



First Look

June 2025



Atheneum Visitors Center at Dusk, June 1, 2025.

SPRING 2025 PHOTO ESSAY



Over 2,000 students, teachers and chaperones came to New Harmony for Historic New Harmony's annual Heritage Artisans Days on April 23-25. Photo courtesy of David Angel.



On May 1, the towns of Newtown and New Harmony celebrated the kick-off to the bicentennial of Robert Owen's purchase of New Harmony from the Harmonists in 1825 with a synchronous Zoom video call.



Driftwood: The Life of Harlan Hubbard opened to the public on Tuesday, May 13 at the Atheneum Visitors Center.



According to visitor data collected in May 2025, 311 people engaged with the *Driftwood* exhibit over the period of two and a half weeks.



On May 15, Historic New Harmony held its 13th Talking History gathering at the Atheneum. Participants had the chance to view the new *Driftwood* exhibit and examine items from Historic New Harmony's collections related to life around the Wabash River. The discussion centered on the topic of River Life.



Historic New Harmony's beloved Hat Luncheon fundraiser returned this year with a celebration of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* at the Rapp-Owen Granary on Saturday, May 31. Thank you to everyone who joined us, donated, bid on silent auction items; and helped make the event a success.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

New Harmony, Indiana, is located in the Central Time Zone.

Talking History



10 AM Saturday, June 21 at Black Lodge Coffee Roasters

Join Historic New Harmony for Talking History, a monthly gathering dedicated to sharing memories of the people, places, and events that make New Harmony special.

The topic for June 2025 is "Repurposing."

Every memory matters. Every story builds our shared identity. Let's remember together!



Relocation of the Cooper Shop from Frederick Street to the corner of Church and Brewery Streets on July 10, 1975. This building is now the home of Black Lodge Coffee Roasters. Image courtesy of University of Southern Indiana Archives and Special Collections.

Historic New Harmony

TALKING HISTORY: REPURPOSING 10 A.M. JUNE 21

Join us for our next *Talking History* gathering at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 21 at Black Lodge Coffee Roasters, located at 610 Church Street. Our topic will be "Repurposing."

The discussion will center on the concept of repurposing: finding a new use for an idea, object; or building by adapting it for a different purpose than originally intended. New Harmony, Indiana, has had many examples of repurposing over its 211-year history. For instance, the building that houses Black Lodge Coffee Roasters was once a cooper shop, a residence, an exhibit space; and a store. How else do you see repurposing in New Harmony?

While at the *Talking History* gathering, participants can compare photos of the Cooper Shop from its past to its present renovation into a coffee shop. We will also have objects and materials from Historic New Harmony's collections related to the repurposing concept, including glass dishes, pottery; and newspaper clippings that were found inside the walls of the Cooper Shop in 1975.

We welcome community members, visitors to town and anyone else interested in New Harmony's history to this gathering. For more information, contact Heidi Taylor-Caudill at htaylorca@usi.edu or 812-682-6133.

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Historic New Harmony

NEW HARMONY FIREFLY FESTIVAL
JUNE 27-28

The annual Firefly Festival in New Harmony, Indiana, is presented by One New Harmony and Historic New Harmony to honor Indiana's state insect, *Pyrrhopygia angulata* or Say's Firefly, named after Thomas Say, the Father of Entomology. Say first discovered the firefly in Philadelphia but described it while residing in New Harmony, Indiana, during the Owen-Maclure Period (1825-27).

Festival activities will include kids' story times and activities, food trucks, performances by a Thomas Say reenactor, glow dance parties, tram tours to Firefly Theater, a Firefly Festival Run/Walk race and *Draw Like a Naturalist* workshops for kids and adults.



Historic New Harmony

FIREFLY FESTIVAL RUN/WALK RACE 7:30 A.M. JUNE 28

Join [Tri-State Fitness](#) and Historic New Harmony at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 28 for the first-ever Firefly Festival Run/Walk in New Harmony. This event is part of the community's annual New Harmony Firefly Festival on Friday and Saturday, June 27-28. A portion of the race proceeds will be donated to Historic New Harmony.

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EXHIBITS



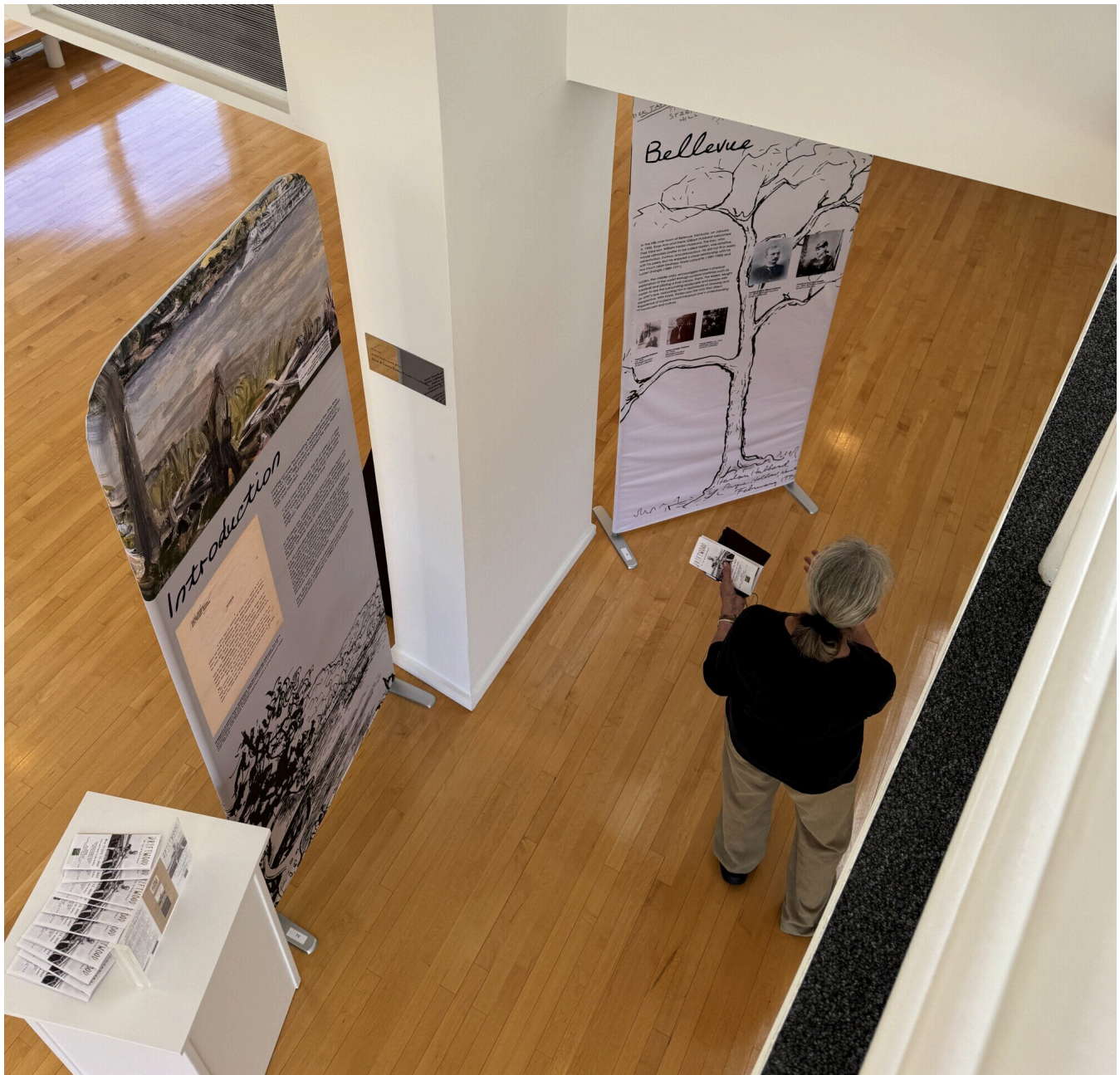
Transcendence at the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art, 506 Main Street.

New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art

TRANSCENDENCE CURATED BY VENTIKO (INDIANAPOLIS, IN) ON EXHIBIT THROUGH JUNE 28

Curated by Indianapolis-based conceptual artist and cultural producer, Ventiko, *Transcendence* features works by Rachel Leah Cohn, Jenny Del Fuego, Anna Schink, Constance Edwards Scopelitis, Sylva Dean and Me and Studio Lauren Zoll—all Indianapolis-based artists whose works on view in the exhibit will speak to connections to a higher spiritual dimension and the Divine Feminine. Ventiko is a Power Plant grant 2022 awardee, a DeHaan artist of distinction award winner and has exhibited or curated works for exhibit in Indianapolis, Indiana; Los Angeles, California; New York, New York; and abroad in Italy, the Dominican Republic, the United Kingdom, Serbia and South Korea.

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A visitor to the Athenaeum studies a panel from the exhibit, *Driftwood: The Life of Harlan Hubbard*, May 2025. Image courtesy of Historic New Harmony.

Historic New Harmony

DRIFTWOOD: THE LIFE OF HARLAN HUBBARD **ON EXHIBIT THROUGH JULY 12**

Driftwood: The Life of Harlan Hubbard is a traveling panel exhibit based on Jessica K. Whitehead's new biography of visionary northern Kentucky artist, writer and sustainability pioneer Harlan Hubbard (1900–1988). Often compared to Henry David Thoreau for his simple, self-sufficient lifestyle, Hubbard and his wife, Anna, spent eight years journeying down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers on a shantyboat and then built a home at Payne Hollow, Kentucky. Hubbard's books about their river journey and lifestyle that rejected consumer culture inspired back-to-nature movements in the 1960s and 1970s.

Driftwood will be on display at the Athenaeum Visitors Center through Saturday, July 12.

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Christopher Blay, *Signals and Satellites to the Ancestars* (2025). Image courtesy of the artist and New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art.

New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art

***SIGNALS AND SATELLITES TO THE ANCESSTARS* BY CHRISTOPHER BLAY ON EXHIBIT THROUGH LATE AUGUST**

Christopher Blay's temporary public art project located at Maclure Square, *Signals and Satellites to the Ancestars*, forms a dialogue with the layered histories present along the shores of the Wabash River and in New Harmony. The installation evokes the origin myths of the Osage and Myaamia nations who originally inhabited land in present-day Indiana and believed their ancestors emerged from the celestial sky and from bodies of water. The sculpture also plays homage to the early Black pioneers arriving in this area in the early 19th century in what was then the Northwest Territory, as these early homesteaders often navigated trails by starlight. This sculptural installation forms a satellite array made from steel and natural materials that "beams" out layered narratives invoking regional history.

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



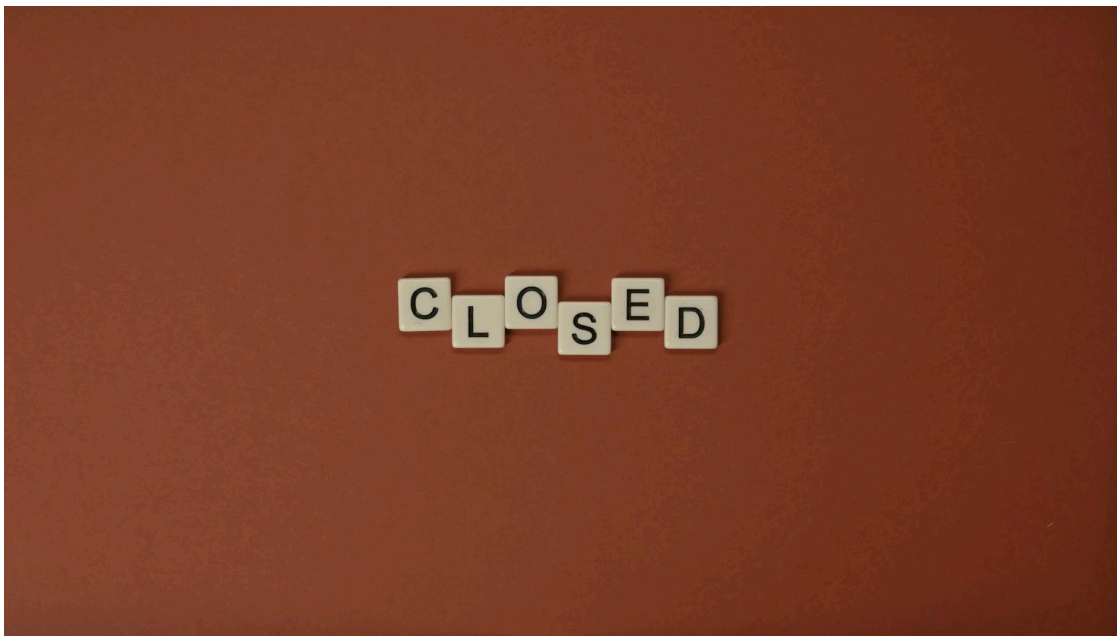
HISTORIC NEW HARMONY IS A BLUE STAR MUSEUM

Blue Star Museums is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families, in collaboration with the Department of Defense and museums across America, offering free admission at participating museums to the nation's active-duty military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve. The 2025 program started on Armed Forces Day (May 17) and runs through Labor Day (September 1).

Historic New Harmony is honored to be a Blue Star Museum. We are offering free tours for active-duty military members and up to five family members, with a military ID, through Labor Day. Please contact the Atheneum Visitors Center with any questions about our tours and other programs.

TOUR INFORMATION

NOTABLE DATES



USI IN NEW HARMONY CLOSED FOR JUNETEENTH

Historic New Harmony's office and the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art will be closed on Thursday, June 19 for the Juneteenth holiday. The Atheneum Visitors Center is scheduled to be open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

UPCOMING EXHIBITS AND EVENTS

Independence Day Celebration

July 4 at the Atheneum Visitors Center (401 North Arthur Street) and Maclure Park (Church Street)

Join us at the Atheneum on Friday, July 4 for an Independence Day Celebration in partnership with the Friends of the Working Men's Institute. The celebration includes a keynote speech by Andrew Wilson and a reading of the Declaration of Independence. A golf cart parade follows the event at the Atheneum and ends at Maclure Park with a community picnic. More information to come.

Liminal Worlds

July 12-August 23 at New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art (506 Main Street)

Curated by Kimi Kitada, "Liminal Worlds" considers the hybrid, multicultural identities of Asian American artists in the Midwest region through the work of seven artists. The featured artists work expansively across printmaking, sculpture, painting and moving images, including works by: Heehyun Choi, Daeun Lim, Lisa Maione, William Plummer, Skye Taniai, Heinrich Toh and Hope-Lian Vinson.

Book Talk and Signing by Jessica K. Whitehead

6 p.m. July 12 at the Atheneum Visitors Center (401 North Arthur Street)

Jessica K. Whitehead, author of *Driftwood: The Life of Harlan Hubbard*, will close out the traveling exhibition's run in New Harmony with a book talk and signing at 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 12 at the Atheneum. After the talk, New Harmony residents Donna and Wes Griffin will be performing acoustic music in the Atheneum lobby to accompany her book signing.

Help Historic New Harmony continue its historic preservation efforts, educational programming, and more with your charitable gift to the USI Foundation. You can make your gift securely online at [USI.edu/giving](https://usi.edu/giving), calling 812-464-1918, or mailing to USI Foundation, 8600 University Blvd., Evansville, IN 47712. Your charitable gift is tax-deductible, and a gift receipt will be issued.



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