Bloomington/Normal and Mt. Vernon, Illinois *Get-On-the-Bus Overnighter*
September 8-10, 2017

Join the Northern Illinois University Art Museum on a small group trip to central and southern Illinois for a weekend of good food, fine art, glorious craft, local history, charming parks and surprising museums. We are heading down to Mt. Vernon for the **41st Annual Cedarhurst Arts and Craft Fair** with stops in Bloomington/Normal both coming and going.

On Friday morning we will drive to central Illinois for a guided tour of the historic David Davis Mansion, an 1872 36-room home in the mid-Victorian style and taste with Italianate and Second Empire architectural features. We will then head to downtown Bloomington which you will explore on your own visiting its many art galleries, shops, and choosing from several restaurants for lunch. Take a QR code Smart Phone tour of historic buildings in town. Be sure to stop for a look in the historic dome-topped McLean County Courthouse or budget your time to visit the very fine history museum there. We will rendezvous mid-afternoon and drive further south to Mt. Vernon to our comfortable rooms at the Drury Inn and Suites. We will have a reservation made for dinner in downtown Mt. Vernon at the RARE Chop House or you can opt to stay close to the hotel where there are plenty of chain restaurants in the proximity. An alternate for some is going to a film at the nearby AMC Classic theatre. The Drury Inn has a workout room, as well as indoor/outdoor pool and free popcorn is served in the lobby until 10 p.m.

On Saturday after your complimentary hot breakfast at the Drury Inn, we will head to the Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, once the estate of John R. and Eleanor R. Mitchell. There you will find an oasis for the arts and the cultural pride of this community. The Mitchell Museum at Cedarhurst includes several galleries: the main gallery will feature the 27th Cedarhurst Biennial, a juried show of contemporary artwork by regional artists; the Beal Grand Corridor Gallery will display the 28th Annual Gathering of Quilts; the Permanent Collection Gallery includes an impressive collection of 19th and 20th century American Art. Elsewhere on the property, you will find the Beck Family Center with its hands-on gallery and “Snuggle and Snooze,” an exhibit of polka dot themed youth quilts. Throughout the 90 acre property you will find seventy three works of three-dimensional art in the Goldman-Keunz Sculpture Park created by local and regional sculptors of international stature. To top it off, we get to enjoy their annual art and craft fair held the weekend after Labor Day. Over one hundred artist tents are spread among the tree lined walks of the estate. Food vendors will be available and musicians will be performing, so pace yourselves and have a glorious day at Cedarhurst!

In the latter part of the afternoon we will head to the Jefferson County Historical Village as well as provide a shuttle directly to the hotel so each of you can feel comfortable at your own pace. You are on your own for the evening (the Drury Inn provides a complimentary Kickback food and drinks happy hour) or join us for a drive to Effingham for dinner at the highly acclaimed Firefly Grill. This restaurant is run by a young couple utilizing locally grown (some by them) produce and bringing an intriguing sophisticated urban taste to this otherwise natural rural community.

After breakfast and check out on Sunday, we will start heading back up north, stopping again in Bloomington where we will visit Miller Park with its historic pavilion and war memorial and the small but delightful Miller Park Zoo, home of happily breeding snow leopards and red wolf pups. After our respite in the park, we will drive to neighboring Normal for lunch and shopping in Uptown Normal’s college town rendezvousing for a visit to the exciting new downtown art galleries of Illinois State University. We will then venture back up route 39 to DeKalb full of bright and fresh new ideas.

The Get-On-The-Bus Overnight Trips of the NIU Art Museum are limited to a small group of explorers. Sites involve stairs and uneven trails. Please contact Jo Burke for more information and to confirm registration.

September 8-10, 2017
Early Bird Registration Discounts Available Through: August 25
Final Registration Deadline: September 6     815.753.1936     www.niu.edu/artmuseum/bus/upcoming.shtml
Registration Form - Three Easy Ways to Register

PHONE your reservation, using your credit card for payment to: (815) 753-1936.
MAIL your completed reservation to: NIU Art Museum, Mt. Vernon, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115
BRING completed form to the Museum, first floor, west end Altgeld Hall, NIU, DeKalb.

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Drury Inn and Suites, Mt. Vernon, Illinois

[ ] YES, include me/us in this delightful art and history filled trip.

_____ only $455 ($395 if registered before August 25) per person.

_____ only $350 ($295 if registered before August 25) per person (NIU Art Museum member).

_____ $112 single room supplement. _____ Please reserve _____ person(s) for dinner at RARE on Friday.

$_______ Total enclosed. _____ Please reserve _____ person(s) for dinner at Firefly Grill on Saturday.

All reservations confirmed by payment.

Fee includes: Roundtrip transportation between NIU and Mt. Vernon, Illinois with stops in Bloomington/Normal and Effingham; 2 nights, double occupancy (including taxes) at the Drury Inn and Suites in Mt. Vernon with complimentary hot breakfast on Saturday and Sunday; entry and guided tour of the David Davis Mansion; entry to the permanent collection galleries at the Mitchell Museum, the 41st Annual Cedarhurst Arts and Crafts Fair, Jefferson County Historical Village and the Miller Park Zoo. Optional entry to McLean County History Museum on own.

Lunch on own in downtown Bloomington, Uptown Normal, and with vendors at Cedarhurst, several options available. Option for dinner on own as a group at RARE on Friday, $$. Option for dinner on own as a group at Firefly Grill on Saturday, $-$$. Please reserve for these at time of registration for trip. Other restaurant options near hotel. Refrigerator/microwave in room. Drury Inn Kickback free food and drink 5:30-7 p.m.; Free pop and popcorn in lobby, 3-10 p.m.

Limited group size as both bus and hotel space is limited. Visit website at www.niu.edu/artmuseum/bus/upcoming.shtml
Final Registration deadline: Wednesday, September 6. Discount Registration deadline: Friday, August 25.

Questions: Jo Burke, Director, NIU Art Museum, (815)753-1936, or via email: jburke2@niu.edu

Name_________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Address _____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
City ____________________________________________________________________ State ____________  ZIP code  _____________________
E-mail address ________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Day Phone ___________________________________________ Evening Phone (if different) ______________________________________
Cel Phone (if different) ___________________________________________________

All rooms have Two Queen Beds. Hotel has indoor/outdoor pool and workout room.

I plan to share my room with (name): ______________________________________________________________________________________

_____ I would like to share my room with another traveler, if possible. Please introduce us.

I was particularly attracted to this excursion because of ________________________________________________________________________

[ ] Check payable to NIU; check number _____________. Charge fee to: [ ] VISA [ ] MasterCard [ ] Discover [ ] American Express

Name as written on credit card ______________________________________________________________________________________________
Account # _______________________________________________________________ Exp. Date ________________________ CODE __________

Signature ___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Refunds: Full refunds are given when NIU cancels a program, or when a program with limited enrollment is over-subscribed. Substitutions may be made, without penalty, any time prior to the trip departure. Itinerary is subject to change. Cancellations after September 1 will be refunded if the trip is full and the ticket can be resold.