



UPPER PENINSULA  
**ARTS &  
CULTURE  
ALLIANCE**

## CONFERENCE AGENDA SAULT STE. MARIE, MI

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025**

**Sault Area Art Center**

5:30-7:00PM Reception (open to the public)

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2025**

**Lake Superior State University Walker Cisler Student & Conference Center**

9:00am Registration opens, coffee/refreshments, networking time

10:00 Welcome and opening remarks

- Keynote Address  
**Jim Edwards**

11:00 Panel:

- *Cultivating Community:*  
**Deanna Draze, Jesse Koenig, Noah Luce, Jim Edwards**

12:00 Lunch

- *Art as Healing* experience with **Jan Wellik**

1:00 Breakout 1 (pick one)

- Libby Meyer:** *Resonance in an Industrial Landscape: Audience Development Through Site-Specific Performance*
- Tiina Morin:** *Beyond Silos: Leveraging Arts & Culture Across Sectors*
- Panel Discussion: Government and Public Agencies Engaging with the Community*

2:00 15 minute break

2:15 Breakout 2 (pick one)

- Amy Pobanz:** *Planting the Seeds: Collaborative Approaches to Expanding Arts Access*
- Panel Discussion: Murals and Public Art:* **Lucia LaFord**
- Marsha MacDowell:** *Michigan Traditional Arts Program and the Upper Peninsula: Opportunities and Resources for Arts and Culture Activities*

3:15 15 minute break

3:30 Breakout 3 (pick one)

- Sheryl Gray:** *Intergenerational Storytelling Through Photography*
- Panel Discussion: Independent Artists Engaging with the Community:*  
**Dawn Roe, Lindsey Heiden, Ashley LaPoint, Oscar Mireles**
- Panel Discussion: Writers and Authors Engaging with the Community:*  
**Brandy Thomas, Rehema Clarken, Upasna Kakroo**

4:30 15 minute break

4:45 Closing remarks

*This draft agenda is subject to change*