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Naperville Heritage Society is Awarded \$800,000 for The Whole History Project

Naperville, IL – Following the recent passage of the H.R. 2882, The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, by Congress and its subsequent signing by President Biden, the Naperville Heritage Society has been granted \$800,000 in Congressional Directed Spending. This substantial allocation, championed by Senator Dick Durbin, will be directed towards The Whole History Project: Using Digital Media to Generate Community Conversation.

This initiative is designed to preserve and digitize vast archives, artifacts, and records, showcasing the rich diversity and history of Naperville and the State of Illinois. The project aims to make these cultural treasures accessible to a wider audience, transcending geographical barriers.

Senator Durbin's efforts have been pivotal in securing this funding. His commitment to enhancing educational and cultural resources reflects his dedication to the historical enrichment of our community and state.

"We are immensely grateful for Senator Durbin's support, which has been crucial in bringing The Whole History Project to fruition," **stated Macarena (Rena) Tamayo-Calabrese, President & CEO of Naper Settlement.** "This funding is not just an investment in our society but a testament to the importance of preserving our collective history. Through The Whole History Project, we aim to digitize and share our extensive archives, creating a dynamic and interactive platform for education and engagement. This will allow us to tell the comprehensive story of Illinois, marked by its challenges, triumphs, and the diverse people who have shaped it."

"The use of Congressionally-directed spending provides Members of Congress, who know their states and districts better than federal agency personnel in Washington, with the ability to direct federal funding to priority projects in their communities, including the Whole History Project," **said Senator Dick Durbin.** "With this federal funding, we are educating Illinoisans about the rich history of Naperville and Illinois for generations to come. Through preservation and interactive platforms, this project lays out our state's diverse story. I also thank the Naperville Heritage Society for their work to get this project across the finish line, and I look forward to seeing it firsthand."

The Whole History Project will include the development of interactive displays and exhibits, along with specialized educational programs engaging students and teachers across the state. These initiatives are designed to foster a deeper understanding of the nuanced history of Illinois, promoting a narrative encompassing its injustices, challenges, failures, and successes.

Naperville Heritage Society

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.

The Naperville Heritage Society is dedicated to preserving the history of Naperville and the State of Illinois. Through its commitment to education and public engagement, the Society seeks to showcase the rich tapestry of our community's past, making it accessible to all and ensuring it continues to inform and inspire future generations.