

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A History Museum

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Naperville Heritage Society receives grant from The DuPage Community Foundation

Naperville, Ill. — The Naperville Heritage Society, administrator of Naper Settlement, was one of 27 not-for-profit organizations in DuPage County to receive a grant as part of the 2009 Fall Discretionary Grant Cycle of The DuPage Community Foundation, based in Wheaton, Ill. The \$5,000 grant, awarded at a special distribution open house on Wednesday, Dec. 9, at The DuPage Community Foundation office in Wheaton, Illinois, will help underwrite the project staffing costs for an environmental project at Naper Settlement addressing stormwater management and run-off.

“We are very proud to have received a grant from The DuPage Community Foundation, which is one of the community’s significant leaders in funding and supporting nonprofit organizations,” said John Buckley, Naper Settlement’s Director of Institutional Advancement. “They understood that an environmental grant could be awarded to a history museum. This grant will help us ensure a successful outcome as we move toward the goals of our long range plan.”

One of Naper Settlement’s recent initiatives has been the review of its stormwater management practices throughout the 12-acre site. This is, in part, triggered by the planned growth of Naper Settlement with the addition of several new buildings in the coming years. Naper Settlement is crisscrossed with a paved “roadway” that is used primarily as a pedestrian walkway for the museum’s 125,000 visitors and a vehicular roadway for vendors, emergency equipment and maintenance crews. The current asphalt roadway is scheduled to be replaced in the next couple of years, presenting a unique opportunity for the museum to positively impact the environment in the DuPage River watershed. A roadway constructed with porous pavers, augmented with landscaping effects, such as bioswales, rain gardens and catchment systems (cisterns) will allow rainwater and melted snow to seep back into the earth and not flow into the sewer systems. This prevents phosphorous, nitrogen and solid-state particulates, commonly found in residential stormwater run-off, from entering into and contaminating the west branch of the DuPage River. An additional advantage of on-site cisterns is that the water can be used to irrigate Naper Settlement’s landscape.

Established in 1986, The DuPage Community Foundation is a publicly supported 501 (c)(3) organization to which contributions are tax deductible. The Foundation was created to benefit the people of DuPage County and receives contributions and bequests into a permanent endowment from individuals, corporations, organizations and foundations wishing to make lasting contributions to the people of DuPage. The earnings on these funds are then used, in accordance with donor wishes, for the Foundation’s grant making and community leadership activities. The DuPage Community Foundation seeks to raise the quality of life throughout DuPage County by fostering philanthropy, connecting donors to area needs and building community partnerships. Based on the American virtues of volunteerism and philanthropy, the Foundation fosters a legacy of support for the people of DuPage County by making grants to not-for-profit organizations working in the arts and culture, education, environmental affairs, health, and human services.

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Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than \$9.8 million in grants to not-for-profit agencies serving the residents of DuPage County. In addition to its discretionary grant programs, the Foundation awards grants from donor-advised and other restricted funds on an ongoing basis. Total grants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, amounted to more than \$2.2 million.

For further information about the Foundation or to arrange future media opportunities, please contact Jeffrey Hartman, manager of development, at (630) 665-5556 or jhartman@dcdn.org.

Photo caption: At the DuPage Community Foundation's Fall Grant Distribution Open House held Dec. 9 were, from left, Naper Settlement's Director of Institutional Advancement John Buckley, DuPage Community Foundation Trustee and Grant Committee Chair Joan Morrissey, and Naperville Heritage Society/Naper Settlement Executive Director Peggy Frank.

History comes to life at Naper Settlement, an outdoor museum village, located in downtown Naperville at 523 S. Webster St. Accredited by the American Association of Museums, Naper Settlement has 30 historic structures ranging from a rustic log cabin to an elegant Victorian mansion, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Open year round, for more information about hours and admission prices, visit www.napersettlement.museum or call (630) 420-6010.

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