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Raven Hill Discovery Center is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Mission: to provide a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history and the arts.

To: Area Newspapers and Media
From: Cheri Leach, CEO
Date: August 2, 2021
Re: **Smithsonian Pilot Project**

For Immediate Release

Smithsonian & Raven Hill Collaboration scheduled to open August 14.

"Labor Days-A History of Work"

Raven Hill Discovery Center is one of ten sites in the United States selected in 2019 to participate in a Smithsonian pilot project to develop a unique humanities-based exhibition about local work history. The exhibition, ***Labor Days—A History of Work***, will reflect the strong history and culture of work around Lake Charlevoix and connections to work in northern Michigan, the nation and around the world. ***Labor Days*** opens at 10am on Saturday, August 14th and will remain open from 10am to 4pm daily through the end of September.

The completed exhibition highlights the who, what, where, why and how of Lake Charlevoix residents at work, and show how their work fits within state and national work histories. It explores the places Americans worked and how work became such a central element in American culture by tracing the many changes that affected the workforce and work environments around Lake Charlevoix during the past two centuries.

"Labor Days will engage Raven Hill visitors in local history and broaden awareness of the important role that the Lake Charlevoix area has played on the state and national stage. The Center is thrilled to be chosen to work with Smithsonian staff to develop such an exciting exhibit promoting the Lake Charlevoix area and all of Michigan. We look forward to presenting this exhibit to the community this summer." —Cheri Leach, Raven Hill CEO.

This pilot project was a hands-on opportunity for local cultural professionals to learn about the exhibition development process used by the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street (MoMS) program.

The curatorial framework for the exhibition was provided by the Smithsonian and has been fleshed out by Raven Hill and regional partners using local historical images, art and artifacts, video clips and oral histories.

MoMS is a partnership of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and state humanities councils. It was created to serve museums, libraries and historical societies in rural areas, where about one-fifth of all Americans live. The partnership brings exhibitions, educational resources and programming to small towns across America. MoMS has visited all 50 U.S. states as well as Guam and inspired some 1,600 towns to rediscover their local histories while finding a renewed sense of community pride. Funding for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress. Visit online at museumonmainstreet.org. SITES has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington, D.C., for more than 65 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science and history, which are shown wherever people live, work and play. For more information, including exhibition descriptions and tour schedules, visit sites.si.edu. Participating sites include **Pikeville, Kentucky; Haverhill, Massachusetts; Blytheville, Arkansas; Globe, Arizona; Grinnell, Iowa; Meridian, Mississippi; Aurora, Nebraska; Troy, New York; Lyons, Kansas and Raven Hill.**

Raven Hill Discovery Center (www.MiRavenHill.org) is the only place in northern Lower Michigan where children and adults can link science, history & the arts with hands-on activities and explorations both inside and out. Connections emerge through exhibits, facilities & programs that provide opportunities for all ages to learn, create, grow & play. For 30 years, Raven Hill Discovery Center's mission has been to provide a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for everyone by connecting science, history and the arts.

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