

Calumet County Historical Society Museum

**Open Sundays June-September 1:00 to 4:00
or by appointment**



Art, Community, History

By Debbie Barany

This past year the Calumet County Historical Society had the wonderful opportunity to collaborate with Artist James Barany, a native of Chilton, Wisconsin. Through the many talents of James and his ambitious efforts to write and apply for several grants, funds were acquired to complete (2) community murals in Calumet County.

The first mural was painted in the uptown center of Chilton, located at 40 West Main Street and the second, located in Stockbridge at the intersection of County Highway E and Highway 55. This project also provided a great opportunity for several college art students to gain valuable experience in the mural painting process, as they helped James complete the mural in Chilton.



The murals were designed to display the rich cultural heritage of each community, to spark conversation, and to educate people on the history of each community. As each mural was being painted, community members would stop by each day to observe the progress and ask questions. Thus, bringing our great history back into the conversations of our residents. What a wonderful thing that was. Good public art transforms people and builds community, causing them to stop and think, provide inspiration to their own creativity, and becomes a source of community pride.



These murals provide a visual reminder of who we are, where we came from, and where we are going. Art is a natural behavior of humans; it is a way that we express ourselves and communicate. It transcends

all languages. As we all know, a picture is worth a thousand words. It is universally understood. Art reflects our society and culture. Art attracts tourism; these murals are highly visible and don't cost a dime to enjoy.

The last phase of the Calumet County Mural Initiative is to move into the local high schools. James will be working with the art department of Chilton and Stockbridge high schools to educate and help the students, design and paint murals of their own at each high school. This will help students understand how to foster Art and History in their own lives and community.

To find out more about the history of the subjects in each mural visit the Calumet County Historical Society website.

www.calumetcountyhistoricalsociety.org and click on the [Calumet County Mural Initiative](#).



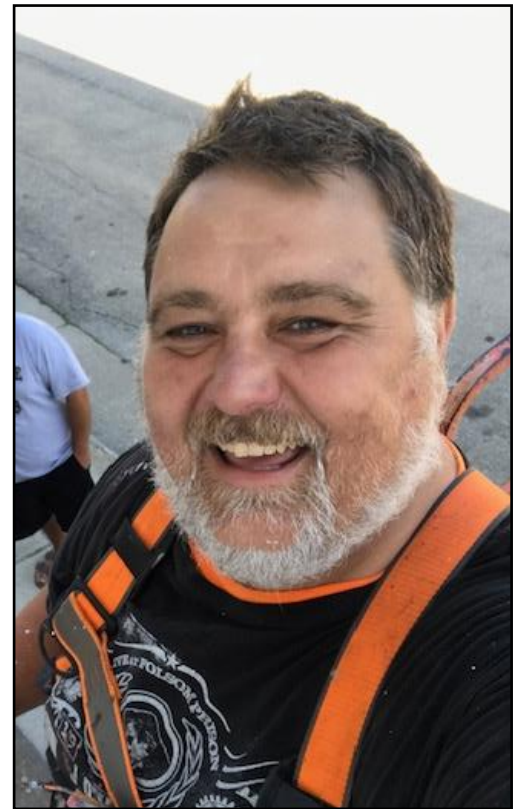
The Calumet County Historical Society would like to give a huge

THANK YOU to James Barany, his student interns, (Emma Barany, Olivia Bonlander, Julien Roberson, Claresa Waight and Regean Mulvey), **The Community Foundation of the Fox Valley, The Bright Idea Fund, The Chilton Community Foundation the Wisconsin Art Board and the National Endowment for the Arts.** Without them, this spectacular project would not

have been possible.

About James Barany: A MIAD alum, earned his MFA in Drawing/Painting with an additional focus in Vocal Performance from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1997. He also performs Comprimario roles and sings as a Bass Chorister with the Grammy winning Florentine Opera Company. James is a recipient of the Mary Nohl Fellowship for Emerging Artists in Time-Based Media. Since 2005, his experimental animations have been screened at numerous venues and festivals including *Black Maria International, Athens International, Transom Media, Humboldt International, ATHICA, Charles Allis Art Museum, Guenzel Gallery* and the *Wisconsin Film Festival*. James is an active member of the American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA), Foundations Art Theory and Education (FATE) and the College Art Association (CAA).

About Debbie Barany: *Debbie is a Calumet County Historical Society Board member and sister-in-law of James. Debbie has authored and researched many articles on local history and has done a lot of work that is focused on Calumet County history stories related to the Civil War. In her spare time she is a talented quilter and cross stitcher.*



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