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Senator Ellman, Rep Yang Rohr announce \$311,229 Tourism Grant to enhance Naper Settlement's 2024 event season

NAPERVILLE, IL — Thanks to the support of Senator Laura Ellman and Rep. Janet Yang Rohr, the State of Illinois has awarded a \$311,229 tourism grant to Naper Settlement for its 2024 special event season. Funding will support the enhancement of the museum's Naper Nights Concert Series, Oktoberfest, All Hallows Eve, and Howlin' at the Moon. Thanks to the support and advocacy of Senator Laura Ellman and Rep. Janet Yang Rohr, the history museum was one of twenty organizations selected to receive funding to support tourism growth in Illinois.

Naper Settlement's special events have seen tremendous growth over the past five years with an 85% increase in attendance and visitors coming from over 400 zip codes throughout Illinois and surrounding states. In 2023, the economic impact of the museum's special events reached over 1 million dollars, serving as an economic engine for the city, surrounding counties, and state.

"Thank you to Governor JB Pritzker, DCEO, Senator Ellman, and Representative Janet Yang Rohr for their support of the museum and its role as a cultural tourism destination for our city and state," said Rena Tamayo-Calabrese, president and CEO at Naper Settlement. "Their support allows the museum to continue to grow and provide unique experiences that not only showcase our 13-acre campus but Naperville's rich downtown area and businesses, creating a lasting economic impact."

The Museum especially thanks Senator Laura Ellman and Representative Janet Yang Rohr for their strong support of the museum and grant.

Senator Ellman said, "Last August I was among the thousands of concert goers who attended one of the Naper Nights events within the concert series, which lasts throughout the summer. Naper Nights is one of the many attractions that Naper Settlement has to offer our community. I am proud to have supported this Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Tourism Private Sector Grant Program, which will boost attractions such as the Naper Night concert series, and will result in additional funding for area hotels and restaurants."

"I want to thank the Governor and DCEO for recognizing Naperville as an important tourism location," said Rep. Yang Rohr. "Naper Settlement continues to be a source of pride and knowledge in the Naperville area, with their special events highlighting communities, stories and histories from every corner of our state. These unique special events fuel economic development and jobs for the whole community. Illinois needs Naper Settlement and the Naperville

community to succeed going forward, and I plan to keep advocating for our community's most prized possessions: our stories and our people."

Funding will support a variety of significant enhancements including several new attractions added to the museum's Halloween events, All Hallows Eve, and Howlin' at the Moon.

For more information on Naper Settlement's special events, please visit NaperSettlement.org/Events.

About Naper Settlement

Naper Settlement is a nationally accredited, award-winning outdoor living history museum set on 13 magnificent acres in the heart of Naperville. Located 30 miles from Chicago, the museum is home to thirty-one historical structures dating back as early as the 1830s. Featuring exhibits, special events, educational programming and more, Naper Settlement is where history comes alive and the community comes to connect. For more information, visit www.napersettlement.org or call (630) 420-6010.