

ROOTPRINTS

Ojibwe Gallery Opening Celebrated with a Flourish

By Susan Schwanekamp,
Rootprints Editor

The Society's new Ojibwe Gallery, which informally opened to visitors in May 2015, was dedicated in a ceremony performed by Billy Blackwell, an Ojibwe elder from Grand Portage. A free public celebration included dancers and the Cedar Creek drum group from Fond du Lac. The Duluth Grill kept everyone in attendance – and there were hundreds – well fed with plentiful appetizers. The Gallery itself was open free for this day, with underwriting of admission costs covered by Fond du Luth Casino.

Across from the door to the Gallery was a selection of art works from local Ojibwe artist Karen

Savage Blue's recent exhibition at the Duluth Art Institute, in effect extending its scope. The Society thanks both the artist and Annie Dugan, the DAI's Executive Director, for offering this additional component.

Going down the stairs, leaving the Gallery, visitors found four large canvas reproductions of powwow photographs taken by Ivy Vainio, as well as an exhibit case with Ojibwe-themed artifacts, including a strap dress from the period when Eastman Johnson created the works that form the core of the Ojibwe Gallery's content.

We at the Society are very happy to be able to report this event and



Fond du Lac Dancers Herb Fineday and Patti Jo Savage pause between dances at the Gallery dedication event.

the completion of all the construction work and remediation efforts that had to be finished before the Gallery could open and this exhibit space could truly be open to the public. We hope you will visit it and all of our exhibits in the near future.

Fond du Lac dancers from above in the Depot's Great Hall during the event program



Museum/Offices
St. Louis County
Historical Society
506 West Michigan St.
Duluth, MN 55802
218.733.7586
218.733.7585 fax
e-mail:
history@thehistorypeople.org
www.thehistorypeople.org

Archives
Kathryn A. Martin
Library Archives and
Special Collections
Library Annex 202
416 Library Drive
Duluth, MN 55812
218.726.8526

Affiliates
Ely-Winton
Historical Society
1900 E. Camp St.
Ely, MN 55731
218.365.3226

**Hibbing Historical Society
& Museum**
Memorial Building
23rd St. & 5th Ave.
Hibbing, MN 55746
218.263.8522

**Minnesota Museum of
Mining**
701 Lake St. W.
Chisholm, MN 55719
218.254.5543

Sisu Heritage Inc.
P. O. Box 127
Embarrass, MN 55732
218.984.3048

**Tower-Soudan
Historical Society**
404 Pine St.
P. O. Box 465
Tower, MN 55790
218.753.5021

**Virginia Area
Historical Society**
800 - 9th Ave. No.
P. O. Box 736
Virginia, MN 55792
218.741.1136