

Ojibwe Gallery

The Ojibwe Gallery features the work of internationally recognized 19th century painter Eastman Johnson. The gallery is a project of the St. Louis County Historical Society, custodians of the art depicting the Ojibwe people when Johnson visited the “Head of the Lakes” in 1856 and 1857.



Entryway to the Ojibwe Gallery seen from the Great Hall

According to Society Executive Director JoAnne Coombe, “The mandate for the gallery – conveying the voice and viewpoint of the Lake Superior Ojibwe – developed after years of collaborative discussion with a hardworking American Indian Advisory Committee - comprised of tribal appointees from the Fond du Lac, Bois Forte and Grand Portage Bands – and at large members of the American Indian community. The committee will now focus on educational programming and traveling exhibits to celebrate the Ojibwe way of life – past and present.”

The *Lake Superior Ojibwe Gallery* project was made possible by the support of the residents of St. Louis County and funding provided through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, the JNM Gift Trust and the Depot Foundation. The Historic Union Depot Corporation and the St. Louis County Historical Society co-hosted the dedication and related activities.

After extensive remediation processes involving stabilization of the humidity and temperature levels, leaking from the “attic”, and proper cleanup of corrosive dust released when a seal was broken during the initial construction period, as well as the insurance claims processes resulting from some of these problems, the long-awaited Ojibwe Gallery opened to the public in on April 21, 2015.

The dedication/celebration event was held on October 20, 2015 in the Great Hall as well as, of course, the Gallery itself and the entryway connecting the two spaces. Dancers and drummers from the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa performed a selection of powwow dances and Billy Blackwell, an elder from Grand Portage, performed the dedication ceremony for the Gallery. The event was free to the public and hundreds of people attended it. Duluth Grill provided plentiful and delicious appetizers for the crowd. The event was co-sponsored by the Historic Union Depot Corporation and the Society and