



# Winter 2026 Programs

## Museum Hours

Walk-Ins are welcome!

Tuesday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

*The Museum is closed on Mondays*

## Holiday Hours

Christmas Eve: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Closed Christmas Day

New Year's Eve: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Closed New Year's Day

Receive up-to-date info on programs and exhibits, shop online, and sign-up for Museum e-news at [lizzadromuseum.org](http://lizzadromuseum.org)

Museum Memberships and Museum Rental information available on our website and at the Reception desk.



1220 Kensington Road, Oak Brook, Illinois 60523  
630-833-1616 • [info@lizzadromuseum.org](mailto:info@lizzadromuseum.org)



**Smithsonian**  
Affiliate



A DuPage Foundation Initiative

Support for Community Music Programs at the Lizzadro Museum  
provided by Arts DuPage, a DuPage Foundation Initiative



*The Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art  
acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council.*



## Admission

\$10.00 Adults, \$8.00 Seniors

\$5 Students, Teenagers, Children 7-12

Free for children under 7 yrs.

Wednesday is Free Day.

Members of the Lizzadro Museum and active duty members of the Armed Forces are admitted free of charge any day the Museum is open to the public.

## Accessibility

The Museum has facilities to provide access for physically disabled visitors.

## Volunteering

Volunteering forms are available online.



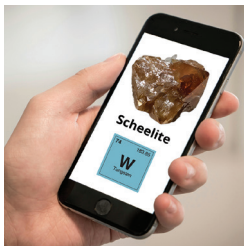
[@lizzadromuseum](https://www.instagram.com/lizzadromuseum)



*The Lizzadro Museum Free Day  
is partially sponsored by:*



**Wealth  
Management**



*Special Exhibit Continues through April 2026*

## The Hidden Gems in Cellphones

Your cellphone is a treasure chest containing over 65 minerals! These minerals play a variety of vital roles – often within the same device. Formed by the earth, then discovered by miners and processed by hundreds of hands, minerals make your phone possible. This special exhibit opens up our phones to reveal the hidden gems in your pocket!

*Regular Museum Admission – Regular Museum Hours*

# Lizzadro Museum Programs

## January through March 2026



### Saturday January 3 **Start Your Rockin' Collection**

Ready to explore rocks, minerals, and fossils? In this hands-on program, kids will start their own rock collection, learn about different rock types, and get expert identification for their rocks. They'll then decorate a repurposed egg carton to display their treasures and receive six rock, mineral, and fossil samples to kick off their collection. A perfect adventure for any young rockhound!

*Activity – 2:00 p.m. – 45 minutes – Ages 5 years and Older – \$10 per Child*

*Adults Regular Museum Admission – Museum Members Free*

*Reservations Required – Register at [www.lizzadromuseum.org](http://www.lizzadromuseum.org)*



### Sunday January 11 **Community Music Program: New Vintage Strings – A Century of Songs: Hits Through the Decades**

Take a musical journey through time as New Vintage Strings explores the evolution of popular styles from the 1920s to today. Formed in 2018 by husband & wife team Jeremy (bass) & Emily Beyer (violin), alongside Maura Brown (violin), and Allison Zabelin (viola), hear some songs you know and love and others you are bound to fall in love with, all performed like you've never heard before by a string quartet, making music history come alive! New Vintage Strings is a contemporary string ensemble known for its distinctive blend of classic rock, pop, alternative, and jazz, with a classical touch.

*Performance – 2:00 p.m. – 60-minutes – All Ages Welcome*

*Fee: \$20 per Person – Museum Members \$5*

*Reservations Required – Register at [www.lizzadromuseum.org](http://www.lizzadromuseum.org)*



### Saturday January 17 and February 14 **Rock & Mineral Identification Class**

Join geologist Sara Kurth for a hands-on rock and mineral identification class. Learn to classify minerals using observation and hardness testing. Perfect for curious rock-hounds or scouts working on Earth Science badges, this class will deepen your understanding of earth science and teach you to identify rocks and minerals like a pro!

*10:30 a.m. – 75-minutes – Ages 8 yrs. & up – \$10 per person – Museum Members Free*

*Reservations Required – Register at [www.lizzadromuseum.org](http://www.lizzadromuseum.org)*



### Saturday January 17 and February 14 **Rockin' Jewelry for Kids**

Unleash your creativity in this fun, hands-on jewelry-making workshop! Design your own unique gemstone creations—including a necklace, a keychain, and a pin. All materials are provided. Afterward, explore the Museum and enjoy a fun scavenger hunt. This workshop is the perfect way to delve into the world of stone jewelry.

*1:30 p.m. – 45-minutes – Ages 8 yrs. & up – \$15 per person – Museum Members 10% off*

*Reservations Required – Register at [www.lizzadromuseum.org](http://www.lizzadromuseum.org)*



### Saturday Jan 24, Feb 28, Mar 28 **West Suburban Lapidary Club Meetings**

Curious about the craft of cutting and polishing stones? Join the West Suburban Lapidary Club (WSLC) for monthly meetings at the Museum, where you'll explore the fascinating world of lapidary art! Each session includes presentations and expert guidance on transforming rough stones into polished masterpieces. Check the Museum's digital newsletter for details on upcoming programs, and craftsmanship behind these beautiful art forms. Fun for all ages!

*Club Meeting at 1:00 p.m., Program at 2:00 p.m. – 60-minutes*

*Teens to Adults Welcome – Regular Admission – Museum Members Free*

*Reservations Recommended – Register at [www.lizzadromuseum.org](http://www.lizzadromuseum.org)*



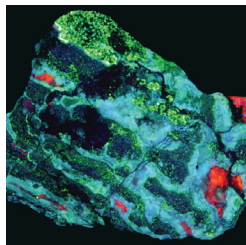
### Sunday February 1 **Community Music Program: Downtown Charlie Brown**

Get ready for an unforgettable dive into the heart of American music! The blues, born in the Mississippi Delta with deep African roots, tells powerful stories of love, loss, joy, and faith. Join Downtown Charlie Brown (keyboard and vocals) and Harry Binford (acoustic guitar) as they return for the third year running! They will explore the migration of the blues from the Delta to Chicago, bringing to life legends like **Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Son House**, and more. Hear the music, the stories, and the history that shaped a genre.

*Performance – 2:00 p.m. – 60-minutes – All Ages Welcome*

*Fee: \$20 per Person – Museum Members \$5*

*Reservations Required – Register at [www.lizzadromuseum.org](http://www.lizzadromuseum.org)*



### Saturday February 21 **Nothing is Hidden in Stone... Not Even Darkness: Luminescence in Rocks and Minerals**

Early man saw flashes of light when chipping rocks for tools. Some even may have observed earthquake light. Others noticed a bluish-green light glowing from heated rocks. You will see and learn why certain rocks and minerals produce light by pounding, heating, or other means. Why do different samples of the same mineral emit different colors of light? Why does some emitted light seem to linger while some seem to stop immediately when the energy source is turned off? Is time the only difference between fluorescence and phosphorescence? Find out more in this glowing presentation by Bill Mikuska!

*Lecture – 2:00 p.m. – 60 minutes*

*Students and Adults – Regular Museum Admission – Museum Members Free*

*Reservations Recommended – Register at [www.lizzadromuseum.org](http://www.lizzadromuseum.org)*



### Saturday March 7 **Dino Day: Fossils and Fun**

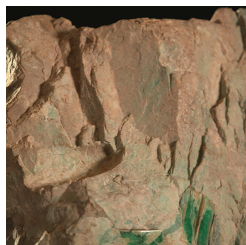
Get ready for a fossil-filled adventure! Drop in and explore real fossils up close, build awesome 3-D dinosaur puzzles, and even make your very own fossil imprint to take home! Play “Say BONES,” a fossil-themed twist on classic Bingo. Plus, meet Mary Anning— the first female fossilist—who will bring history to life with fascinating stories about her groundbreaking discoveries. It’s a day of hands-on fun and ancient wonders you won’t want to miss!

*“Say Bones” Bingo – 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.*

*Registration Required – Register at [www.lizzadromuseum.org](http://www.lizzadromuseum.org)*

*Mary Anning visits – 2:00 p.m. – 45-minute presentation*

*\$5 per child – Adults and Seniors Regular Admission – Museum Members Free*



### Saturday March 21 **Rock to Gem: Jade**

Embark on an exciting journey following the transformation of rocks and minerals into dazzling gemstones! This new series lets participants travel alongside a material’s formation in the earth, through the mining and production processes, and showcases how rough stones are formed, extracted, and transformed into sparkling gems. With real samples to examine and expert demonstrations, this program offers a fascinating look at the life cycle of a gem, highlighting the process that turns a simple rock into a stunning piece of nature’s art. The first program will focus on Jade.

*Lecture – 2:00 p.m. – 60 minutes*

*Students and Adults – Regular Museum Admission – Museum Members Free*

*Reservations Recommended – Register at [www.lizzadromuseum.org](http://www.lizzadromuseum.org)*



### Sunday March 22 **Community Music Program: David Polk Project**

David Polk returns to the Lizzadro Museum! A Chicago-born saxophonist, he has been crafting and performing original music since 1979, starting with the jazz fusion group *Juggular*. For over 30 years, he has been the solo tenor saxophonist with the renowned Orchestra 33. David's 25-year solo career includes 6 albums. Known for his world-class musicianship and passion for melody, David continues to captivate audiences with his soulful sound. Check out the David Polk

*Performance – 2:00 p.m. – 60-minutes – All Ages Welcome*

*Fee: \$20 per Person – Museum Members \$5*

*Reservations Required – Register at [www.lizzadromuseum.org](http://www.lizzadromuseum.org)*



### Saturday April 11 **Mazon Creek Fossil Collecting Trip**

Step back in time and uncover 300-million-year-old fossils at Mazon Creek fossil site located in the historic coal strip mining area. Learn how to identify and crack open these unique fossils during a 30-minute orientation at the Museum, then hop on the motor coach and head to the dig sites. Bring a sack lunch, your curiosity, and a sense of adventure—this hands-on field trip fills up fast, so reserve your spot today!

*Field Trip – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Ages 8 yrs. to Adult*

*Fee: \$60.00 per person – Museum Members 10% off*

*Registration opens January 17 – Museum Member registration opens January 10*

*Reservations Required – Register at [www.lizzadromuseum.org](http://www.lizzadromuseum.org)*



# Rock to Gem: Exploring the World of Jade *By Sara Kurth*

Upon entering the Lizzadro Museum, one is overcome with the magnificence of jade. It is easy to see that Joseph Lizzadro Sr. had an eye for well-crafted, beautiful jade carvings. The Lizzadro Collection is one of the most impressive jade collections in the United States. But what is jade?

Jade is a trade term for two different minerals: nephrite – a calcium, magnesium/iron amphibole and jadeite – a sodium, aluminum pyroxene. Both minerals are called jade but differ in appearance and value.

Nephrite can come in a multitude of colors, and varieties from around the world each have distinct colorations. Top-quality “mutton fat” jade, a milky white, translucent form of nephrite, comes from Hetian (Hotan) in the Xinjiang Province of China. British Columbia nephrite is often the dark green coloration associated with “jade.”

Jadeite also comes in a wide range of colors: lavenders, greens, yellows, even blues on occasion, as seen with the Incense Burner that greets visitors as they enter the exhibit hall. Jadeite is harder than nephrite and typically more valuable. “Imperial Jade” is rich green jadeite.

Almost everywhere they occur, nephrite and jadeite have been prized by indigenous cultures for their combined strength, durability, and beauty. Nephrite and jadeite have been used by Chinese and Meso-American cultures for thousands of years.



*Rough jadeite boulder*

Neolithic Europeans used both nephrite and jadeite tools but stopped after the start of the Bronze Age. While all green stones were classified as “emeralds,” 16<sup>th</sup> Century Spaniards adopted the Aztec belief that jadeite relieved kidney issue. The Spaniards referred to jadeite as “piedras de yjada,” “stones of the sides.” This was eventually shortened to “Yjada” or “jade” in English and other European languages.

The Chinese word “yu” signified any hard, green material. In China, most traditions centered around nephrite, until a new find of Burmese (now Myanmar) jadeite was discovered in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Emperor Qianlong, who reigned from 1736-1795, expanded China’s control into Burma. The source of this new, emerald-green jadeite became a fascination to both the emperor and the people of China. At the time, the Chinese distinguished these two materials; “yu” was nephrite and “fei-ts’ui” was Burmese jadeite. European traders never distinguished between the two stones and used the term “jade” for both materials. In 1863, French mineralogist Alexis Damour recognized that the two materials were mineralogically different and gave them separate names. However, the term “jade” had become entrenched in the gem trade.

*To learn more about these fascinating gemstones, join us for our inaugural “Rock to Gem” series on Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup> at 2 p.m.*



*Blue jadeite incense burner*

## References

Hughes, R.W., et al. “Burmese Jade: The Inscrutable Gem.” *Gems & Gemology* vol. 36, no. 1, 1 April 2000 pp. 2–25. <https://doi.org/10.5741/gems.36.1.2>.

Arem, Joel E., “Jadeite Value, Price, and Jewelry Information.” *International Gem Society*, 27 September 2022. <https://doi.org/10.5741/gems.36.1.2>.

Wang, Mingying, and Guanghi Shi. “The Evolution of Chinese Jade Carving Craftmanship.” *Gems & Gemology* vol. 56, no. 1 1 May 2020 pp. 30–53. <https://doi.org/10.5741/gems.56.1.30>.

**Applications are still being accepted for the Field Trip Assistance Grant.** Available online at <https://lizzadromuseum.org/field-trip-assistance-grant>. Interested teachers and school districts should reach out to our Educator, Sara Kurth at [educator@lizzadromuseum.org](mailto:educator@lizzadromuseum.org)

**WINTRUST**  
IN THE community



## In The News

**DuPage Foundation Grant to support Community Music Programs**

The Lizzadro Museum received a grant to continue running the Community Music Programs through Fall 2026. Local musicians will continue to bring music to our collection.



**Thank you to all our members and generous donations received this year!**  
**We are ever grateful for your contributions to continue the Museum's unique mission.**  
**Warmest wishes this holiday season and in the New Year.**