

# 2025 Annual Report

## **2025 Accomplishments**

- Replaced the Daniels House and Halfway House roofs.
- The Pine Craig/Caroline Martin Mitchell Mansion drive-around project replaced the red colored gravel with concrete.
- An ADA accessible concrete ramp was added to the Copenhagen School House.
- The Century Memorial Chapel windows repair project, HVAC system, and TAC controls were replaced.
- The Birck Family Innovation Gateway's welcome film, "Looking Back is Looking Forward," received a Gold Telly Award, Silver Telly Award, and Platinum Level AVA Digital Award.
- In February, the Thresher Experience opened in the Herman and Anna Hageman Memorial Thresher Hall. This free exhibit enables a 1912 thresher to come alive through projection mapping and allows guests to interact with digital characters. In July, Naper Settlement was honored with the Best Practices Award for the Thresher Experience from the Association of Midwest Museums.
- The free Farmers Market, which has 29 vendors, is on track to welcome over 8,700 people.
- The exhibit "Selling Kroehler" showcased Naper Settlement's Kroehler Manufacturing collection - the largest in the country - and offered new original research to contribute to the American marketing and consumerism story of the 20th century.
- Teacher training reached a new level when staff were accepted to the National Social Studies Conference in Washington, D.C., to share the Unvarnished curriculum.
- With over 620 filled slots, Camp Naper achieved 104% capacity across 25 camps and generated over \$172,000 in revenue.
- The planetary scanner, a state-of-the-art technology used to produce 3D scans, was brought online with increased calibration. 600 items from the Kroehler collection have been scanned and digitized in 2025, and an additional 1,400 items will be scanned and digitized by the end of the year.
- The Naperville Heritage Society network security was enhanced. Naper Settlement networks were streamlined by consolidating three partial site networks into one unified secure network. A site-to-site VPN was established, creating one Naper Settlement network that spans all buildings at the primary and Fort Hill Collections sites.
- Naper Settlement undertook a collections management system overhaul with onboarding Terentia, a platform that catalogs and preserves 2D, 3D, and digital collections.
- The NaperSettlement.org Digital Policies were upgraded with changes to the accessibility, privacy, cookie, and terms and conditions policies.
- Naper Settlement exceeded total operating revenue goal by 2.7% in 2025.

## **2025 Challenges**

- Revenue Gap:
  - Identify new revenue sources to offset the loss of Festa Italiana and Pride. The cancellation of these two events has created a budget gap of **\$22,375.**
- Strategic Focus:
  - Refine rental strategies and reset expectations for IG in light of the current lack of a liquor license.
  - Explore alternative site uses and new revenue opportunities, with particular focus on the holiday season.

## **2026 Upcoming Work**

- Complete the Inventing Agriculture permanent exhibit.
- A 250th anniversary Declaration of Independence exhibit featuring programs, exhibits, and special events highlighting America's founding and Naperville's connections to American history.
- A new teacher professional development initiative will expand the Settlement's impact with area educators.
- Terentia, an online collections hub, will be activated and allow for more public access to the vast collection of the Naperville Heritage Society and the City of Naperville.
- Improve network firewalls to increase security.
- Digitize another 2,000 items from its collection to keep on track with the goal of digitizing 8,000 items (roughly 10% of its holdings) over 3 years.
- Retire outdated technology – computers, exhibit items, humidity loggers, and other technologies - to improve network and site security.
- Naper Settlement will install security cameras and receive an upgraded door access system to manage secure access across the site as part of the City's CIP.
- Present the Long-Range Site Plan, which will guide the institution for the next 10-15 years and complete the museum's reaccreditation by the American Alliance.