

# The Portage Path Collaborative



The Portage Path, Akron's tribute to the Native people that first occupied the land here, will be celebrated in a series of events October 6–13, 2024. The Portage Path was created by Indigenous people who populated the area for millennia before the first Europeans arrived and is one of the oldest, most visible landmarks on the North American continent, an 8-mile trail crossing the watershed divide between the Cuyahoga River and Tuscarawas River. The Portage Path was marked by the Summit County Historical Society in 1999, when for the first time, monumental sculptures at each terminus were connected by fifty markers in the shape of Indian broad blades over the 8-mile trail.

## **Sunday, October 6, 10:30-12:00 pm History of the Portage Path and Artist Talk**

Summit Metro Parks will present a walk guided by a Summit Metro Parks archaeologist. Participants will learn about the history of this vital link between North American waterways and enjoy a talk at the northern terminus by artist Peter Jones (Onondaga/Seneca). Jones created the statues of the portaging American Indian which can be seen at both the northern and southern terminus of the Portage Path. The walk will begin at 10:30 at the Big Bend parking area in Sand Run Metro Park, 1337 Merriman Rd. Jones will be available at noon at the statue located at Portage Path and Merriman Road. Parking for the statue presentation only is available in nearby commercial lots.

## **Sunday October 6, 1:30p.m-3 p.m Portage Path Walk.**

The ninth annual Portage Path Walk will take place on Sunday October 6, 2024. A one-kilometer walk will start at the vacant lot directly across the street from the Portage Path CLC, where informational graphics and an informational table about the historical context of the path. The walk will be led by members of the Northern Cheyenne nation who will be drumming and dressed in regalia and end at the John Brown House, 514 Diagonal Road. There will be a program at 2:00p.m. that will include drumming and singing. The Society's Museum will be available for walk-through tours.

## **September 1-November 30 Summit Metro Parks Fall Hiking Spree**

The 61<sup>st</sup> Summit Metro Parks Fall Hiking Spree runs September 1 through November 30. This year's Fall Hiking Spree theme is Honoring Indigenous Culture. For information about the Fall Hiking Spree, including trails and locations, visit [hikingspree.summitmetroparks.org](http://hikingspree.summitmetroparks.org).

## **Saturday, October 10, 6-8:00 p.m. Akron Art Museum Native Film Screening: Smoke Signals (1998)**

Come enjoy the critically acclaimed indie darling, Smoke Signals on the big screen here in the Museum Lobby. Art activities and light refreshments are available for purchase before the film. Registration requested. FREE.

## **Thursday, October 12, 2:00p.m Teacher Workshop Akron Art Museum Native Ledger Art**

Join us for a day of hands-on Native Arts Education. Participants will learn about the tradition of ledger art with Northern Cheyenne Artist Instructor, Alaina Buffalo Spirit. Registration for the workshop is \$15 and includes gallery admission, supplies, and light refreshments. Professional development paperwork to submit to their LPDCs upon request.

## **October 1-31, 2024 Akron Summit County Library Community Read and Poetry Workshops**

Community Read: Barbara Kingslover's book *The Bean Trees* will be discussed at various branches.  
Poetry: A teaching artist from KSU's Wick Poetry Center leads participants through an expressive writing workshop on the themes of home and creating a sense of belonging.