

CITY OF MARQUETTE
SHORELINE CULTURAL TRAIL

FROM CONSULTATION TO COCREATION: MI OUTDOOR SUMMIT 2026







FROM CONSULTATION TO CO-CREATION

SESSION PANELISTS & MEMBERS OF THE CULTURAL TRAIL COMMITTEE



SHERRI LOONSFOOT-ALDRED

Visual Artist and Tribal Member of Keweenaw Bay Indian Community



DR. JACQUIE MEDINA

Northern Michigan University Professor of Outdoor Recreation Leadership and Management



AMELIA PRUIETT

City of Marquette Office of Arts & Culture



KATHLEEN HENERY

Superior Watershed Partnership & Land Conservancy



ANDIE BALENGER

Northern Michigan University MS in Administration of Outdoor Recreation and Nature-based Tourism


Isle Royale
National Park
Lake
Superior
Marquette
Alpena
Lake
Huron
Traverse
City
Grand
Rapids
Lake
Michigan
Lansing
Kalamazoo
Detroit
Ann Arbor





PHOTO: SEVEN GRANDFATHERS TEACHIINGS SCULPTURE BY JASON QUIGNO, 2024

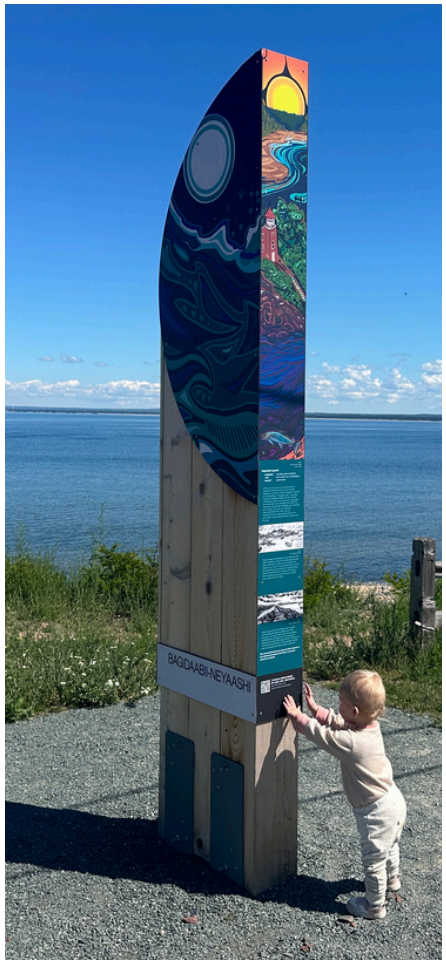
HOW DOES A COMMUNITY TELL THEIR STORY?

CITY CULTURAL TRAIL

Eight Sites, Seven Miles of Shoreline

This storytelling project uses public spaces, narrative, artwork, and history to connect us more deeply to the water, land, and one another. It is a journey that inspires curiosity and meant to be continuously experienced and explored. Each site is a place to pause, reflect, and share.





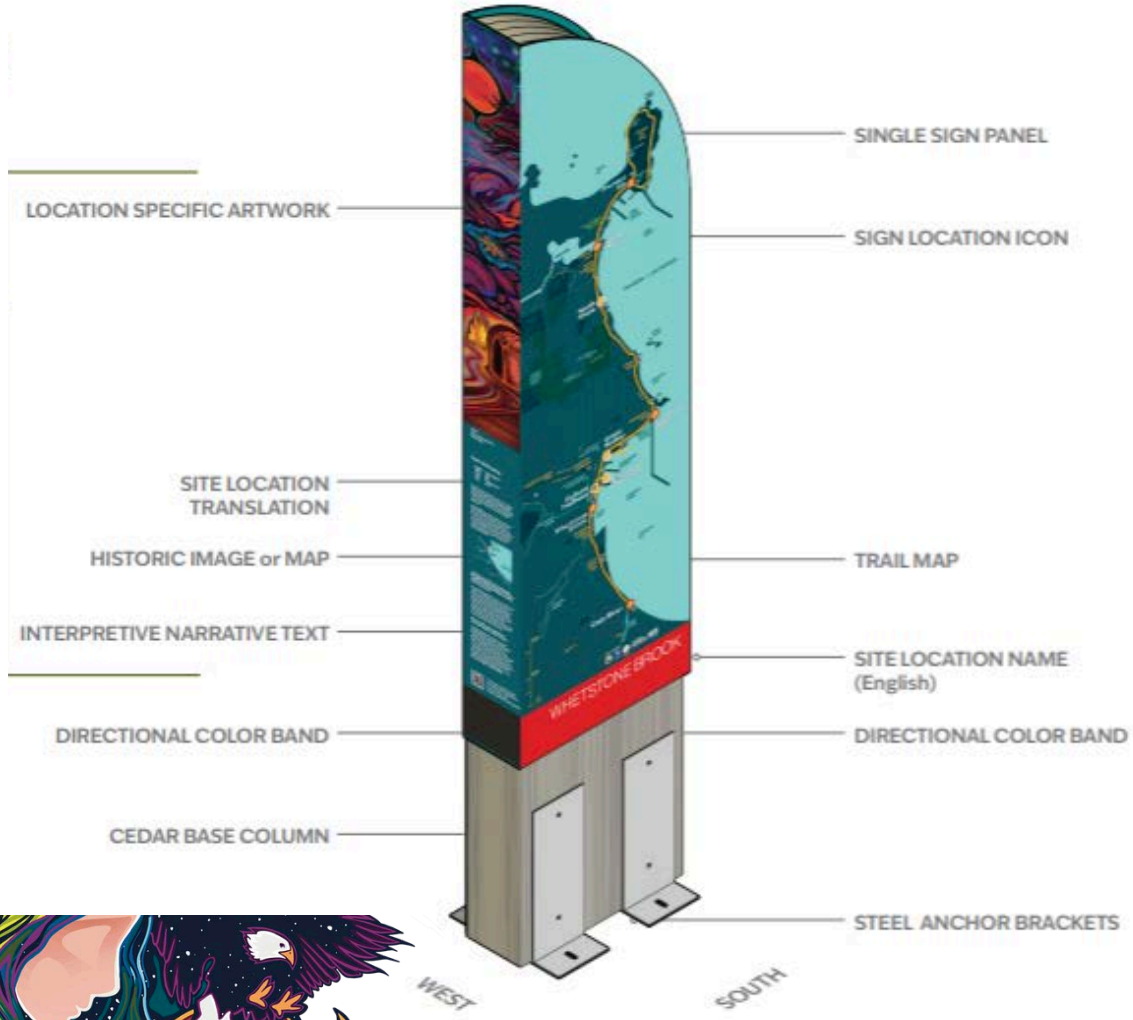








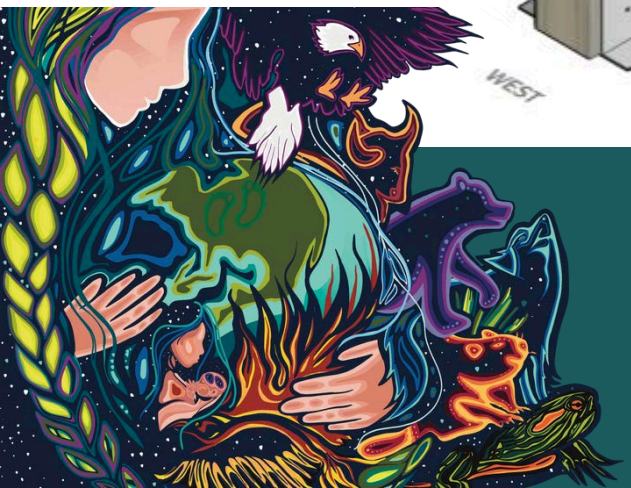
THE ART OF STORYTELLING







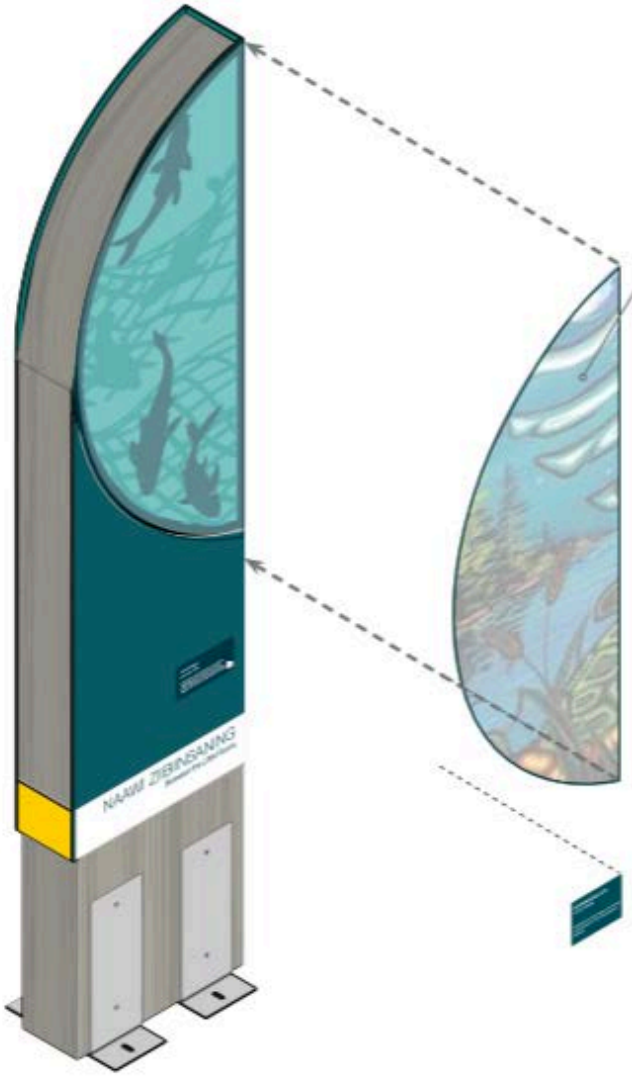




Original artwork by Anishinaabe artists Sherri Loonsfoot Aldred and her daughter Aiyana Aldred are permanent features on each storymarker.

Their artwork visually tells the story of each site.

Innovative VISUAL STORYTELLING through the outdoor rotating exhibit



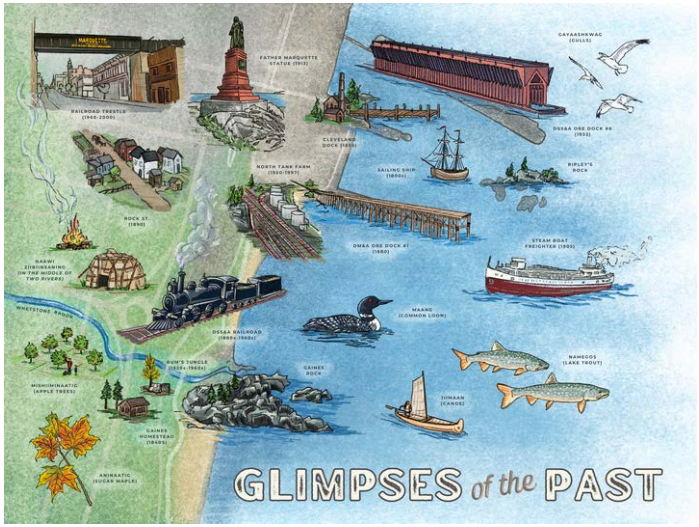
Panels on the storymarkers can be replaced with new artwork. The Marquette Public Art Commission will manage calls for artwork and rotate the exhibit every 3-4 years.

The first exhibit will be installed in 2027. *Anishinaabe Star Stories* will be scans of 5 original oil paintings that will be adopted into the City's public art collection.

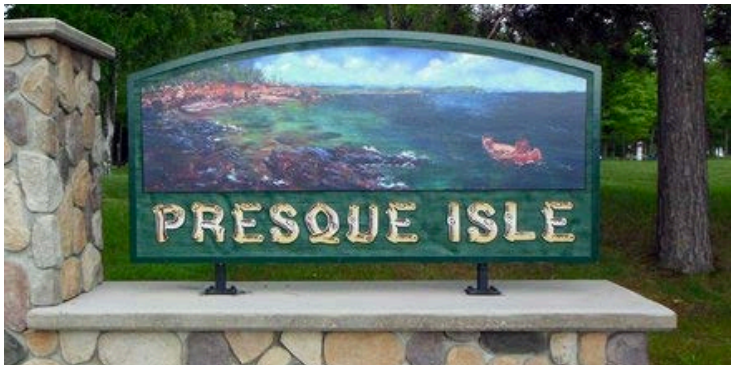












DEBWEWIN
TRUTH
ZAAGIDWIN
LOVE
MNAADENDIMOWIN
RESPECT
NBWAAKAAWIN
WISDOM
AAKWA'ODE'EWIN
BRAVERY
DABAADENDIZIWIN
HUMILITY
GWEKWAADZIWIN
HONESTY

VISUAL STORYTELLING & DUAL-LANGUAGE

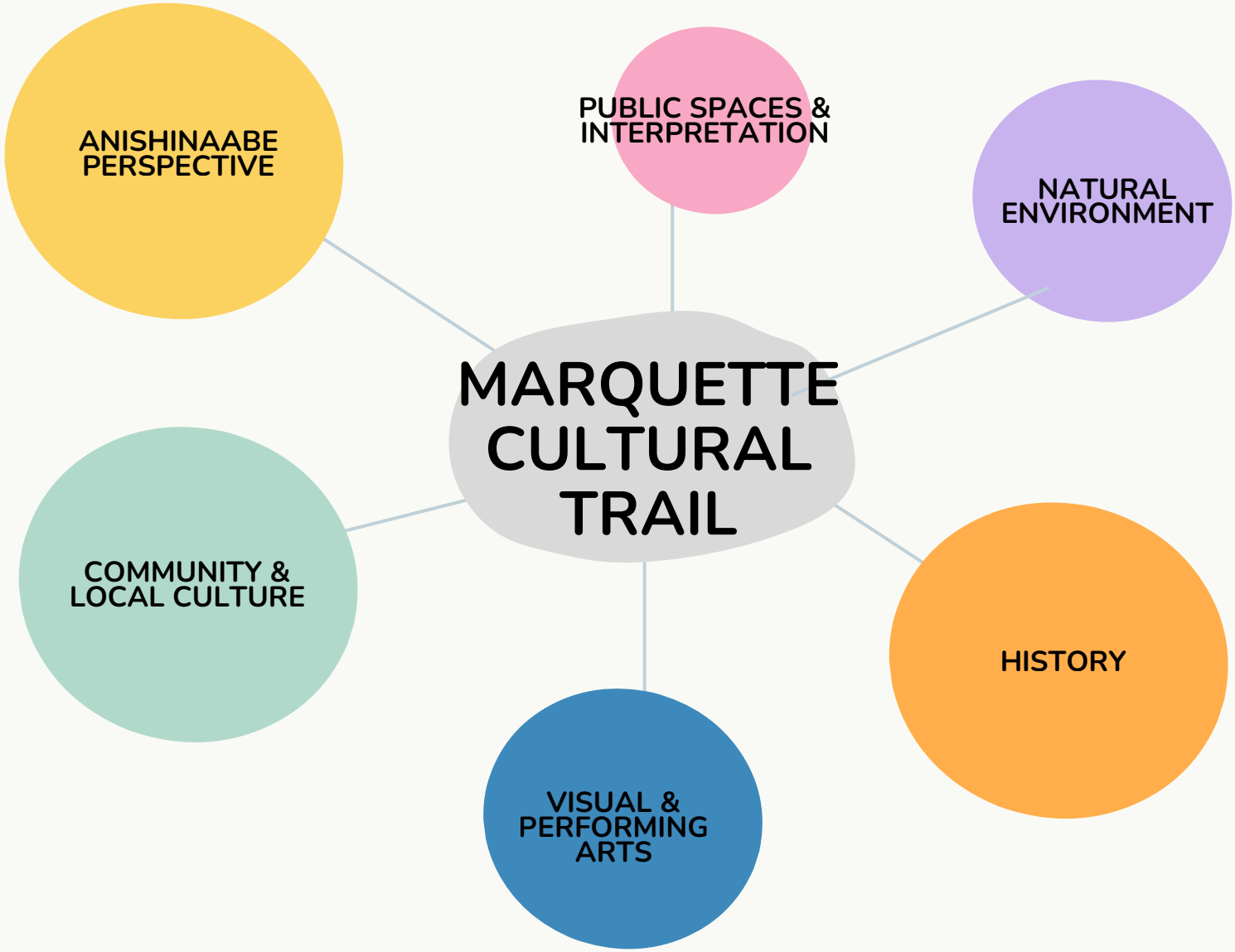
Anishinaabemowin & English

The stories told on the storymarkers are written by residents. However, the interpretive signs are not just narrative. Local perspectives are also shared through art and the integration of Anishinaabemowin words.

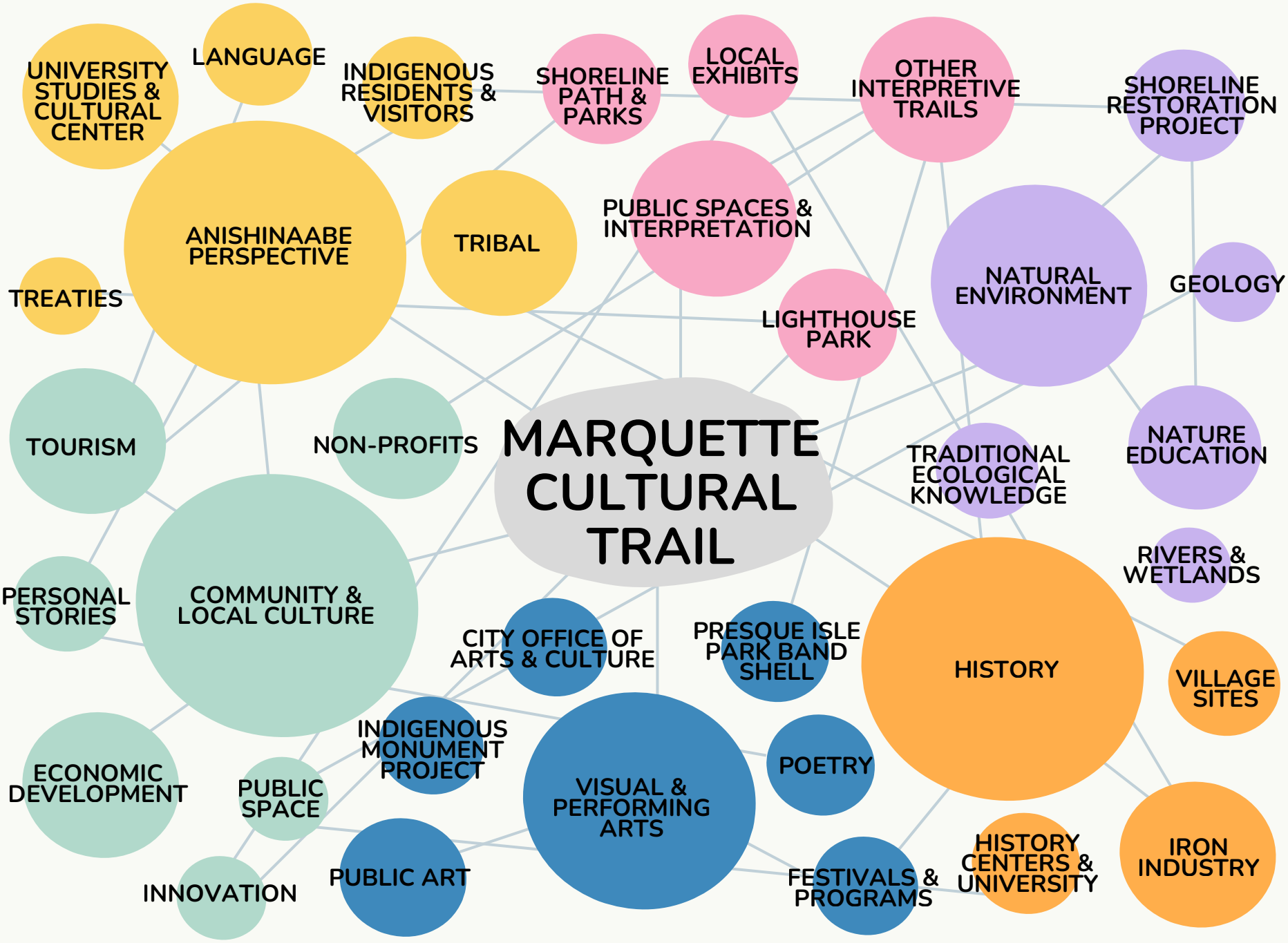


LEARNING ABOUT THE LAND THROUGH LANGUAGE

PERSPECTIVES



CONNECTIONS





DIVERSE SOURCES OF FUNDING FROM GRANTS AND PARTNERS

Development of the City's Cultural Trail was made possible through grants and local donor support, at no cost to taxpayers.

- Michigan Native American Heritage Fund - $57,500
- National Endowment for the Arts - $100,000
- Superior Watershed Partnership - $15,000
- Marquette Public Art - $35,000

Has since leveraged over $2M in additional funding:



10+ YEARS OF...

COMMUNITY VOICES

PROJECT PARTNERS

EXPERTISE & FUNDING

LOCAL STORIES

PUBLIC SPACES

PROJECT SCOPE & CONNECTIONS CONTINUE TO GROW

2016 — **Public Art Policy**

2017

2018

2019 — **Cultural Trail Planning Begins**

2020

2021

2022 — **National & State Grant Funding Secured**

2023

2024 — **Story Markers Developed**

- Lakeshore Restoration
- Public Art - Indigenous Sculpture Installed

2025 — **Cultural Trailhead & Public Art**

- Storymarkers Installed
- Phase II of Indigenous Public Art
- Connecting knowledge centers
- Website built & active

2026 — **City Cultural Plan**

- Public Art & Parks
- New Cultural Trail sites
- Traditional Arts Heritage Festival
- Indigenous Monument
- Increased Partnerships
- Cultural Trailhead Opens

PROJECTS ROOTED IN PARTNERSHIP NEED PATIENCE

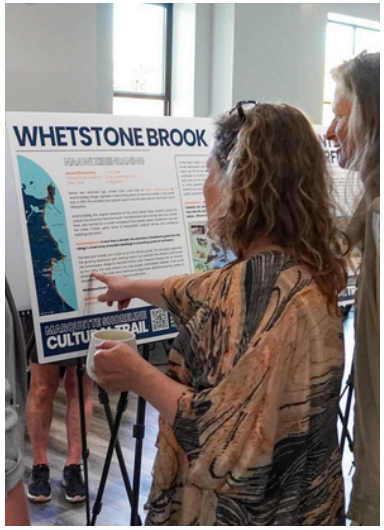


WHO TELLS THE STORY?

THE CITY OF MARQUETTE CULTURAL TRAIL IS BEING DEVELOPED WITH AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND HUNDREDS OF LISTENING SESSIONS WITH LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS















PARTNERSHIPS ARE PEOPLE

CROSS SECTOR COLLABORATION: SHARE YOUR PROJECT WITH OTHERS WHO ARE WORKING TOWARDS SIMILAR GOALS.

LEAVE ROOM AT THE LEADERSHIP TABLE: COMMISSIONING SOMEONE TO COMPLETE A TASK IS DIFFERENT THAN INVITING THEIR PARTNERSHIP.

BUILD MOMENTUM: APPLAUD THE SUCCESSES IN YOUR COMMUNITY, THE CONNECTIONS WILL NATURALLY FORM BETWEEN THOSE ADVOCATING FOR EACH OTHER'S WORK.







PROJECT MOMENTUM:
The cultural trail has led to a new city facility, revitalized public space, and community connection hub

OPENING DECEMBER 2026

CITY OF MARQUETTE CULTURAL TRAILHEAD

BEGIN YOUR EXPERIENCE IN THE HEART OF OUR CITY'S DOWNTOWN











LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PEOPLE, PLACES, AND PROCESS
THAT HAVE BUILT THE CITY OF MARQUETTE CULTURAL TRAIL:

MQTCOMPASS.COM

