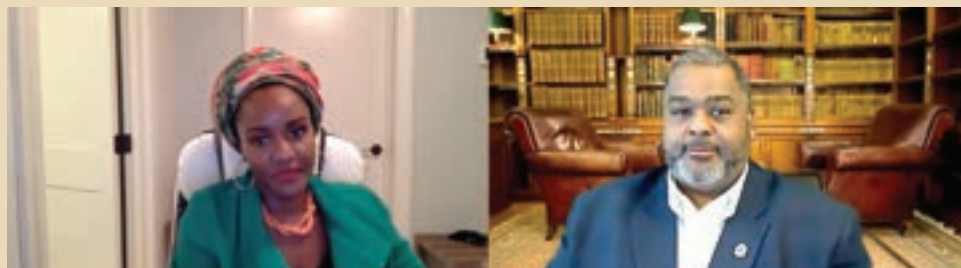


### Françoise Francis

Senior at SUNY Purchase College studying Playwriting and Screenwriting. Françoise is focusing on updates to *Life in the Adirondacks* that bridge current issues with historical racism in the region, centered upon the museum's 2017 acquisition of Fulton Fryar's Closet.

## NEW LIVE DISCUSSION SERIES

### BLACK EXPERIENCE IN THE ADIRONDACKS



ADI Executive Director Nicole Hylton-Patterson interviews Dr. Lorenzo M. Boyd about police-community relations, urban policing, and diversity issues in criminal justice systems during *The Black Experience in the Adirondacks—Driving While Black Part III*.

This summer, the museum gave greater purpose to our fundamental role of expanding public understanding within the Adirondacks. In response to the George Floyd murder and the rise in regional engagement around issues of racism and social justice, ADKX partnered with the Adirondack Diversity Initiative to host a new program, *The Black Experience in the Adirondacks*. This series of talks and discussions brought national issues into a local focus and featured several prominent Black and Brown leaders—Gretchen Sorin, author and Director of the Cooperstown Graduate Program in Museum Studies, Aaron Mair, former President of the Sierra Club, and

Benita Law-Diao, former National Board Member of Hostelling International USA—as well as representatives from communities, universities, and regional organizations. Speakers explored such topics as local activism, diversity in recreation, “driving while Black,” and the tradition of blackface in the Adirondacks. Through these programs, viewers gained a better understanding of the racist experiences faced by diverse communities in the region, and the role everyone has in building a more inclusive North Country.

**Recordings of the programs can be seen on the museum’s website at <https://www.theadkx.org/the-black-experience/org>.**



Protesters attend a rally in Saranac Lake on June 2, 2020.



## LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

### THE ADKX’S ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA TOOK ON A WHOLE NEW LOOK THIS YEAR.

**Even though only a dozen people gathered at the museum the evening of July 25th, the event was a resounding success.**

This wasn’t the first year staff have dabbled with “changing up” the event from holding it in a multi-room exhibition space or a parking lot to even having a “no Gala, Gala” over 15 years ago, but it IS the first-ever Virtual Gala we’ve held.

Nothing quite compares to bringing people scattered across the Adirondacks together for an evening of laughter, hugs, paddle-raising, good food, and celebrating this most special museum. We were forced to try something different this year. Thanks to hundreds of understanding museum friends and supporters eager to support the institution during this perilous time, we kicked our Gala goal outta the Park, netting over \$165,000!

We are especially grateful for our member and donor support this year as the majority of you have stayed with the museum following our difficult decision to remain closed this summer.

You understand that your support is critical to the ADKX’s ongoing strength and future plans, and because of this, our permanent staff is intact, we’ve developed a plethora of online programs, and we’re in a good position to plan our re-opening and welcome everyone in person in 2021. Some of the funds raised during our Virtual Gala will be directed specifically to our efforts to live stream programming into classrooms throughout the region. Maintaining our relationships with teachers and students and offering them high-quality educational programming online while we can’t be physically present in their classrooms is a new top priority.

**So thank you auction donors and auction bidders, virtual table hosts and paddle-raisers, and everyone in between. You all helped spread some much-needed good news for the Adirondack Experience this past July.**

# ADKX WELCOMES NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

## "IT TRULY IS THE BEST BOARD TO SERVE ON"

These are words from our current co-chair of the Board of Trustees, Anne Van Ingen. From a seasoned trustee on many boards, this statement means a great deal to those working for the museum and her fellow trustees, including the six newest members who joined this year. While our aim is to find passionate individuals who love the museum and can help move the institution forward, we also try to balance our board geographically and professionally, and our newest board members are no exception.



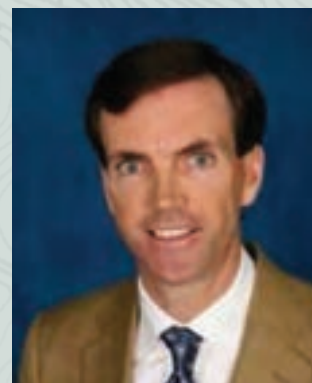
### E. Darcie Corbin

If you have ever taken a ride on the tour boat in Raquette Lake, Darcie's summer camp is pointed out by the captain on every trip, as it was once owned by the Carnegies. Darcie's grandfather once sold tickets to the steamboat on Blue Mountain Lake and owned Camp Uncas in the 1950s. He and his wife gave the Porter Engine to the museum in 1955. Darcie and her family have enjoyed coming to the Adirondacks for four generations and her daughter loves it here as well. Darcie is currently a partner with North Point Associates, which provides executive consulting services for organizations and businesses, especially in the healthcare field. Her experience strengthening organizations and finding opportunities for growth will serve the museum well. Darcie and her husband live in Virginia.



### Lucy A. Craske

Big Moose Lake has been Lucy's go-to place since she was young. Her grandfather designed Stag's Leap, the camp Lucy now owns; Adirondack builder Earl Covey built it in the 1930s. Lucy is forever grateful to her parents and grandparents for instilling in her a love of the Adirondacks, which she is happy to share with her own children and grandchildren. Her investment background will serve the board well, as will her long attachment to the region and passion for Adirondack history. Lucy has been a gracious and wonderful host for many events for the museum long before joining the board. She's a member of the Adirondack League Club and spends her winters in Florida.



### Drew C. Forhan

Drew's home away from home is a camp on the far shores of Blue Mountain Lake. Drew is a 46er who loves to hike, boat, and fish. His four grown children and wife share the same outdoor passions as Drew, as well as his love for the hamlet of Blue Mountain Lake and the Adirondack Experience. Drew and his wife Nancy are the founders and CEOs of ForTec Medical, specializing in mobilized technologies and equipment for hospitals, surgery centers, and physician offices nationwide. Their Ohio-based business has been in operation for more than 30 years. Drew serves on many other non-profit boards near his home outside of Cleveland.



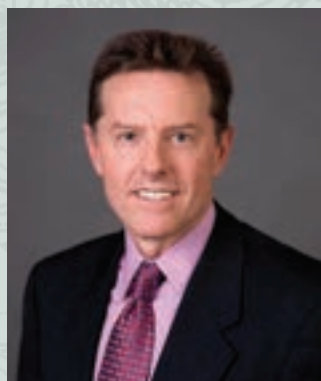
### Ann Stillman O'Leary

Ann comes to the board with the very helpful perspective of being a year-round resident and business owner in the Adirondacks. Established in 1989, Ann's firm, Evergreen House Interiors, Inc., located in downtown Lake Placid, has been the go-to for hundreds of clients looking for refined, rustic, and elegant design work for comfortable living. Over the past 33 years, Ann has established a solid reputation as a leading designer, and she has also written two books on design. If that's not enough, she's only the second woman in the United States to own and start a micro-distillery.



### Nancy Reardon Sayer

The ADKX has the good fortune to welcome Nancy back to the board after benefiting from nine previous years of her wisdom, energy, and professionalism as an outstanding Trustee. She helped guide the museum through its recent capital campaign—only the second in the history of the institution—which raised more than \$11M. Nancy is a retired executive of the Campbell Corporation and now serves on multiple boards across the country. When she isn't in meetings, she splits her time between her home in South Carolina and her camp on Fourth Lake in Old Forge. Nancy and her husband Steve are members of the Adirondack League Club, and she serves on the Club's board as well.



### Garrett W. Thelander

Garrett comes to us from New Rochelle, NY. His ties to the Adirondacks started when he was a boy. He lived on the campus of Paul Smith's College while his father was a professor there and summered at a family camp in Saranac Lake. Garret also attended SUNY Plattsburgh for his undergraduate degree and interned at the Adirondack Park Agency. Now Garrett spends his summer vacations in Blue Mountain Lake with his grown children. As an avid hiker (and 46er), Garrett knows the area well and cares deeply about Adirondack history and the region's future direction. Garrett currently is a Managing Director at CIT Bank.

**OUR AIM IS TO FIND PASSIONATE INDIVIDUALS WHO LOVE THE MUSEUM AND CAN HELP MOVE THE INSTITUTION FORWARD.**

## ADKX-TRA CREDIT PODCAST

Our new history podcast series is another layer of engaging enrichment we offer to students and teachers. The target audience is fourth grade, the grade at which the social studies curriculum is devoted to the study of the state and local history. Having an alternative platform to reach students that can introduce higher-level vocabulary and ideas is critical beginning in grade four, although our podcast is designed to captivate younger and older students alike. Teachers have had success using podcasts to engage learning-delayed students with listening activities; a podcast can also be used for students that are above grade level who need

expanded learning opportunities. Podcasting about objects and exhibitions here at the museum can be an opportunity to encourage onsite school visits in the future. The School Programs podcast will have many episodes focused on museum objects designed to ignite student interest, curiosity, and enthusiasm by bringing content to their learning level and making connections that relate to their prior knowledge. We are excited to hear where the listening takes us!

**Listen to our first few episodes here: [www.theadkx.org/adkx-tra-credit-podcast/](http://www.theadkx.org/adkx-tra-credit-podcast/)**



## CURATORIAL: NEW ACQUISITIONS A WOMAN'S TOUCH

**The Adirondack Experience has acquired two 19th century landscape paintings, *Autumn on Black Brook, 1876*, by Kate W. Newhall (1840-1917); and an untitled view of Lake Placid, ca. 1879, by Suzanne C. Porter (c. 1839-1887).**

Like many talented female artists active during the 19th century, Porter and Newhall's work has largely been overlooked and undervalued. As a result, they are not well-represented in museum collections.

The United States offered educational opportunities for female artists on fairly equal footing with male students during

the 19th century. Women art students were given the same instruction and held to high standards by their instructors, often traveled to Europe to further their education, and exhibited at home and abroad alongside their male counterparts.

In spite of this, the majority of female artists were unable to make a living by selling their art. Critics were often patronizing, and separating cultural stereotypes of women from their work was virtually impossible. In spite of the obstacles wrought by the overt sexism of the time, some women chose to devote their lives to their art.

Katherine White Newhall earned a certificate in "Drawing and Painting from Still Life" in 1864 from Cooper Institute (now Cooper Union) while she was in her twenties. She lived and worked in Brooklyn and New Jersey before leaving for Berkeley, California in 1897. Newhall was able to support herself through the sales of her work, a remarkable achievement for an unmarried woman in the late 19th century.

Suzanne C. Porter (née Roberts) was born in Hartford, Connecticut around 1839. She married Benjamin B. Porter in 1852, and after his death two years later never remarried, instead pursuing her art. She moved to New York City in 1859 to study at the Cooper Institute, graduating in 1862. In the early 1870s, Porter was in Paris studying and exhibiting her work; in 1876 she exhibited at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. She continued to travel to Europe until 1886 when her health began to fail, then lived in Hartford with her sister Florence until her death in 1887.

Although the museum's 20th century art collection includes work by more than 30 women, there are now only three 19th century women represented: Porter, Newhouse, and Edith W. Cook. These new acquisitions enhance the museum's documentation of the Adirondack landscape and bring to light work by two talented, and largely forgotten, artists.



*Autumn on Black Brook*  
Kate W. Newhall | Ca. 1876



*Untitled view of Lake Placid*  
Suzanne C. Porter | Ca. 1879

## ADKX VIRTUAL MARKETS

### CHECK OUT OUR FAVORITE ARTISTS AND VENDORS VIRTUALLY!

We missed hosting the many talented artists, artisans, and makers who share their unique beautiful works of art and products at the Mohawk & Abenaki Art Market and the Made in the Adirondacks North Country Fair.

This fall we will bring our favorite artists and vendors to you online so you can browse and shop from the comfort of your home— just in time for holiday shopping.

In October check the ADKX website for the Mohawk & Abenaki Online Art Market. Our online market will connect

you directly with featured artists where you can view and shop for items directly from the artists. Shop for traditional and contemporary art including basketry, painting and drawing, beadwork and quillwork, photography, textiles, jewelry, and mixed media.

In November the Adirondack Artisans Fair will debut online showcasing artists, artisans, and makers who reside in one of the 12 counties of the Adirondack

Park. Shop from the comfort of your own home for locally produced arts, crafts, jewelry, home goods, food, and more! While we look forward to hosting these events on the ADKX campus in the future, we hope you will enjoy this unique opportunity to connect with and shop directly from some of our favorite artists, artisans, and makers this year through our virtual markets.

# ANNUAL SUPPORT

## IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Now is the time that letters pour into mailboxes across the country from organizations asking for year-end contributions. Every letter will, undoubtedly, talk about COVID-19 and the negative impact it had on each organization. The Adirondack Experience is no exception, but we also want to focus on the nuggets of good news from this past year.



Did you know that while we were closed, we completed a big, new, beautiful deck to extend our café seating outside, allowing more people to enjoy our million-dollar view of Blue Mountain Lake?

We connected with hundreds of members this past spring and summer by phone, just to say “hi,” check in on them, and let them know how much they are missed. (Our total membership is in the thousands, so if we haven’t called you yet, please be patient!) The calls were warmly received, especially by our older members who hadn’t been out and about or seen family and friends.

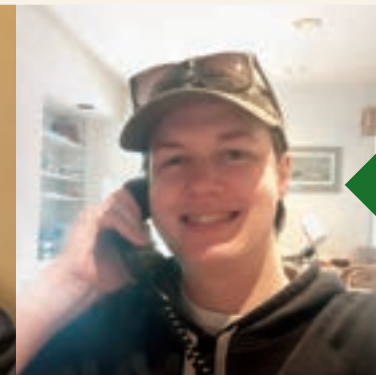
The temporary shuttering of our doors didn’t stop us from bringing a digital intern on board, and four Diversity Fellows all currently working on museum projects virtually. These positions allow us to tap into new perspectives and energy while teaching these college students more about the museum field.

And speaking of teaching, we’re excited to create the ADKX Digital Learning Lab and begin a pilot project with area schools. With a designated digital classroom at the museum and compatible hardware and software at the pilot schools, the ADKX staff will be able to virtually share



### OUR NEW CAFÉ DECK

We are excited to welcome visitors to our beautiful new café deck where they can enjoy outdoor seating and the million-dollar view.



**SAYING HELLO**  
Director of Institutional Advancement, Sarah Lewin, and Membership Coordinator, Colin Briggs, call members to stay connected.

live lessons and programs similar to what had been presented in-person before COVID-19. In the future, this digital technology will allow students around the country to benefit from the Adirondack Experience’s K-12 School Programs.

Probably the most important “nugget” from this past year was all of our staff pushing their collective sleeves up and diving into work to expand the museum’s reach and virtual presence. Going forward we’ll have the best of both worlds—we can stay connected virtually at a sophisticated and entertaining level

and welcome back our members and visitors in-person next year.

The Adirondack Experience has grown in unexpected ways this year and will come out of these unprecedented times with more to offer to an even greater number of people. So while we do our best to stay connected, we hope you will do so too with a year-end gift.

You can do so by visiting our website [www.theadkx.org](http://www.theadkx.org) or calling us at (518) 352-7311, ext. 130.

**THANK YOU!**



# 2019 DONORS

**A non-profit organization cannot exist without financial support from donors. Here at the Adirondack Experience, year after year, we see so many step up and support the institution through membership, annual fund, our annual benefit gala, and special project support. We acknowledge and thank all of our 2019 donors. The following list includes all who gave a gift of \$500 or more. A complete list of all of our 2019 donors can be found on our website.**

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