

ABBE MUSEUM



SNAPSHOT OF 2011

JANUARY



FEBRUARY



MARCH



APRIL



MAY



JUNE



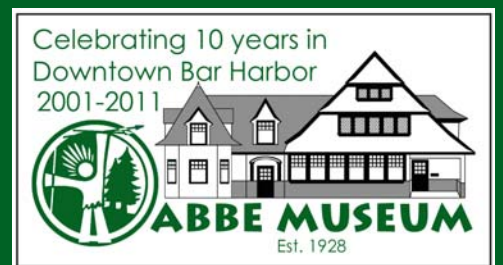
JULY



AUGUST



SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER



NOVEMBER



DECEMBER



SNAPSHOT OF 2011

JANUARY

The Third Thursday's Brown Bag Lunch Series launched on January 20th. This new winter series explored topics connected with our groundbreaking exhibit *Headline News: Wabanaki Sovereignty in the 21st Century*. Curator of Education, Raney Bench, provided discussions on the current status of tribal sovereignty, the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act, and the resulting separation from federal Indian Policy. This first talk focused specifically on gaming and environmental management as examples. The new series was a hit! Look for it in 2012.

FEBRUARY

A frosty February blew in some new ways to connect with friends, supporters, sponsors, and the community. At the start of the month we hosted the Winter Gathering, a special evening event for *Gathering Gala* artists and sponsors to thank them for their generous donations. At about the same time we launched Free for February, the kick-off to "Celebrating 10 Years Downtown!" to show our appreciation to our downtown Bar Harbor Community. We also sent out the first issue of Abbe eNews, the monthly newsletter delivered via email!

MARCH

In March we hosted our annual teacher workshop, which this year featured John Banks, Penobscot, Director of Natural Resources, who discussed historic and contemporary environmental management practices of the tribe. This provided teachers with content to apply in science units, reinforcing our promotion of teaching thematically. It was a record year for teacher trainings and workshops; we trained over 100 teachers representing seven Maine counties: Hancock, Waldo, Washington, Penobscot, Knox, Somerset, and Piscataquis!

APRIL

The 2011 Waponahki Student Art Show opened in April with a reception for the student artists and their families in May. The museum was packed for this event, an annual exhibition done in partnership with Maine Indian Education. The *Waponahki Student Art Show* is a favorite among our guests, and a wonderful opportunity to showcase the talent of these young artists. Also in April was the opening of our new Membership Lounge, a comfortable space for members, volunteers, and friends to relax within the Abbe Museum.

MAY

Sarah Sockbeson, Penobscot, held her first workshop at the Abbe in May, to kick-off our 2011 series. The class filled, and Sarah taught the eager participants how to weave little fancy baskets of natural and dyed ash. Sarah's work is in the *Twisted Path II* exhibit, that opened in October, and includes an educational element that explains the process of weaving ash baskets. Information and demonstrations help to promote baskets as a collectable art form; in 2011 alone, the Abbe Shop has sold 16 of Sarah's fancy baskets.

JUNE

June saw the launch of the first demonstration in Cultural Connections, organized in cooperation with Acadia National Park. This partnership brought presentations by Wabanaki artists to the Acadia region each Wednesday. Over 3,000 visitors experienced these demonstrations, benefiting from direct education with Wabanaki teachers. In June we hosted our annual meeting, and attendees enjoyed an amazing presentation by Bonnie Newsom, "Braided Visions: A Personal Reflection on the Abbe Museum's Community Engagement."

JULY

July was a busy month! We had two openings for our featured exhibit, *Indians & Rusticators*, both with remarks and book signings by guest curators Bunny McBride and Harald Prins. More than 400 guests combined joined us for these two evenings of celebration. Next up was the annual Native American Festival and Basketmakers Market, held in partnership with Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance and College of the Atlantic. The month concluded with the *Gathering Gala* at the Bar Harbor Club with record numbers of guests in attendance.

AUGUST

Demonstrations and workshops continued throughout August, in addition to the Abbe Museum Field School in Archaeology! Twenty students representing seven states got their hands dirty doing archaeology for a week, digging at a site that has been revisited by the Abbe Museum multiple times. There were some great finds that are now at the Abbe Museum, being researched by Julia Clark, Curator of Collections, and volunteers. This year's team of experiential learners took home exciting memories from a unique experience.

SEPTEMBER

Though we had been celebrating all year, September marked the official 10-year anniversary of the opening of the Abbe Museum's second location in downtown Bar Harbor. To thank our community for their support, we celebrated this milestone by offering 10 evenings of extended hours and free admission. 300 guests took advantage of this offer, and enjoyed the exciting exhibits and educational opportunities that would not have been possible without the support and vision of those who helped make the Abbe Downtown a reality.

OCTOBER

After a sold-out crowd enjoyed a wonderful presentation by Dr. John Crock during the always-popular *Tea, Popovers, and Archaeology*, we had the excitement of opening *Twisted Path II* on October 21st. All five artists and both curators joined us to unveil and introduce these new artworks by Rhonda Besaw, George Neptune, Max Romero-Sanipass, LEON, and Sarah Sockbeson. Some of these artists had never before been exhibited at the Abbe Museum, and *Twisted Path II* is an opportunity to showcase their innovative work!

NOVEMBER

In November we screened the SECOND film in the Abbe Museum's THIRD annual Film Series, but it was the FIRST feature length film to be part of this popular program! *Smoke Signals* attracted a crowd of visitors that enjoyed a great film, followed by a lively discussion, moderated by Raney Bench. November is also a popular month for school groups; during this month we will have worked with at least 263 students, through programs both at the Abbe Museum and in the classroom, including our first ever trip out to Frenchboro.

DECEMBER

The highlight of December? The opportunity to look back on the memories of January—November, and reflect on everything that has been accomplished this year. It has been an amazing year—we have reached new audiences, hosted over 27,000 visitors (and counting!), opened three new exhibits, worked with hundreds of school children, engaged new artists not previously represented at the Abbe Museum, and worked tirelessly to *inspire new learning about the Wabanaki Nations with every visit*. **Thank you for making it all possible.**