



CONFERENCE AGENDA SAULT STE. MARIE, MI

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

Sault Area Art Center

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

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 *Creating Community:*
Deanna Drazee, Jesse Koenig, Kyrsten Cavazos, Jim Edwards

12:00 Lunch *Art as Healing* experience with **Jan Wellik** (virtual)

1:00 Breakout 1 (pick one)

- A. **Libby Meyer, Stephen Rush:** *Resonance in an Industrial Landscape: Audience Development Through Site-Specific Performance*
- B. **Tiina Morin:** *Beyond Silos: Leveraging Arts & Culture Across Sectors*
- C. *Panel Discussion: Government and Public Agencies Engaging with the Community:* **Casey Hoffman, Justin Knepper, Craig Woerpel + Sue Roll, moderator**

2:00 15 minute break

2:15 Breakout 2 (pick one)

- A. **Amy Pobanz:** *Planting the Seeds: Collaborative Approaches to Expanding Arts Access*
- B. *Panel Discussion: Murals and Public Art:* **Lucia LaFord, John Sauve, Chelsea Monaghan + Tiina Morin, moderator**
- C. *Panel Discussion: Michigan Traditional Arts Program and the Upper Peninsula: Opportunities and Resources for Arts and Culture Activities:* **Marsha MacDowell, Clare Zuraw, Molly M. Paquin, Ronald Paquin**

3:15 15 minute break

3:30 Breakout 3 (pick one)

- A. **Sheryl Gray:** *Intergenerational Storytelling Through Photography*
- B. *Panel Discussion: Independent Artists Engaging with the Community:* **Dawn Roe, Lindsey Heiden, Ashley Frazier, Oscar Mireles**
- C. *Panel Discussion: Writers and Authors Engaging with the Community:* **Brandy Thomas, Rehema Clarken, Upasna Kakroo + Philip Rice, moderator**

4:30 15 minute break

4:45 Closing remarks

This draft agenda is subject to change