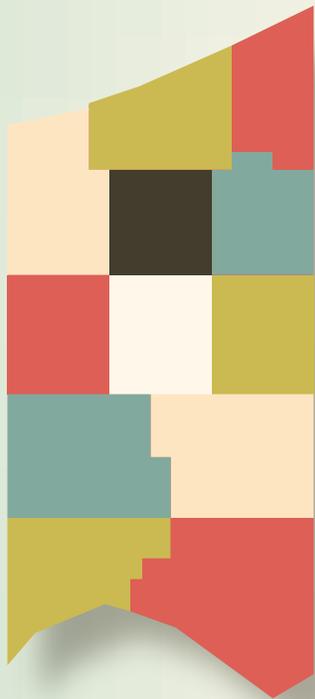


POCO  
muse  
LETTER

WINTER 2016



PORTER COUNTY'S

next 100

Imagining the Future of the  
Porter County Museum

The POCO MUSE LETTER is a quarterly news publication of the Porter County Museum.

WINTER 2016

in this issue

4

THE NEXT 100

5

INVISIBLE PROJECT

9

FROM THE ARCHIVES  
This Month in Porter  
County History

10

SATURDAYS @ THE  
POCO MUSE  
Indiana Bicentennial  
Commission

## POCO muse NEWSWORTHY

### COMMUNITY SUPPORTED ART VALPARAISO OPENS AT THE PORTER COUNTY MUSEUM

The second season of *Community Supported Art Valparaiso* is on display through February 27 at the Porter County Museum! The exhibit opening in December of 2015 brought artists and art supporters together to share and reflect on the role of the arts in our communities. During a panel discussion with the artists, moderated by Brauer Museum Curator Gregg Hertzlieb, the artists shared their inspirations and plans for what they will create for the fifty shareholders that buy a stake in this season and support local artists.

Join us on **Saturday, February 6 at 2p** to hear from this season's CSA Valpo literary artist, Tina Porter. Of her poetry, Porter says, "My writing could best be summarized as an exploration of what it means to be whole in a world that continues to try to segment us as individuals as well as a community. I love what poetry can do in the public sphere: illustrate commonalities of desire and hope in peoples who seem to dwell often on the differences. I have been told that my writing allows people to see how universal the personal actually is." Visit [www.csartvalpo.com](http://www.csartvalpo.com) to learn more about Tina, and about the Community Supported Art initiative. Be sure to purchase your share in Community Supported Art Valparaiso before they sell out!



### INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY WITH EXHIBIT SERIES



This year, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore celebrates its 50th anniversary! To commemorate their history, the Lakeshore is partnering with the museums and historical societies throughout Porter County to create a series of exhibits related to the Indiana Dunes.

The Porter County Museum is excited to announce an interactive exhibit featuring the history of Camp Good-fellow opening during the summer of 2016. Stay tuned for details about this upcoming exhibit, as well as the efforts of other local museums to curate and share this important history. Thanks to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore for its support!

## FROM THE CHAIR

For 100 years old we sure look great!

This year marks the 100th anniversary of PoCo Muse and we're better than ever. The Museum is healthy and growing, and we invite you to become part of the next 100 years by participating in our community workshops. Additionally, there is always a need for volunteers, for support, and, most of all, for your story.

Running a successful nonprofit stretches the resources of staff and funds. The Museum depends on the time, talents, and involvement of volunteers, not just for today's work in our communities, but to build the future of Porter County. Your support helps us in everything we do, from exhibits, like Community Supported Art Valparaiso, to school tours and children's activity days.

We at the Museum can see the future because we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. Our time has come to be the shoulders on which the future depends.

Joanne Urschel

Chair of the Board of Trustees



Historical exhibits were a major part of Porter County's Centennial Celebration during 1916. Community members from each of the townships brought artifacts for display at the public library. Some of the artifacts seen above are still held in the Porter County Museum Collection.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

The world—and Porter County, for that matter—was a vastly different place only a century ago. The same goes for the institution we now lovingly call the PoCo Muse. It was hardly a museum in 1916, but more a haphazard display of oddities and cherished items from the bygone pioneer era. Twenty-eight charter members had heart, pride, and a desire to commemorate Indiana's Centennial by sharing their own history.

Fast forward to present day and you will find the Porter County Museum has endured. The people who were instrumental in our founding still play a role in what we do, but mostly as a talking point on one of our cemetery tours (more on that later). Despite this change, the heart, pride, and desire exhibited one hundred years ago is still very much alive today. Staff of the PoCo Muse and the Board of Trustees of the Museum's Foundation are eager to chart the course of the next ten decades.

Final preparations are being made for an initiative called the Next 100. The primary goal of the Next 100 is to gather as much input from the residents of Porter County so they can help shape the Porter County Museum's next one hundred years. Have an idea for a program? Want to see a certain type of exhibit? We want to know. Look for a schedule of our facilitated conversations—held in different locations all throughout the county—to be published soon.

I may never know what the founding of the Museum was like first-hand, but we all have the ability to shape the next century. Help us set the course and ensure the Porter County Museum will be just as viable when Indiana's Tricentennial is being celebrated.

Hope to see you during this very special year at the PoCo Muse!

Kevin Matthew Pazour  
Executive Director

P.S.—Many thanks to the Local History Services of the Indiana Historical Society for lauding the success of our cemetery tours at the end of 2015. Look for more great cemetery tours throughout Porter County this summer and autumn!



# PORTER COUNTY'S next 100

Imagining the Future of the  
Porter County Museum

## PUBLIC WORKSHOPS ASK FOR YOUR INPUT ON THE NEXT 100

Along with the many important anniversaries being celebrated in Porter County during 2016, the Porter County Museum will be celebrating its 100th year! In 1916, residents of every township in Porter County collected objects from their daily lives and proudest achievements, as well as interesting curiosities found through the years for a historical exhibit. The odd assortment of life in Porter County was displayed in the Valparaiso public library as part of a week-long festival celebrating Indiana's Centennial. The festivities ended, but many residents didn't pick up their belongings. With that, the Porter County Museum was born.



Today, the Porter County Museum is a small, but vibrant, organization dedicated to sharing the stories of Porter County's history and culture. The Museum cares for thousands of artifacts, features engaging permanent and temporary exhibits, and provides programs encouraging us to think about the past, present, and future of Porter County.

### AS WE ENTER THIS LANDMARK YEAR, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Museum was created by Porter County residents for Porter County residents, and that tradition continues today. We want your ideas for the next 100 years of the Porter County Museum. What stories do you want to hear? What stories do you have to tell?

Join us at one of several conversations about the future of Porter County and the Porter County Museum. During the program, hear about significant people, places, and events in the history of Porter County, learn about the Porter County Museum expansion project, and help us imagine what the next 100 have in store.

## public workshops

**FEBRUARY 17**  
WEDNESDAY, 5:30p  
Hebron Public Library

**MARCH 5**  
SATURDAY, 2:00p  
Kouts Public Library

**FEBRUARY 27**  
SATURDAY, 2:00p  
Valparaiso Public Library

**MARCH 12**  
SATURDAY, 2:00p  
Westchester Public Library

**MARCH 3**  
THURSDAY, 5:30p  
Porter County Museum

**MARCH 16**  
WEDNESDAY, 5:30p  
Portage Public Library

## THE INVISIBLE PROJECT

### SHARING STORIES OF HOMELESSNESS IN PORTER COUNTY

MARCH  
19

INVISIBLE  
PROJECT  
OPENING

*The Invisible Project*, opening this March at the Porter County Museum, is a mobile exhibit designed to raise awareness of homelessness in Porter County through first-person stories, infographics, and art. The exhibit is a collaboration between Valparaiso University's Welcome Project and Professor Ahn's Master of Science in Digital Media graphic design class, as well as community partners-- Housing Opportunities, Dayspring Women's Center, Gabriel's Horn, and the Coalition for Affordable Housing. The exhibit is supported in part by Valparaiso University's Cultural Arts Committee and Porter County Community Foundation.



There are more than 300 homeless people in Porter County on any given day, but many residents of Porter County are largely unaware of this population because homeless individuals in our communities don't conform to expectations of who homeless people are, and what they should look like. The purpose of the project is to help break down stigmas and assumptions about the homeless population while affirming that we, together, make up Porter County. The exhibit will be based on Welcome Project stories, infographics developed to visually display research and statistics, alongside images and videos. By encountering the faces and stories of these individuals, the collaborators hope viewers become more aware, develop connections, deepen empathy, and, ultimately, act to create a more supportive community. The mobile exhibit, developed at the Porter County Museum, will then travel to several sites on Valparaiso University's campus and across the county.



Valparaiso University student work currently on display in Schnabel Hall will be incorporated into the mobile exhibition.

### MUSEUM HOSTS COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

In addition to the exhibit opening on March 19, 2016, join the discussion on homes, housing, and homelessness by attending a community conversation on **March 24, 2016 at 6:30p** sponsored by the Times of Northwest Indiana. As we commemorate the Bicentennial, the Times is working with local museums and historical societies to host conversations about important issues impacting the future of Indiana. We invite you to view the exhibit, and then take part in a discussion moderated by trained Center for Civic Reflection facilitators about what home means to us today, in the past, and in the future.

On any given day,  
approximately 300  
people in Porter  
County are homeless.

In Porter County,  
15% of all children  
live in poverty.

The average age of  
a homeless person  
in our community is  
9 years old.

# JANUARY

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-----|
|     |     |      |     |      | 1   | 2   |
| 3   | 4   | 5    | 6   | 7    | 8   | 9   |
| 10  | 11  | 12   | 13  | 14   | 15  | 16  |
| 17  | 18  | 19   | 20  | 21   | 22  | 23  |
| 24  | 25  | 26   | 27  | 28   | 29  | 30  |
| 31  |     |      |     |      |     |     |

**JANUARY 1**  
MUSEUM CLOSED

**JANUARY 16**  
INDIANA BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION  
Join Perry Hammock, Executive Director of the Indiana Bicentennial Commission, to learn more about the state's efforts to celebrate this momentous year!  
PROGRAM BEGINS @ 2P

**FEBRUARY 4**  
JEFF MANES  
Local author Jeff Manes will share the oral histories he has collected in his book, *All Worth Their Salt: The People of Northwest Indiana*  
PROGRAM BEGINS @ 5:30P

**FEBRUARY 6**  
TINA PORTER POETRY READING  
Valparaiso resident and local writer Tina Porter presents her poetry in conjunction with the *Community Supported Art Valparaiso* exhibit.  
READING BEGINS @ 2P

**FEBRUARY 17**  
THE NEXT 100  
Join Museum staff for a conversation about what the next 100 years holds for Porter County, and for the Porter County Museum. Learn more about the Museum's expansion project, and give feedback on the stories you would like to see at 16 Indiana- the future of the Porter County Museum.  
HEBRON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PROGRAM BEGINS @ 5:30P

**FEBRUARY 20**  
THE MUSIC OF LINCOLN  
What does the music of Lincoln's era, written about this important figure, tell us about this remarkable president? Angelo Cicco presents on what the music written about Abraham Lincoln reveals about the legacy of this important American figure.

PROGRAM BEGINS @ 5:3

**FEBRUARY 27**  
THE NEXT 100  
VALPARAISO PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PROGRAM BEGINS @ 2P

**MARCH 3**  
THE NEXT 100  
PORTER COUNTY MUSEUM  
PROGRAM BEGINS @ 5:30P

**MARCH 5**  
THE NEXT 100  
KOUTS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PROGRAM BEGINS @ 2P

**MARCH 16**  
THE NEXT 100  
PORTAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PROGRAM BEGINS @ 5:30P

# MARCH

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-----|
|     |     | 1    | 2   | 3    | 4   | 5   |
| 6   | 7   | 8    | 9   | 10   | 11  | 12  |
| 13  | 14  | 15   | 16  | 17   | 18  | 19  |
| 20  | 21  | 22   | 23  | 24   | 25  | 26  |
| 27  | 28  | 29   | 30  | 31   |     |     |

**MARCH 18**  
BANTA HISTORY PRESENTATION  
Executive Director Kevin Pazour will present on the history of the Banta neighborhood at the Banta Senior Center.  
PROGRAM BEGINS @ 1P

**INVISIBLE PROJECT MEMBER PREVIEW**  
PoCo Muse Members are invited to attend a special member preview of the new *Invisible Project* exhibit, designed to dismantle stigmas and assumptions about homelessness in our communities.  
RECEPTION FROM 5-7P

**MARCH 19**  
INVISIBLE PROJECT PUBLIC OPENING  
Stop by the Museum to get a first look at the *Invisible Project*, a new mobile exhibit designed by the PoCo Muse in collaboration with Valparaiso University faculty, students, and area non-profits working to address homelessness in our communities.

RECEPTION FROM 1-4P

**MARCH 24**  
HOMES, HOUSING, & HOMELESSNESS COMMUNITY CONVERSATION  
Join in the community conversation about homes, housing, and homelessness as the Museum partners with the NWI Times and Center for Civic Reflection to discuss Indiana's future.

DISCUSSION BEGINS @ 6:30P

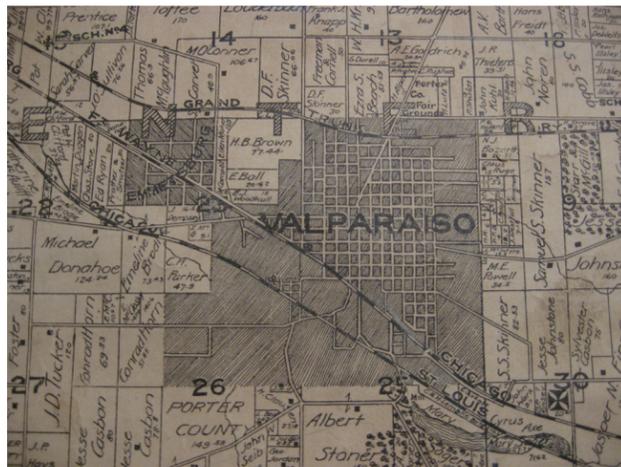
# FEBRUARY

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-----|
|     | 1   | 2    | 3   | 4    | 5   | 6   |
| 7   | 8   | 9    | 10  | 11   | 12  | 13  |
| 14  | 15  | 16   | 17  | 18   | 19  | 20  |
| 21  | 22  | 23   | 24  | 25   | 26  | 27  |
| 28  | 29  |      |     |      |     |     |

## FROM THE COLLECTION

In the room on the left at the top of the stairs in the Porter County Museum is the 100 Years 100 Objects exhibit that opened last July. If you have not yet had the opportunity to see it, you may want to stop by and allow the objects to provide an historical glimpse into the lives and cultures of local residents. Then take a moment to imagine how such an exhibit might look 100 years from now when the objects on display tell the stories of how people live from now until then.

Thousands and thousands of objects have been acquired since the Museum opened in 1916. The plat map of Porter County compiled by Lee and Lee in 1895 from actual surveys and records is one notable example. This map, with a scale of 2 inches to 1 mile, pulls down from a carefully crafted wood casing that can be hung on a wall. The graphics showing the topography are clear and well preserved as are the names of the property owners, but, of course, the information is static and historical. Electronic innovations in the preservation and presentation of this type of information have given rise to the creation of new objects.



It is not only objects, however, that change in a museum. The processes involved in Collections Management, such as those depicted on the wall leading up to the 100 Years 100 Objects exhibit, also change as new technologies and products become available. New practices in the acquisition, cataloging, restoration, and conservation of objects evolve.



While one cannot possibly predict all of the changes that will occur over a long period of time, one can appreciate that the beginning of the next 100 years of the Porter County Museum presents with great possibilities. The renovation at 16 Indiana will provide new spaces in which processes can be performed more efficiently and professionally. Donations and support from a generous public will provide objects and materials that can sustain and enhance Collections into the next 100 years.

*Helen Arvidson*

**Helen Arvidson**  
Chair of the Collections Committee

**CORRECTION:** T.S. Bull's residence and apiary featured and identified as being in Washington Township in the Autumn 2015 newsletter was actually in Liberty Township. It was T.A. Bull and his wife who owned property in Washington Township.

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY: 1916

Many thanks to PoCo Muse Volunteer Kathy Evans for selecting and summarizing these stories from the 1916 edition of the Porter County Vidette.

### JANUARY 12, 1916

#### WHERE WERE THE WOLVES?

One lone possum was the only "fruit" of the big Porter County wolf drive. The hunt was attended by no fewer than 300 hunters. Not a wolf was sighted but the event received much publicity including reporters and photographers from three Chicago newspapers and the Indianapolis press.

### JANUARY 19, 1916

#### TOO MANY CANDIDATES FOR MODERN VOTING MACHINES

It was announced that voting machines will not be used in the March 7 primary due to the large number of candidates. There is simply not space on the machines for all the names. Instead the more costly paper ballots will be used with a different color ballot for each party-- Republicans, Democrats, Progressives, Prohibitionists, plus any other that may be represented.

### JANUARY 26, 1916

#### HEARS REPORTS ON COUNTY BUILDINGS

The Grand Jury appointed by Judge Loring of the Porter County Circuit Court filed their report today regarding the condition of the county-owned buildings. As for the County Jail [present home of the Porter County Museum]: "We found it vacant and clean and in a warm and comfortable condition with the following exceptions: The roof leaks and has caused the plastering in one or more places to fall from the wall..." In much worse condition was the County Courthouse. After first reporting the need for additional heating capacity, attention was turned toward the unsanitary condition of the toilets in the basement. "The room in which the toilets are located has no outside opening and therefore

lacks proper ventilation. The stench from these toilet rooms can be detected throughout the building." A final paragraph from the report concludes as follows: "That the basement at the present time is the waste basket for the courthouse, being full of ashes, papers, old chairs, etc. etc., we do think it is strange that this rubbish and the stench of the toilet rooms have existed right under the nose of the Health Department."

### FEBRUARY 2, 1916

#### INDIANA REPRESENTATIVES SAY "NO" TO MOTOR VEHICLE MAIL ROUTES

Two Indiana Republican members of the House of Representatives joined the Republican delegation from Ohio in rebelling against the newly enacted orders of the Postmaster General, which changed the rural routes. A bill was introduced to rescind the new routes and return to the horse-drawn routes; to reinstate immediately the carriers of the horse-drawn vehicles who had been suspended; and to only add new motor vehicle routes if a majority of the patrons on the old horse-drawn routes voted approval.

### MARCH 22, 1916

#### EXTENSIVE IMPROVEMENTS FOR HOSPITAL

The local board of the Valparaiso Christian Hospital (106 Jefferson St.) has voted to accept several thousand dollars from the National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church "to put the hospital back in good condition." It has been 10 years since any extensive repairs or new equipment has been added. To receive this generous gift, the local board and the Porter County community will need to raise funds to pay for standing current expenses. The hospital has never been completely self supporting due to the large amount of charity work it provides. The local community must step forward-- "Valparaiso needs a better hospital and we now have the chance to get it... When it is remembered that the hospital is essentially a local institution; that it is the only hospital in Valparaiso... that it serves that whole community to the best of its ability making no distinction whatever as to religious affiliation, but treating all alike... the local board of trustees feels warranted in going to the people of the county and asking for help at this time."



This image from approximately 1907-1910 shows the Christian Hospital that stood at 106 Jefferson St. (Chase Bank parking lot) from 1891 until it was demolished during the 1960's.



## SATURDAYS @ THE POCO MUSE

The Saturdays @ the PoCo Muse monthly program series is held on the third Saturday of each month. Saturdays @ the PoCo Muse events often feature new exhibit openings from 1-4p, or programs highlighting the history and culture of Porter County at 2p.

### JANUARY: INDIANA BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Join the Executive Director of the Indiana Bicentennial Commission, Perry Hammock, at the Museum to learn more about the state's efforts to celebrate Indiana's 200th. The State has organized a year of fun initiatives to celebrate this momentous occasion. Find out how you can get involved on **January 16 at 2p.**



### FEBRUARY: THE SONGS OF LINCOLN

What do the songs written about Abraham Lincoln reveal about attitudes toward this important American figure? Just in time to commemorate Abraham Lincoln's birthday, join Angelo Cicco at the Porter County Museum on **Saturday, February 20 at 2p** to learn more about this legendary president. By focusing on music from the mid-19th and 20th centuries written about Lincoln, we can gain an understanding of the popular attitudes toward this famous president. During the talk, Cicco will also give insight into the historical significance of printed sheet music, as not just a mode of expression, but as important historical artifacts.

### MARCH: INVISIBLE PROJECT OPENING

Get a first look at The Invisible Project, an exhibit designed to educate about issues of homelessness in our community, on **Saturday, March 19 from 1-4p.** This exhibit is a collaboration between Valparaiso University's Welcome Project and Prof. Ahn's Master of Science in Digital Media graphic design class, as well as community partners-- Housing Opportunities, Dayspring Women's Center, Gabriel's Horn, and the Coalition for Affordable Housing. Stop by during the opening to experience first-person accounts of homelessness in Porter County, and chat with Museum staff and community partners about this unique new project!

### MUSEUM STORE

The Museum Store has a new stock of merchandise from local artists! Notecards, posters, jewelry, playing cards (like those featured right, designed by CSA Valpo organizer Melissa Washburn), and original works by artists living and working in our communities are all available!

Support local artists as well as the Museum's effort to educate, enrich, and inspire our Porter County communities!



## VOLUNTEER @ POCO MUSE!

### WHAT'S YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

Are you looking to get more involved in your community? Consider volunteering at the PoCo Muse! Our volunteers are invited to help with a large variety of tasks--greeting, giving tours, cleaning and organizing, cataloging the Collection, researching, staffing events, marketing, and installing exhibits. And we can always use your help! The bicentennial year is the perfect time get involved, while at the same time learning about all the exciting events celebrating Indiana's vibrant history.

Want to learn more about volunteering at the PoCo Muse? Stop by, give us a call, or e-mail [info@pocomuse.org](mailto:info@pocomuse.org). We'd love to hear from you!



#### POCO MUSE DONORS AUTUMN 2015

We would like to recognize the following individuals and organizations for supporting our mission by becoming members of the Porter County Museum this past quarter.

#### PoCo Muse Partners

EDUCATE:  
Robert & Lynn Welsh  
Kathryn & Stewart McMillan

#### Friends of the Museum

SUSTAINING FRIEND:  
Gretchen & John Buggeln  
Carlos Rivero  
Doug & Jackie Watkins

#### CONTRIBUTING FRIEND:

Philipp Brockington  
Tim & Amy Daly

#### FRIEND:

Eva Brady  
Linda Canfield  
Heath & Thais Carter  
C. Bernard Doyle

Len & Bee Ellis  
James Morrow  
Doug & Cindi Pierce  
Aco Sikoski

#### Becoming PoCo

HOUSEHOLD:  
Karen & Chuck Conover  
Marisa Garcia-Verdugo  
Damien Gabis  
Mark & Deb Good  
Terry & June Hand  
Richard Riley  
Ted & Cathy Swigon

#### INDIVIDUAL:

Sandra Detraz  
Virginia Phillips  
Diane Schweitzer

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHAIR OF THE BOARD  
Joanne Urschel

VICE CHAIR  
Kathryn McMillan

SECRETARY  
Helen Arvidson

TREASURER  
Sharon Swihart

Jeremy Blum  
Gretchen Buggeln  
Larry J. Clark  
Tim S. Daly  
C. Bernard Doyle  
Rich Hudson  
Ruth Johnston  
Kevin Kerr  
Matthew R. Mullins  
Carlos Rivero  
Aco Sikoski  
Robert Welsh

### STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Kevin Matthew Pazour

COORDINATORS  
Jake Just  
Megan Telligman

AMERICORPS  
Rachel Hulslander

# JANUARY

16

**SATURDAYS @ POCO MUSE:**  
Indiana Bicentennial  
Commission

# FEBRUARY

4

**WE ARE POCO SERIES:**  
Jeff Manes

6

**TINA PORTER POETRY  
READING**

20

**SATURDAYS @ POCO MUSE:**  
Songs of Lincoln

# MARCH

3

**WE ARE POCO SERIES:**  
The Next 100

19

**SATURDAYS @ POCO MUSE:**  
*Invisible Project* Exhibit Opening

24

**COMMUNITY CONVERSATION**  
Homes, Housing, & Homelessness

**POCO  
muse  
LETTER**  
WINTER 2016



/pocomuse

**EMAIL** [info@pocomuse.org](mailto:info@pocomuse.org)

**CALL** 219.465.3595

**VISIT** [pocomuse.org](http://pocomuse.org)

**P  
OCO  
muse  
LETTER**

PORTER COUNTY MUSEUM  
153 S. FRANKLIN STREET  
VALPARAISO, IN 46383

