



UPPER PENINSULA
**ARTS &
CULTURE
ALLIANCE**

FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CREATING COMMUNITY

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
THROUGH ARTS & CULTURE

2026

SEPTEMBER 26

Walker Cisler Center

AT LAKE SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY



MICHIGAN
**ARTS &
CULTURE
COUNCIL**



Cloverland
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE





FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE · 2026

CREATING COMMUNITY

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH ARTS & CULTURE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

SAULT AREA ART CENTER

5:30-7:00PM

WELCOME RECEPTION

****NEW location at 536 Ashmun St. Sault Ste. Marie, MI****

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

WALKER CISLER CENTER

9:00AM

REGISTRATION & COFFEE HOUR

SUPERIOR BALLROOM

10:00AM

WELCOME & KEYNOTE ADDRESS

JIM EDWARDS

11:00AM

PANEL: CREATING COMMUNITY

**JIM
EDWARDS**

**DEANNA
DRAZE**

**JESSE
KOENIG**

**KYRSTEN
CAVAZOS**

**PHILIP RICE,
MODERATOR**

12:00PM

LUNCH

SUPERIOR BALLROOM

12:15PM

**OPTIONAL
VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE**

MICHIGAN ROOM

Art as Healing

JAN WELLIK

1:00PM

BREAKOUTS – PICK ONE

MICHIGAN ROOM

Resonance in an Industrial Landscape: Audience Development Through Site-Specific Performance

LIBBY MEYER

STEPHEN RUSH

ONTARIO ROOM

Beyond Silos: Leveraging Arts & Culture Across Sectors

TIINA MORIN

SUPERIOR BALLROOM

Panel Discussion: Government and Public Agencies Engaging with the Community

CASEY
HOFFMAN

JUSTIN
KNEPPER

CRAIG
WOERPEL

SUE ROLL,
MODERATOR

2:00PM [15-MINUTE **NETWORKING BREAK**]

2:15PM

BREAKOUTS – PICK ONE

MICHIGAN ROOM

Planting the Seeds: Collaborative Approaches to Expanding Arts Access

AMY LYNNE
POBANZ

SARAH
HINCH

ONTARIO ROOM

Panel Discussion: Murals and Public Art

LUCIA LAFORD

JOHN SAUVE

CHELSEA
MONAGHAN

TIINA MORIN,
MODERATOR

SUPERIOR BALLROOM

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 J.
PAQUIN

3:15PM [15-MINUTE **NETWORKING BREAK**]

3:30PM

BREAKOUTS – PICK ONE

MICHIGAN ROOM

**Intergenerational
Storytelling Through
Photography**

SHERYL
GRAY

JANELLE
DODDS

ONTARIO ROOM

Panel Discussion:
Independent Artists Engaging
with the Community

DAWN ROE

LINDSEY HEIDEN

ASHLEY FRAZIER

OSCAR MIRELES

RAULANIESA ARANDA, MODERATOR

SUPERIOR BALLROOM

Panel Discussion: Writers and Authors Engaging
with the Community

BRANDY
THOMAS

REHEMA
CLARKEN

UPASNA
KAKROO

PHILIP RICE,
MODERATOR

4:30PM [15-MINUTE **NETWORKING BREAK**]

4:45PM

CLOSING REMARKS

SUPERIOR BALLROOM



Scan this QR code for info about all
presenters and panelists *or visit*
upacalliance.com/2026-conference-presenters